



MEMORANDUM

TO: COG Board of Directors
FROM: Chuck Bean, COG Executive Director
SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report – May 2021
DATE: May 5, 2021

POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) – At its April meeting, the TPB approved projects for funding through the Coronavirus Response and Recovery Supplemental Appropriations Act for Enhanced Mobility and approved 11 projects for technical assistance through the Transportation Land-use Connections program. The TPB also held a work session that sparked an in-depth discussion about the conformity projects for Visualize 2045.

Region Forward Coalition (RFC) – During its April meeting, RFC focused on accessibility and the future of transportation. Staff moderated a panel featuring leaders from WMATA, NVTA, and the Greater Washington Partnership and facilitated breakout group discussions about future changes to the transportation sector post-pandemic.



D.C. STATEHOOD OUTREACH

COG members made the case for D.C. statehood through videos and social media posts following the Board of Directors' unanimous approval of a statehood resolution in April.

[View the campaign](#)

OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

COG Presentations – Chuck Bean provided remarks on transit-oriented communities at a Bisnow Digital Summit on April 21 and a D.C. Age-Friendly Ecosystem Regional Summit on May 4. Bean also participated in a Back to Work Regional Roundtable hosted by Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) on April 27.

Fair Housing – In honor of April being Fair Housing Month, COG supported regional fair housing events on April 27 in Fairfax County and April 29 in the District of Columbia. COG Board Chair Robert White provided remarks at the April 29 Equal Rights Center event, Fair Housing Beyond Borders in the DMV, which was supported by COG and the DC Department of Housing & Community Development.

Earth Month 2021 – COG Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee Chair Laurie-Anne Sayles, COG Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee Chair Guillermo Ortiz, and COG Food and Agriculture Regional Member (FARM) Ad Hoc Advisory Committee Chair Mary Cheh participated in a video campaign encouraging residents to prioritize improving our environment and communities while exploring the outdoors during the month of April.

Housing Targets - Housing Programs Manager Hilary Chapman and Community Planning and Services Director Paul DesJardin participated in a Regional Housing Initiatives Peer-to-Peer Workshop hosted by the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Council on April 14.

Transit Within Reach Program – The TPB’s Transit Within Reach Program provides technical assistance for design and preliminary engineering projects that will improve bike and walk connections to existing high-capacity transit stations or stations that will be open to riders by 2030. The application period is now open, and applications are due by July 1.

[Learn more about the program and apply](#)

Street Smart – COG’s pedestrian and bicyclist safety program, Street Smart, launched a 2021 campaign that will run from April 19 through May 16 and includes increased enforcement of traffic safety laws that protect people walking and biking in the District of Columbia, suburban Maryland, and Northern Virginia. The campaign offers safety tips to drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists through a combination of transit ads, media outreach, digital engagement, video testimonials, and on-the-ground outreach.

[Learn more about the campaign](#)

Inauguration Coordination - Chuck Bean and Homeland Security and Public Safety Managing Director Scott Boggs attended a 59th Inauguration Recognition Luncheon on April 27 at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall. The event was hosted by the Joint Task Force - National Capital Region for regional partners that supported public safety coordination.



TPB SELECTS 11 PROJECTS FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Through the Transportation Land-Use Connections (TLC) Program, TPB selected 11 projects for technical assistance that will help build and enhance vibrant communities where it is easy to walk, bike, and take transit. They are all in or near Activity Centers, high-capacity transit stations, and eight of them are in Transit Access Focus Areas, making them very supportive of TPB policy objectives.

[Learn more about the projects](#)

Anacostia River tree planting – COG hosted a tree planting event within the Paint Branch subwatershed of the Anacostia River to reforest the historic White Oak Golf Course. With the help of 20 volunteers, 140 native trees were planted that will provide stream-side habitat and shading.

DEA Drug Take Back Day – COG joined regional partners in promoting the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency’s National Prescription Drug Take Back Day by sharing tips for proper disposal of medications on social media.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Regional leaders endorse D.C. statehood – Article covers COG Board discussion and resolution and quotes COG Board Chair White, Loudoun County Chair Phyllis Randall, and U.S. Congressman Gerry Connolly.

[Inside NOVA](#)

The pandemic changed the workday, but will transit riders return? – TPB’s Voices of the Region Survey informs Metro decisions for post-pandemic planning.

[The Washington Post](#)

Report: Nearly 1 in 3 DC-area traffic deaths were on foot or bike – COG Street Smart campaign reveals nearly one-third of the people killed in traffic crashes in the D.C. area in 2020 were pedestrians or bicyclists.

[WTOP](#)



TPB LAUNCHES NEW VISUALIZE 2045 SITE

The TPB launched a new website for Visualize 2045, the region’s long-range transportation plan. The new site describes the plan requirements and uses graphics and videos to help explain the timeline, break down different components of the plan, and lay out strategies for addressing our region’s transportation challenges.

[Visit the new website](#)