



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

March 2016

COMMITTEE WORK FEATURE OUTREACH CALENDAR MEDIA

Policy Boards & Committees

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD (TPB)

At its February meeting, the TPB was briefed on nine of the projects being proposed for the 2016 update to the CLRP that are either new or have significant changes, and it released the project submissions for a 30-day public comment period.

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIR QUALITY COMMITTEE (MWAQC)

MWAQC agreed to submit a revision to the 1997 fine particle maintenance plan after mobile vehicle emission budgets were recalculated. At its February meeting, the committee agreed to open the revised fine particle maintenance plan for a 30-day public comment period.

REGION FORWARD COALITION

The coalition was briefed on two reports at its February meeting: *The State of the Region: Economic Competitiveness Report 2016* and *The Kogod Greater Washington Index: Millennials*. The coalition discussed providing affordable housing and attracting and retaining the millennial workforce.

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COUNCIL (EPC)

The EPC discussed the region's response to the January 20 snow/ice event at its February meeting, including what was done well, what could have been done better, and how to more effectively utilize regional situational awareness and strengthen communication.

HUMAN SERVICES PUBLIC SAFETY POLICY COMMITTEE (HSPSPC)

HSPSPC approved its 2016 priorities, which will include a focus on affordable housing, veteran housing, workforce training, gang violence, police officer body cameras, obesity, and drug abuse.



Heart of COG:

LYNN WINCHELL-MENDY

Earlier this year, the TPB approved nearly \$8 million in funding for projects to address the transportation needs of older adults and persons with disabilities across the region, made possible by the FTA's Enhanced Mobility Program. COG Transportation Planner Lynn Winchell-Mendy plays a central role in guiding grantees through this multipart process and related programs.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE ARTICLE.](#)

NARC HOLDS CONFERENCE IN DC

National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) held its 2016 National Conference of Regions in Washington, DC, on February 7-9. COG Executive Director Chuck Bean attended the conference, which included presentations on economic development, transportation planning, and homelessness.

COG REACHES OUT TO NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Chuck Bean met with new COG Board members in February and will continue to meet with members in March to discuss the role of board members and provide an orientation about COG.

COG BOARD MEMBERS JOIN REGIONAL DELEGATION IN CUBA

Montgomery County's Roger Berliner, Ike Leggett, and Nancy Navarro, and District of Columbia's Muriel Bowser joined more than 40 local officials on an exploratory trip to Cuba.

CDC BRIEFS COG MEMBERS ON STATUS OF ZIKA VIRUS

In follow-up to the Zika virus presentation at the February COG Board meeting, COG hosted an informational briefing with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) on March 1 for members of the COG Board, Chief Administrative Officers Committee, HSPSPC, and Health Officials Committee. CDC Deputy Division Director Dr. Jennifer McQuiston briefed the group on the status of the Zika virus and domestic Zika responses, suggesting that jurisdictions continue to educate their communities and work with local health officials.

COG ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT STAFF MEMBER TRAVELS TO PHILIPPINES

COG Urban Watershed Programs and Homeland Security Chief Steve Bieber traveled to Manila, Philippines to participate in an ICMA fellowship. While in Manila, Bieber shared information about best practices and lessons learned related to urban watershed management as well as regional environmental, climate, energy, and sustainability goals.

CBPC COMMENTS ON VIRGINIA WATER PROTECTION REGULATIONS

On January 28, the Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC) submitted a letter to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) regarding their proposed revisions to the Virginia Water Protection Permit Regulations. The CBPC recommended that DEQ delay any non-emergency regulatory changes until after a comprehensive economic analysis is completed.

COMMUTER CONNECTIONS MEETS WITH DC EMPLOYERS

Commuter Connections participated in a DC Department of Employee Services event to promote DC's new transit benefit ordinance to employers.



Outreach Highlight:

IFC AND COG LAUNCH ONLINE EMERGENCY SERVICES DIRECTORY

COG and the Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington launched an online directory to serve over 300,000 people in need of emergency services across the region. The directory – an online database of approximately 400 service providers – offers clothing, meals, medical services, shelter, education, job training, and more.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD - March 16

COG BOARD OF DIRECTORS - April 13

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE ABOUT THESE AND OTHER COG MEETINGS & EVENTS](#)

D.C. REGION ACCEPTED INTO GLOBAL CITIES INITIATIVE

The metropolitan Washington region was chosen to participate in the Global Cities Initiative (GCI), a joint project of the Brookings Institution and JPMorgan Chase. COG, the Greater Washington Board of Trade, and the Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area will work to increase the region's economic competitiveness by developing a unified global export plan. [CLICK HERE FOR THE WASHINGTON BUSINESS JOURNAL ARTICLE.](#)

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND UNIVERSITIES BUILD PARTNERSHIPS

George Washington University President Steven Knapp and Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area President and CEO John Cavanaugh briefed the COG Board about the contributions of local universities to the region's economy. Following the presentation, COG and the Consortium of Universities agreed to establish a task force to foster greater collaboration between local universities and governments. [CLICK HERE FOR THE GW TODAY ARTICLE.](#)

LOCAL LEADERS DISCUSS THE ZIKA VIRUS

Local health officials briefed the COG Board about the status of the mosquito-borne Zika virus. DC Department of Health Supervisory Epidemiologist Preetha Iyengar discussed the District's approach to informing the public about the Zika virus. Arlington County Health Director & Division Chief Reuben K. Varghese answered questions about the virus. [CLICK HERE FOR THE WJLA VIDEO.](#)

TPB REVIEWS TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS IN REGION'S LONG-RANGE PLAN

At its February meeting, the TPB reviewed new transportation projects and changes to existing projects that are being considered for inclusion in the Constrained Long-Range Plan (CLRP). Some of the major projects include I-395 Express lanes, I-66 multimodal improvements, VRE Haymarket extension, DC streetcar, and dedicated bike lanes. [CLICK HERE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE.](#)



Media Highlight:

REGIONAL DELEGATION HEADS TO CUBA

Officials from DC, Maryland, and Virginia traveled to Cuba to build relationships and explore economic development opportunities for the region. Several members of the delegation, including Montgomery County Councilmember Nancy Navarro (@Nancy_Navarro), shared photos from the trip on social media. (Pictured from left to right: Roger Berliner, Maurice Jones, Muriel Bowser, Jeffrey DeLaurentis, Ike Leggett, Nancy Navarro, and Jack Evans.)

[CLICK HERE FOR THE WTOP ARTICLE.](#)