



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

February 2016

COMMITTEE WORK FEATURE OUTREACH CALENDAR MEDIA

Policy Boards & Committees

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD (TPB)

As the region's designated recipient of the federal Enhanced Mobility Program which enhances transportation for seniors and individuals with disabilities, the TPB approved nearly \$8 million in funding for 21 projects proposed by local governments and nonprofits. The TPB also received updates on 16 projects being implemented under a more than \$58 million TIGER grant, and was briefed on the plans for the Unfunded Capital Needs Working Group, which is assessing unfunded transportation projects from approved plans across the region that are not included in the Constrained Long-Range Plan (CLRP).

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIR QUALITY COMMITTEE (MWAQC) & CLIMATE, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY COMMITTEE (CEEPC)

MWAQC and CEEPC met jointly in January. The groups approved letters to the EPA in support of the proposed Cross State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR), which aims to reduce harmful summertime emissions from power plants in the eastern half of the U.S., and the EPA/National Highway Traffic Safety Administration proposal on Greenhouse Gas and Fuel Efficiency Standards for Medium and Heavy Duty Engines and Vehicles (Phase 2).

CHESAPEAKE BAY AND WATER RESOURCES POLICY COMMITTEE (CBPC)

The CBPC discussed their legislative priorities and Maryland and Virginia General Assembly activities with a panel of speakers from the Chesapeake Bay Commission, AquaLaw, and the Maryland Association of Counties. The CBPC was also briefed on the Chesapeake Bay Program activities regarding the 2017 Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Mid-Point Assessment. COG water staff also plans to address local water quality challenges related to road salts, in coordination with transportation and procurement representatives.



Purchasing Series: **HARNESSING OUR PURCHASING POWER - ICE MELT**

Although winter arrived late (and with a vengeance!) to the region, COG and area jurisdictions began working together over the summer to secure ice melt for battling future weather events. By joining forces and leveraging their purchasing power, member governments are saving time and money on this essential product. *(Photo: Council of the District of Columbia, Twitter)*

[CLICK HERE FOR THE ARTICLE](#)

WMATA BOARD SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

On January 28, COG staff and Fire Chiefs Committee Chairman Marc S. Bashoor and Steve Souder, past Chairman of the COG 9-1-1 Directors Committee, briefed the WMATA Board Safety and Security Committee on ongoing collaboration between the jurisdictions and WMATA to enhance first responder emergency response training and underground Metrorail communications capability, as well as enhancements to situational awareness and operational protocols.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING THOUGHT LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

Executive Director Chuck Bean and Community Planning and Services Director Paul DesJardin participated in Leadership Greater Washington's Affordable Housing Thought Leadership Workshop, where they joined regional experts for an ongoing exploration of affordable housing challenges in metropolitan Washington.

TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD ANNUAL MEETING

The 95th Annual Meeting of the Transportation Research Board was held in January in the District of Columbia. This conference brought together approximately 12,000 transportation professionals and featured 5,000 presentations. Several COG transportation staff participated in this year's event—16 staff members attended the annual meeting, and three staff presented, moderated, or presided at a session.

ANNUAL HOMELESSNESS ENUMERATION

COG staff participated in the Point-in-Time Homeless Enumeration held on January 28. The enumeration provides information on the number of unsheltered persons in the region and figures on how many persons utilize winter shelters, year-round emergency shelters, safe havens, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing. The PIT also provides information on the extent to which homeless persons in each jurisdiction live with disabling conditions or belong to various subpopulations.

MOU WITH NEW METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

The TPB adopted a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with a new Metropolitan Planning Organization in Southern Maryland, Calvert-St. Mary's Metropolitan Planning Organization (C-SMMPO), regarding the conformity analysis of transportation plans, projects, and programs in Calvert County, Maryland. Calvert County is in the region's 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment area and is also a member of the C-SMMPO. The MOU formalizes coordination between the TPB and the C-SMMPO to continue the inclusion of Calvert County in the TPB's conformity analyses.

REGIONAL ADOPTION EXCHANGE

COG's child welfare staff hosted the regional Adoption Exchange on January 7. Each year, the Wednesday's Child committee hosts this event, providing a unique opportunity for advancing foster care adoptions. The event brings together public and private adoption agencies for information sharing about foster children available for adoption and families who have been approved and are waiting to find a child. In addition to facilitating the matching of waiting children with adoptive families, the event strengthens relationships among agencies in the region.

REGIONAL ACTION COALITION ON HOMELESS

COG Community Planning and Services staff hosted the Regional Action Coalition on Homelessness (ReACH), established by the District of Columbia and Montgomery and Prince George's Counties to end homelessness.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD - February 17

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIR QUALITY COMMITTEE - February 24

COG BOARD OF DIRECTORS - March 9

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

NEW COG REPORT IDENTIFIES WAYS TO BOOST ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS

COG's recently released *State of the Region: Economic Competitiveness Report* evaluates how the region can boost its economy even with the slowdown in federal spending. Through the Global Cities Initiative, COG, the Greater Washington Board of Trade, and the Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area will work to diversify the region's economy through a global export strategy. [CLICK HERE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE.](#)

CHAIRMAN ROGER BERLINER SHARES 2016 PRIORITIES

At the January board meeting, Montgomery County Councilmember Roger Berliner was elected Chairman of the COG Board of Directors. In his opening statement, Berliner highlighted areas that he would like the board to focus on in the coming year, including improvements to Metro and economic development in the region. [CLICK HERE FOR THE BETHESDA MAGAZINE ARTICLE.](#)

COG ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS DIRECTOR DISCUSSES D.C. INFRASTRUCTURE ISSUES

Stephen Walz, Department of Environmental Programs Director at COG and co-author of COG's *State of the Region: Infrastructure Report*, highlighted the importance of ongoing investments in the region's infrastructure. [CLICK HERE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE.](#)

COG SUPPORTS REGIONAL TRADE MISSION

Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe, Maryland Governor Larry Hogan, and District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser are planning a joint trade mission to Canada. COG is helping to organize the joint trade mission – an idea which stemmed from COG's Annual Retreat, says Executive Director Chuck Bean. [CLICK HERE FOR THE WASHINGTON BUSINESS JOURNAL ARTICLE.](#)



Video Feature:

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCILMEMBER BERLINER ELECTED 2016 COG BOARD CHAIRMAN

Roger Berliner was elected Chairman of the COG Board of Directors in January. In this video, produced by the Montgomery County Council, Berliner and colleagues discuss the collaborative environment at COG and the board's focus in 2016.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE VIDEO](#)