



MEMORANDUM

TO: COG Board of Directors
FROM: Chuck Bean, COG Executive Director
SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report – January 2022
DATE: January 5, 2022

POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) – In November, the TPB approved 21 local projects for funding through the Federal Transit Administration's Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program and discussed regional activities around Connected and Automated Vehicles (CAVs). At its December meeting, the board awarded five local projects funding through its Regional Roadway Safety Program and approved a letter to DC Mayor and MD/VA Governors calling for reciprocal agreement on automated traffic citations.

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) – In December, MWAQC was briefed on air quality planning related to the 2015 ozone standard. Guest speakers from Virginia Clean Cities and the District Department of Energy and Environment discussed their transportation electrification projects in the region, including the Mid-Atlantic EV Partnership and DC Electrification Road Map initiative.

Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) – In November, CEEPC discussed the challenges and opportunities around residential energy efficiency. Fairfax County also shared lessons learned and results of its recently approved Community Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP), an effort supported by COG through technical assistance.

Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC) – At its November meeting, CBPC was briefed on trends in regional stormwater fees and taxes and received a presentation on the Water Resources Technical Committee's (WRTC) draft *Recommended Stream Restoration Best Practices Report* for stormwater practitioners. Members were also briefed on Bay Program updates and reviewed the 2021 COG Legislative Priorities for water to discuss whether any adjustments were needed in preparation for 2022 legislation.



2021 ANNUAL VIDEO

COG Board members talk about two new planning principles that will help the region create transit-oriented communities that are accessible and affordable to all residents across metropolitan Washington.

[Watch the video](#)

Human Services Policy Committee (HSPC) – During its November meeting, HSPC received an overview of the 2021 outcomes of the year and a draft resolution on addressing mental health stigma, to be adopted by the COG Board of Directors in early 2022. The committee was also briefed on the initial findings from the 2020 Census.

Food and Agriculture Regional Member Policy Committee (FARM) – In November, FARM hosted a special session on Land Access for Farmers Identifying as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. At its December meeting, FARM learned about food security-related legislation at the D.C. Council and proposed legislation for the Maryland and Virginia General Assemblies in 2022.

OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

COG presentations – In November, COG Department of Community Planning and Services Director Paul DesJardin participated as a panelist at the National Capital Area Chapter of the American Planning Association’s annual meeting. Housing Program Manager Hilary Chapman hosted the NARC Regional Housing Initiatives Peer-to-Peer Workshop on November 30, focused on communicating the needs for affordable housing.

Street Smart Fall Campaign – On November 4, Street Smart launched a pedestrian and bicycle safety campaign in Prince George’s County featuring the stories of families and victims impacted by traffic accidents. The campaign combined education and enforcement and offered safety tips to drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists through a combination of transit ads, media outreach, digital engagement, video testimonials, and on-the-ground outreach.

Vehicle Emissions Exhibit – Clean Air Partners closed out 2021 with an interactive campaign focused on vehicle emissions. The car emissions exhibit included a vehicle encased in a clear plastic bubble accompanied by a large screen inviting participants to engage with the exhibit via a contactless interactive quiz composed of questions on driving behaviors and their impact on emissions and air quality. The two-day exhibit was hosted at Manassas Mall on December 29 and the Mall of Columbia on December 30.

COG Winter Weather Conference 2021 – On November 10, COG’s Department of Homeland Security and Public Safety hosted the annual Winter Weather Conference to support regional coordination for the 2021-2022 winter season. Over 165 partners attended the virtual Conference, representing



PODCAST: FEEDING OUR REGION

Metropolitan Washington is one of the wealthiest regions in the nation, but about one out of ten households isn’t sure where its next meal is coming from. This episode of *Think Regionally* is all about food insecurity—what it is, why it is happening, and some ways area officials, organizations, and farmers are working to address it.

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

many local, state, and federal government agencies and transportation sector organizations in the National Capital Region (NCR). During the conference, COG provided an overview of the revised COG Winter Weather Plan, and the National Weather Service provided an outlook for the season.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

D.C.-area organizations expected to receive about \$6.6 million in grants to improve mobility options for seniors, the disabled – COG Transportation Planner Lynn Winchell-Mendy discusses the next steps for projects awarded funding through COG’s Enhanced Mobility Program.

[The Washington Post](#)

'Most dangerous times of the year for pedestrians and bicyclists' | Officials urge caution on roadways as daylight saving time ends – Features COG Street Smart campaign, urging drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists to practice roadway safety.

[WUSA 9](#)

Despite low ridership, supporters say Transitway is a wise investment in the future – COG Transportation Engineer Eric Randall and Transportation Planner Stacy Cook discuss transportation infrastructure, traffic trends, future investment opportunities in metropolitan Washington.

[ARL Now](#)



CHUCK BEAN HIGHLIGHTS PLANNING EFFORTS
In an opinion for the *Washington Business Journal*, COG's Executive Director discussed strategies to address the region's housing challenges, including through new planning principles and the Housing Affordability Planning Program (HAPP) to support more affordably-priced housing near transit.

[Read the op-ed](#)