



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

October 2016

COMMITTEE WORK FEATURE OUTREACH CALENDAR MEDIA

Policy Boards & Committees

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD (TPB)

Montgomery County and District of Columbia officials briefed the board on preparations for Metro's upcoming SafeTrack Surge #10, which will shut down the Red Line between Fort Totten and NoMa for several weeks in late October and early November. Officials said they will provide supplemental bus services, alter traffic patterns and parking rules, and promote Capital Bikeshare in an effort to mitigate the surge's impacts. The TPB also unveiled CarpoolNow, a new real-time carpooling app, and reviewed initial findings from the 2016 State of the Commute survey.

CHESAPEAKE BAY AND WATER RESOURCES POLICY COMMITTEE (CBPC)

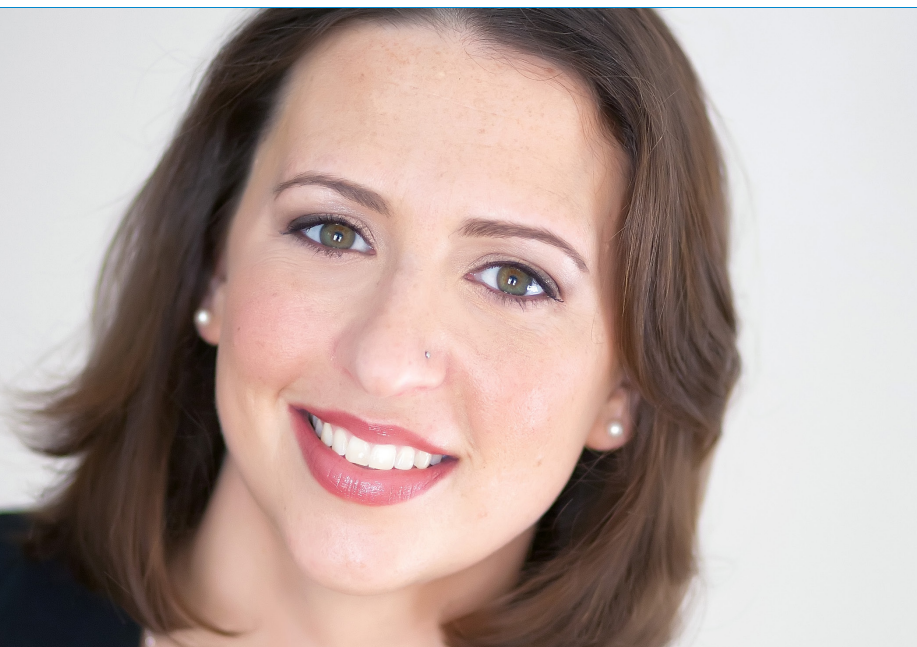
The CBPC held its sixth Annual Bay & Water Quality Forum in September with the EPA and several Chesapeake Bay states (District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia) as part of an ongoing dialogue on successes, challenges, and areas of collaboration in striving to meet the 2025 Bay restoration goals. In September, the CBPC also toured Exelon's Conowingo Dam in Darlington, Maryland to get a firsthand look at its renewable energy production, original 1928 turbines, and fish passage mechanisms.

HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY POLICY COMMITTEE (HSPSPC)

The HSPSPC received a briefing by members of the COG Police Chiefs Committee on the *Annual Report on Crime and Crime Control*, as well as updates on 21st century policing initiatives in the region. The group also received an update on area gang violence by the COG Corrections Subcommittee leadership.

CLIMATE, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY COMMITTEE (CEEPC)

In September, CEEPC welcomed a panel of state agency representatives for a discussion of climate and energy planning initiatives in Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia. Speakers discussed statewide emission reduction targets, energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives for the built environment, and programs to increase efficiency and foster use of alternative fuels for motor vehicle and construction fleets. The engagement helped to facilitate collaboration as leaders in the region work to develop CEEPC's next regional climate and energy action plan.



Member Feature:

Q&A WITH BRIANNE NADEAU

District of Columbia Councilmember and Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) Chairperson Brianne Nadeau discusses the region's air quality progress, which was a focus of MWAQC's September meeting.

[View video and Q&A](#)

NEW CARPOOLNOW APP

Commuter Connections unveiled its new CarpoolNow app, which helps travelers find potential carpool partners in real-time. The app can also help people find rides to or from special events, or serve as an alternative during Metro’s SafeTrack maintenance work.

NATIONAL GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION RETREAT ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY

COG’s environment staff attended the National Governors Association Retreat on Energy Efficiency in Virginia, and shared with state agency leaders information on successful energy benchmarking programs in the region.

CAR FREE DAY

Several thousand area travelers took the pledge to go car free or “car-lite” on September 22, as part of the worldwide Car Free Day. Commuter Connections organizes the event each year to encourage less driving and fewer trips in single-occupant vehicles.

DESIGNATING CENTRAL BUSINESS AREAS

COG hosted the region’s planning directors and U.S. General Services Administration staff this month to continue working together to designate “Central Business Areas” for locating future federal facilities.

“LET’S NOT OVER-PARK!” WEBINAR

The “Let’s not over-park!” webinar on September 20 featured four local jurisdictions that are working to “right-size” parking in areas near transit stations. The webinar is part of a series that shares the findings of studies funded under the TPB’s Transportation/Land-Use Connections (TLC) Program.

PUBLIC FORUM ON THE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

Every two years the TPB updates the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which outlines planned spending on major transportation projects in the region over the next six years. In September, the TPB hosted a public forum to present highlights from and answer questions about the draft FY 2017-2022 TIP.

AMERICA RECYCLES DAY

National America Recycles Day (ARD) is Tuesday, November 15. Local governments will promote ARD at events this fall—such as the Recycle Right Contest—to encourage residents to pledge to recycle.

D.C. FLOOD SUMMIT

The D.C. Silver Jackets, a group that works to address flooding in the area, held a flood summit in September. The event spotlighted the region’s vulnerability to flooding from the Potomac River, storm surge, stormwater runoff, and water infrastructure failures. COG’s environment staff attended and presented a poster (produced with National Park Service support).



Metrobus 6771 (Stephen Rees/Flickr)

Purchasing Highlight:
DIESEL FUEL

COG is working with WMATA to assist with putting together a 2017 Cooperative Diesel Fuel bid. Member governments from across the region could benefit from the potential purchase of 30,000,000 gallons of fuel—a projected savings of over \$7 million.

[Learn more about cooperative purchasing](#)

CHAMPIONING TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION - November 2

COG WINTER WEATHER BRIEFING - November 7

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - November 9

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD - November 16

[MORE COG MEETINGS & EVENTS](#)

COG REPORTS NO CODE RED DAYS FOR FOURTH STRAIGHT SUMMER

Despite record-breaking heat this summer, the region's air quality stayed below "Code Red" unhealthy levels, according to COG data. This was the fourth straight summer without a Code Red day. [MORE FROM WTOP](#)

TPB ANALYSIS SHOWS "SEPTEMBER SHOCK" TRAFFIC EFFECT

TPB traffic analysts studied seasonal traffic changes on area roadways following the end of summer. The analysis found a consistent pattern of increased traffic in September compared to August, especially during the morning commute. [MORE FROM THE WASHINGTON POST](#)

OFFICIALS FOCUS ON 9-1-1 OUTAGE

When a transformer fire in the District and the resulting loss of power damaged a Sprint switch on August 16, some customers across the region were unable to place calls, including to 9-1-1. Representatives from Sprint spoke before the COG Board and with 9-1-1 Directors. [MORE FROM NBC WASHINGTON](#)

SURVEY SHOWS CHANGES IN REGIONAL COMMUTING PATTERNS

Results from the 2016 *State of the Commute* survey showed that area commutes are, on average, getting longer, but that commuters are driving alone less and teleworking and taking transit more. The survey also showed that people who bicycle or walk to work are among the most satisfied with their commutes. [MORE FROM WAMU](#)

COMMUTER CONNECTIONS RELEASES CARPOOLING APP

COG's Commuter Connections program launched CarpoolNow, a ridesharing mobile app that connects drivers with passengers in real-time and at no cost. [MORE FROM THE WASHINGTON POST](#)



Event Highlight: LATINO HEALTH FORUM

COG and partners hosted a conference to discuss the disproportionate burden of health problems that affect Latinos living in metropolitan Washington and efforts underway to address these health disparities.

[Read more about the forum](#)