



MEMORANDUM

TO: COG Board of Directors
FROM: Chuck Bean, COG Executive Director
SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report – February 2019
DATE: February 6, 2019

POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) – At its January meeting, the TPB approved new highway safety targets for the region and was briefed on how the region's long-range transportation plan, *Visualize 2045*, might impact low-income and minority populations. The board was also briefed on how the federal government shutdown affected traffic in the region.



Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC) – In January, CBPC members were briefed on the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia legislative outlook and national water funding issues, including the roll out of America's Water Infrastructure Act, a bipartisan measure that passed in December. The CBPC and its Water Resources Technical Committee continued work on their forthcoming *Potomac Water Quality Report*.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN
COG provided support to its members and nonprofit partners throughout the shutdown.

[Watch this NBC Washington segment on those regional efforts](#)

Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) – At its January meeting, CEEPC focused on its 2019 priorities—expanding the regional tree canopy, increasing solar deployment, and advancing electric vehicle adoption. Members approved advancing a resolution to the COG Board establishing a Regional Tree Canopy Committee, discussed support for legislation in Virginia to enhance its solar market, and were briefed on a new contract available to COG members to facilitate climate, energy, and resilience planning initiatives.

[Blog by CEEPC Chairman Daniel Sze on the committee's 2019 priorities](#)

Human Services Policy Committee (HSPC) – At its January meeting, the HSPC focused on developing its 2019 priorities, including the areas of housing and equity, and discussed opportunities for providing support to residents impacted by the federal government shutdown.

Region Forward Coalition (RFC) – The RFC focused on prosperity in January. The meeting featured a discussion on equitable prosperity, led by Chad Shearer and Steve Brigham of the Brookings Institution, and a discussion about equitable homeownership, led by Rosie Allen-Herring of the United Way of the National Capital Area.

Planning and Housing Directors – In January, COG’s Planning Directors and Housing Directors Committees met jointly for a special briefing by the Greater Washington Partnership and Urban Institute on their research into the region’s housing needs and the ability to accommodate that need.

OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Federal Government Shutdown – From convening leaders to analyzing data on the shutdown's potential impact, COG supported its members and nonprofit partners as they served the many local residents adversely affected and encouraged others to consider helping their neighbors in need. This included joining the United Way of the National Capital Area to co-host area human services agencies and charities for a discussion on January 18 about addressing the needs of impacted workers.

[Regional shutdown response page](#)

Housing needs – On January 16, COG Executive Director Chuck Bean participated in a virtual session for Arlington County residents on how Amazon’s decision to locate in the region could affect housing. Additionally, on January 23, COG staff participated in the region’s annual point-in-time count of people experiencing homelessness. This important information will be available later this year in a COG report.

Transportation Research Board – Twenty-four members of COG’s transportation planning staff attended the 98th Annual Meeting of the Transportation Research Board. Transportation Operations Program Director Nicholas Ramfos presented on “Incorporating Sustainability into Planning for Emerging Technologies.”

Transportation Land-Use Connections (TLC) Program kickoff – The TPB began accepting applications for free technical assistance under its popular TLC Program, which provides support for planning studies and preliminary engineering for projects that help local jurisdictions build sustainable, walkable communities. Applications are due April 2.



VIRTUAL SESSION ON AMAZON & HOUSING
COG’s Chuck Bean participated in this Arlington County series on planning for Amazon.

[Watch the session](#)

Climate and energy outreach – CEEPC Member Tim Stevens, a Falls Church Planning Commissioner, and COG Planner Maia Davis presented at a Falls Church City Council Work Session on community-scale greenhouse gas trends and climate and energy action opportunities.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Government shutdown ‘a strain on this region,’ DC-area leaders warn – COG Vice Chair Derrick L. Davis and Members Penny Gross and David Snyder are quoted about the impact of the federal shutdown in their communities.

[WTOP story](#)

Shutdown is an unwelcome reminder of the D.C. region’s vulnerability to federal dysfunction – COG Executive Director Chuck Bean is quoted about the effect of the shutdown on workers across the region.

[Washington Post story](#)

Drivers, is your morning commute better? Thank the shutdown – COG Transportation Planning Director Kanti Srikanth is quoted about the TPB’s analysis that showed congestion on area roadways decreased considerably during the government shutdown.

[Washington Post story](#)

The reason D.C.’s once-dramatic population growth is slowing down - COG Community Planning and Services Director Paul DesJardin is quoted about population trends in the region and the potential contributing factors, including housing costs and international immigration.

[WAMU story](#)

Area deaths from drunk driving rose, with 86 dying in 2017 – COG Police Chiefs Committee Chairman M. Jay Farr and Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) President Kurt Erickson comment on the findings of the *How Safe Are Our Roads? Report* prepared by COG for WRAP.

[WTOP story](#)