



MEMORANDUM

TO: COG Board of Directors
FROM: Chuck Bean, COG Executive Director
SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report – May 2022
DATE: May 4, 2022

POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) – At its April meeting, the TPB approved 11 projects for Transportation Land-Use Connections (TLC) Program funding, heard an overview of updates to the long-range transportation plan, *Visualize 2045*, and received a report on results from a recent questionnaire on transportation sector climate change mitigation strategies and goals. The TPB also held a climate goals and strategies work session prior to the board meeting and plans to hold another work session in May.

Region Forward Coalition (RFC) – In April, RFC focused on accessibility and received briefings on “Improving Walk and Bike Access in Frederick and Georgetown” led by the City of Frederick and the Georgetown Business Improvement District (BID).

Food & Agriculture Regional Member Committee (FARM) – At its April meeting, FARM received briefings on federal support for school meals and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs (SNAP) as well as Capital Area Food Bank's Northern Virginia facility capital campaign. Members also heard from a Charles County farmer about unpredictable weather and adapting to changes.

OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

2030 Framework & Other Presentations – COG Executive Director Chuck Bean presented *Region United* to the City of Fairfax, the City of Gaithersburg, the City of Bowie, and the Arlington Planning Department. Bean, COG Board Chair Christian Dorsey, and other COG Board members spoke at a webinar for the Housing Association of Nonprofit Developers (HAND) and the launch of its 2022 Housing Indicator Tool (HIT), which provides information on housing production in the region. COG Community Planning Services Director Paul DesJardin briefed the National Capital Planning



STREET SMART CAMPAIGN PROTECTS BICYCLISTS AND PEDESTRIANS

Local government officials and law enforcement officers, including COG Board Chair Christian Dorsey, joined together to help launch COG's Street Smart safety campaign which combines public education with increased enforcement of traffic laws.

[Learn more about the campaign](#)

Commission on regional economic trends. Bean and DesJardin also participated in a National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) Major Metros webinar focused on forecasting future economic growth post-COVID.

Transportation Land-Use Connections (TLC)

Program – In April, the TPB approved 11 planning and design projects totaling \$630,000 in technical assistance. The projects promote walkable, bikeable, and transit-oriented communities and prioritize key planning concepts such as equity and access to transit.

[Learn more about the awarded projects](#)

Outstanding Partner Award – COG’s

Commuter Connections incenTrip team was selected for goDCgo’s Outstanding Partner of the Year Award, which recognizes organizations and individuals who have made a significant contribution to the success of goDCgo, an initiative of the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) that encourages the use of sustainable transportation.

Transportation Resilience – COG’s Department of Transportation Planning launched a four-part webinar series to help TPB member agencies build capacity in resiliency by understanding pressing climate challenges in the region and understanding their role in advancing resilience efforts both at their agency and at the regional scale.

Health Initiatives – As part of a Washington Regional Association of Grantmakers initiative, COG Health Programs Manager Jennifer Schitter convened funders and VCU on April 8 to plan an upcoming report, Deeply Rooted: History’s Lessons for Equity in Northern Virginia, a study of the history of exclusion from freedom, homeownership, education, jobs, and civil liberties in the black community.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Equity Emphasis Areas - *Metro outlines 10-year plan to boost ridership, revenue with new development around its stations*

[Washington Business Journal](#) – *Notes WMATA applied COG EEA planning concept to advance equity in development around transit stations.*

Housing - *‘Neighborhood Defenders’ fight to maintain the status quo in Montgomery County*

[WAMU](#) – *Quotes COG Housing Programs Manager Hilary Chapman.*



PODCAST: PICTURING A POST-COVID REGION
Host Robert McCartney talks with two longtime COG planners about the future of the region's economy, transportation system, and more. This episode is the first of a three-part series.

[Listen to the episode or read the transcript](#)