



MEMORANDUM

TO: COG Board of Directors
FROM: Clark Mercer, COG Executive Director
SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report – November 2024
DATE: November 6, 2024

POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) – In October, the TPB adopted a resolution, which established the TPB Regional Transportation Resiliency Subcommittee to help improve the preparedness and resilience of the transportation system to the impacts of climate change. The TPB received information updates on the recently completed *Implementation Considerations for On-Road Transportation Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategies Final Report*. COG Executive Director Clark Mercer also provided an update on the DMVMoves initiative.

Region Forward Coalition (RFC) – At the October meeting, board members were briefed on sustainability initiatives. Members learned about the FARM Policy Committee's forthcoming accountability report and updated data on farmland in metropolitan Washington. To continue the sustainability discussion, RFC members received a briefing on the regional tree canopy goals and strategies, as well as the report entitled *Conserving Trees and Forests in Metropolitan Washington*. The meeting ended with a presentation on the *National Capital Region Transportation Resilience Improvement Plan (TRIP)*, the first comprehensive transportation resilience plan for the region.



Regional Roadway Safety Summit

On October 31, the final day of National Pedestrian Safety Month, the TPB convened for the Regional Roadway Safety Summit, joined by experts from academia and the federal government to develop recommendations for regional and local action.

[View a summary of the summit](#)

OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Solar Energy Forum – On October 28, COG conducted the [Clean Energy Forum: Focus on Solar](#) event. This initiative was organized by COG along with Mason Energy, a George Mason University initiative. This forum provided a foundation for regional partners and leaders from diverse sectors to unite and accelerate solar energy efforts as COG and partners strive to meet the goal of 250,000 solar rooftops by 2030.

Climate Planning – COG is currently developing a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) for the Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) under the U.S. EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program to map out strategies and actions to address key climate challenges. The CCAP will include updated greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories, projecting emissions up to 2050, and a robust engagement strategy. The CCAP will also include a strong focus on benefits to low-income communities and workforce development. Key sectors are being engaged, including the solar industry at the Clean Energy Forum, with a follow-up forum planned for Spring 2025 in coordination with Mason Energy and ICF, the project consultant.

Regional Homelessness Forum – On October 24, the fourth annual Homelessness Forum was held and marked a critical step forward in addressing housing insecurity and burnout within the workforce that supports unhoused populations across Washington, DC, and Baltimore regions. It also delved into the role of data sharing in addressing homelessness. COG Human Services Policy Committee Chair Rodney Lusk provided remarks and moderated a panel at the forum.

Winter Weather Coordination – On October 31, COG DHSPS hosted the annual Winter Weather Conference to support regional coordination for the 2024-2025 winter season. 180 partners attended the virtual briefing, representing many local, state, and federal government agencies and transportation entities in the NCR. During the conference, COG provided an overview of the NCR Winter Weather Plan, the National Weather Service provided an outlook for the season, and multiple local, state, and regional organizations outlined updated agency winter preparedness and response procedures.

Regional Economic Mobility Cohort – In October, in partnership with the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE), COG launched a new regional racial equity series focused on economic



COG's DC Farm Tour

The Food and Agriculture Regional Member (FARM) Policy Committee hosted its annual Farm Tour in the District of Columbia on October 18. COG and FARM members, local government staff, staff from the United States Department of Agriculture and the Senate Agriculture Committee, along with other guests, visited four sites to learn from farmers, educators, students, and leaders about some of the farm and food innovations happening in DC.

upward mobility. This yearlong learning cohort will work with local governments to develop and refine tools and strategies to positively impact community outcomes.

Awards and Recognitions – COG and its staff recently received several awards and honors, including the Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) 2024 WRAPPY Community Partnership Award to recognize the support provided to WRAP’s lifesaving mission, as well as receiving the Outstanding Program award for the Transportation Land-Use Connections (TLC) Program by the American Planning Association National Capital Area Chapter, and COG Housing Program Manager Hilary Chapman was honored by the Arlington NAACP at their annual awards banquet with the Charles P. Monroe Civil Rights Award.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

EV Charging – EV charging stories were covered by various news outlets, including Inside NoVa, WTOP, and Frederick News-Post.

[Inside NoVa](#) – story on COG submitting a grant application for Round 2 of the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant Program from the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

[Frederick News-Post](#) – story covers REVII strategy and quotes COG Deputy Executive Director Kanti Srikanth

Regional Drought Watch – The region is under a Drought Watch, declared by COG’s Drought Coordination Committee. Recently WTOP and WUSA9 referenced the ongoing dry conditions and Drought Watch.

[WTOP](#)



Street Smart

COG’s Street Smart program kicked off a new campaign “Slow Down, Life Ahead” in October, educating drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists with new messaging, tips, and increased traffic enforcement to keep everyone safe on the region’s roadways. Street Smart received coverage from various news outlets, including WTOP, NBC4, and Washington Times.

[WTOP](#)

[NBC 4](#)