



MEMORANDUM

TO: COG Board of Directors
FROM: Clark Mercer, COG Executive Director
SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report – March 2023
DATE: March 1, 2023

POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) – At its February 15 meeting, the TPB approved the *Technical Inputs Solicitation* document to kick off *Visualize 2050*, the long-range transportation plan update to *Visualize 2045*. In addition, the board received briefings on the draft *Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Unified Planning Work Program*, the draft *FY 2024 Commuter Connections Work Program*, and a presentation on COG's *Military Installation Resilience Review* report.

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) – At the February 22 MWAQC meeting, COG staff provided the committee with an update on several air quality planning activities, including the 2008 and 2015 ozone standards update, the final rule on the EPA's heavy duty vehicle standards, and the proposed revisions to the national PM2.5 standard. University of Maryland regional air quality expert and researcher Russell Dickerson shared with the committee his latest research and findings on the region's air quality trends.

Food and Agriculture Regional Member (FARM) Policy Committee – Maryland's new Secretary of Agriculture, Kevin Atticks, addressed FARM at its meeting on February 10 and members engaged in a strategic planning session for 2023 and 2024.



VIDEO: REGIONAL FAIR HOUSING PLAN OUTREACH

To aid in getting the word out to members of your community about the plan, COG staff have produced and shared a number of outreach materials, including flyers translated into several languages, social media graphics, and an outreach video featuring elected officials and project team members. The plan's 60-day comment period is open through March 31.

Watch/share the video and outreach materials.

OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

COG Presentations - On February 22, COG Executive Director Clark Mercer testified at the DC Council Performance Oversight Hearing on COG's programs and goals for 2023.

Fair Housing – COG Housing Program Manager Hilary Chapman presented to the NAACP Arlington Branch on February 23 on the *Regional Fair Housing Plan*. Chapman presented with Arlington County staff as well as project consultant Diane Glauber from the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

Antisemitism Briefing – COG hosted a virtual briefing on February 17, titled "Fighting Hate for Good" presented by the Anti-Defamation League's Meredith R. Weisel on rising antisemitism and other forms of hate and extremism in the United States. More than 60 participants attended, including elected officials, public safety officials, and city and county managers.

'Future of the Federal Workplace' scenario project - COG Community Planning and Services Director Paul DesJardin participated in the RFP consultant selection process with National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) staff on February 6 for a planned joint NCPC/COG event on the future of the federal workplace, which relates to COG's forecasting work on the 'post-COVID' economy and other federal/GSA projects.

Business Advisory Panel – DesJardin participated as a member of the Montgomery County FY2024 Business Advisor Panel (BAP) in Rockville on February 10 to review County budget revenue assumptions.

Food Security - Several members of FARM's Food Policy Directors and Food Security Coordinators Work Group briefed COG's Public Information Officers Committee on messaging related to the end of SNAP Emergency Allotments in February.



VIDEO SERIES: TLC AND RRSP SPOTLIGHTS

Working with local jurisdictions, COG staff developed a series of videos spotlighting projects that benefitted from the TPB's Transportation Land-Use Connections (TLC) and Regional Roadway Safety Program (RRSP). The videos helped promote the programs during their application periods, which are running through March 3.

[Watch the TLC/RRSP spotlights](#)

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Electric Vehicles – COG/TPB statistics referenced in stories about D.C. Councilmember and COG Vice Chair Charles Allen’s proposed EV charging station legislation.

[The Washington Post](#)

[DCist](#)

Roadway Safety – “How Safe are our Roads?” Report and Regional Roadway Safety Program highlight work to improve the safety of the region’s multi-modal transportation network.

[WTOP](#) – covers February COG Board meeting item.

[ALXnow](#) – highlights how City of Alexandria is using TPB technical assistance to improve roadway safety.



COG STAFF FEATURED IN MEDIA COVERAGE OF FAIR HOUSING PLAN

Upon the release of the draft *Regional Fair Housing Plan*, COG’s Housing Program Manager Hilary Chapman shared details about the plan, its significance, and the strategies it offers to expand access to safe and affordable housing, increase investment and resources in priority areas, and create more inclusive communities.

[Washington Business Journal](#)

[Washington Post](#)