

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** COG Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Chuck Bean, COG Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** Executive Director's Report – April 2019  
**DATE:** April 3, 2019

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### POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

**National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB)** – At its March meeting, the TPB was briefed by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) on its efforts to improve road safety in the commonwealth. COG Planning Directors Committee Chair Andrew Trueblood provided an update on the COG and TPB initiatives to address the region's housing shortfall and bring jobs and housing closer together. Area housing and planning directors are working together to determine the number, type, and location of new housing units needed to address these challenges.

**Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC)** - The CBPC heard a presentation from University of Maryland Climate Extension Specialist Dr. Sara Via, linking healthy agricultural soils with water quality and climate benefits. The CBPC also formed a task force to develop a framework for implementing recommendations from COG's *What Our Region Grows Report* to support local agriculture.

**Human Services Policy Committee (HSPC)** – In March, the United Way of the National Capital Area briefed the HSPC on Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) populations, including those locally. ALICE individuals have an income above the federal poverty level but cannot afford basic necessities.



**SMART REGION MOVEMENT**  
COG Board Chair Robert C. White, Jr. participated in a signing ceremony for the launch of the Greater Washington Smart Region Movement, an initiative of COG, the Greater Washington Board of Trade, and Consortium of Universities.

[Read the press release](#)

## OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

**Fire Health and Safety Symposium** – COG’s Fire Health & Safety Subcommittee held a Fire Health and Safety Symposium March 26-27 in Alexandria. Fire professionals from across the country presented local fire chiefs, squad leaders, firemen, and EMS first responders with the latest techniques for understanding the fire environment and mitigating accidents involving personnel.

**Housing** – COG Housing Program Manager Hilary Chapman briefed the District of Columbia Council on local and regional trends and programs for housing and homelessness during its Council Retreat on March 15.

**Election Officials Conference** – Area election officials met March 29 for a full-day regional conference. Guest speakers from Auburn University and the Center for Civic Design led discussions about planning, implementing, and evaluating election programs, and designing materials for voters.

**Amazon** – COG Executive Director Chuck Bean spoke at the Arlington County Board Meeting on March 16 on preparing for the arrival of Amazon HQ2 and jobs that are vital to the success of the region.

**DC Circulator Electric Bus Tour** – COG hosted a meeting about DC Circulator’s electric buses alongside the Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition and the District Department of Transportation (DDOT). Attendees learned about DDOT’s experiences operating 14 buses and took a tour of the South Capitol Street charging facility.

**Flushing Workshop** – COG hosted a workshop on March 4 with regional drinking water providers where staff presented a protocol, including communications strategies, for directing consumers to flush their plumbing after a water system contamination event. Additional workshops will be held for facility managers, first responders, emergency managers, and public health officials.

**Bike to Work Day Registration** – Registration for Bike to Work Day (BTWD) 2019, organized by Commuter Connections and the Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA), is now open. Thousands are expected to participate in the event on Friday, May 17.

**Climate Awards Nominations** – COG is seeking nominations for the 2019 Climate and Energy Leadership Awards. The awards recognize area government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and educational institutions for innovative climate stewardship projects and programs.



**STAFF FEATURE**  
**COG Housing Program Manager Hilary Chapman is helping the region align its housing strategy, making way for greater impacts and improved housing opportunities for all.**

[View the Heart of COG](#)

## **MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS**

**New consortium sets vision for Washington region to be national leader in finding digital solutions to problems** – COG Board Chair Robert C. White, Jr. is quoted about the Greater Washington Smart Region Movement.

[Washington Post story](#)

**Metrorail safety oversight is returned to local authorities** – COG Executive Director Chuck Bean is quoted about the Federal Transit Administration’s certification of the Washington Metrorail Safety Commission (WMSC).

[Washington Post story](#)

**Group looks to improve emergency responses on local highways** – COG Systems Performance Planning Director Andrew Meese discusses the findings of the Traffic Incident Management Enhancement (TIME) task force and report.

[Frederick News-Post story](#)

**Pedestrian deaths rising in Va., but safety improvements working** – COG Transportation Planning Director Kanti Srikanth and Planner Jon Schermann are quoted about a highway safety update from VDOT at the TPB.

[WTOP story](#)

**With census set to go mainly online, concerns it will leave many behind** – A recap of the COG Board’s March discussion about local 2020 Census efforts.

[WTOP story](#)