**Metro Public Safety Communications Study**

**Background**

The National Capital Region (NCR) has long been concerned with the ability of first responders and law enforcement to communicate effectively within the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) underground. In the wake of the L’Enfant Plaza incident on January 12, 2015, there has been a renewed focus on communications interoperability, including radio communication, closed circuit television, and cellular reception. In response to these concerns, COG members have initiated a comprehensive study of the WMATA underground communications system.

**Committee and Study**

In order to complete this study, COG has formed a working group comprised of members of regional emergency support functions and regional programmatic working groups as well as representatives from WMATA. The working group’s study includes:

* Evaluation of the effectiveness of the underground communication system;
* Evaluation of interim methods of reliable communications before 2021 (the proposed completion date of WMATA’s new radio system);
* Analysis of cellular connectivity status; and
* Review of regional interoperability policies.

**Timeline**

The working group will be gathering information throughout May and will complete the final study in June.