



Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Executive Director's Report • November 2014

COMMITTEE WORK HEART OF COG OUTREACH MEDIA CALENDAR

Policy Boards & Committees

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD

At its October meeting, the TPB voted to approve the 2014 Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP), which includes all regionally significant transportation projects and programs that are planned in metropolitan Washington between 2015 and 2040. Major changes include D.C. streetcar lines, improvements to MARC and VRE commuter rail, and road widening projects in Virginia.

REGION FORWARD COALITION

The Region Forward Coalition focused its quarterly meeting on the intersection of transportation and land use policies and public health. Coalition members heard from the Fairfax County and Prince George's County Health Departments and Tufts University Professor Mark Fenton.

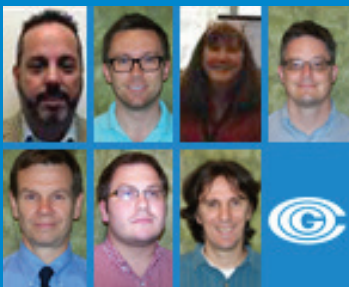
METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIR QUALITY COMMITTEE & CLIMATE, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY COMMITTEE

The committees held their first-ever joint meeting to discuss how to work together and coordinate more closely to reduce greenhouse gas emissions with their colleagues on the TPB. The TPB discussed the issue at its October meeting, and COG is planning to convene a new multi-sector, technical working group to advance this coordination and jointly develop an action plan.

Heart of COG: Making Information More Accessible, Timely for Decision-makers

ANDREW AUSTIN, BEN HAMPTON, JANE POSEY, ERIC RANDALL, JOHN SWANSON

DAN SONENKLAR, DUSAN VUKSAN – DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING



For this year's update to our Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan (CLRP), COG staff undertook a major effort to compile and communicate the most comprehensive set of data and reports we've ever prepared for our officials before their vote on the final plan. The result: rich layers of cogent analysis presented in a very accessible manner—and many compliments from our Transportation Planning Board members.

Following the call for projects, Transportation Planner Andrew Austin worked to compile and present the projects in the plan with Transportation Planner Dan Sonenklar, while Senior Engineer Jane Posey led the plan's air quality conformity analysis. Austin also prepared the Transportation Improvement Program, which funds the first six years of the CLRP. Eric

Randall, Principal Transportation Engineer, led the quadrennial update of the CLRP Financial Analysis, which included for the first time full funding commitments for the state-of-good-repair needs of the region's transit systems. Posey and Senior Engineer Dusan Vuksan worked with Sonenklar to use vast data sets to model how the proposed plan would impact future travel, the environment, and access to jobs.

Principal Planner John Swanson spearheaded an outreach and analysis team, comprised of Transportation Planners Ben Hampton and Sonenklar, to assess the degree to which the proposed CLRP supported or advanced regional priorities outlined in the Regional Transportation Priorities Plan. Hampton also oversaw a coordinated communications effort to promote all of this work. This was an outstanding team effort and their professional dedication is an excellent example of COG's value to the region and its leaders. If you haven't seen their work yet, I encourage you to visit www.mwcog.org/clrp

- Chuck Bean, Executive Director

COG PUBLIC MANAGERS PROGRAM HONORS ARLINGTON COUNTY'S BARBARA DONNELLAN

COG's Institute for Regional Excellence (IRE) recognized Barbara Donnellan, County Manager of Arlington County, with its 2014 Visionary Leadership Award on October 17. She was honored for her contributions to the region, including leadership on homeland security planning, as well as work in Arlington to implement smart-growth policies, innovate in economic development, and attract high-tech jobs. The award was presented during the graduation ceremony of 30 new certified public managers. IRE is a partnership between COG and The George Washington University.



Arlington County Manager Barbara Donnellan receiving the Institute for Regional Excellence (IRE) Visionary Leadership Award with Takoma Park Mayor and IRE Chairman Bruce Williams.

RESILIENCY TRAINING

COG's Maia Davis and Amanda Campbell worked to earn funding to send a team of regional environmental planners from the City of Alexandria, Fairfax County, Montgomery County, Prince George's County, the National Capital Planning Commission and the District of Columbia to the Institute for Sustainable Communities *Think Resiliently: Act Regionally* Sustainable Communities Leadership Academy held in Alexandria.



Chuck Bean addressed the Institute for Sustainable Cities at their 2014 Resiliency Training in Alexandria

AFFORDABLE HOUSING SYMPOSIUM

Chuck Bean, Paul DesJardin, Hilary Chapman and Sophie Mintier participated in the Regional Strategic Affordable Housing Group, co-hosted by the Washington Regional Association of Grantmakers (WRAG) and Enterprise Community Partners, among others. The team discussed leveraging regional expertise in affordable housing and locating additional housing opportunities in the region's Activity Centers.

CHILD WELFARE FAMILY RECRUITMENT

COG Child Welfare Program Manager Kamilah Bunn attended the For Sister's Only foster and adoptive family recruitment event in addition to hosting a Scrapbook and Learn event for Wednesday's Child children with the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority alumni chapters at COG.

COMMUTER CONNECTIONS IN AND BEYOND WASHINGTON

Commuter Connections staff participated in the Dulles Area Transportation Association (DATA) "Live More Block Party" in Reston Town Center to celebrate the vitality of the Dulles Airport Corridor. Commuter Connections Director Nick Ramfos spoke to the program's success in transportation demand management at the Southeast Alternative Fuels Conference in Raleigh, North Carolina.

REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY, GLOBAL IMPACTS

COG and EPA Region III hosted the fifth Anniversary meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Sustainability Network (MASN), a group of environmental sustainability professionals in major metropolitan areas from Pennsylvania to Virginia. The group heard about regional challenges, from composting to climate change communication, as well as from NASA on their plans for climate resiliency in the National Capital Region and beyond.

PENNY GROSS RECOGNIZED WITH WATER AWARD

The Water Environment Federation, a non-profit supporting 36,000 technical and educational water quality professionals, awarded Fairfax County Supervisor Penny Gross with the Public Officials Award and DC Water Innovations Chief Sudhir Murthy with the Camp Applied Research award at the WEF Annual Conference.



COG Regional Water Quality Management Chief, Tanya Spano, accepts the WEF Public Officials Award on behalf of Fairfax County Supervisor and Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee Chair, Penny Gross

PLANNING PEER EXCHANGE WITH FRANCE, BELGIUM, IRELAND

Together with the University of Maryland's National Center for Smart Growth Research and Education and COG's Department of Community Planning Services, COG hosted the Transit, Development and Forme Urbaine exchange with Parisian planning officials, and other European built environment researchers to discuss best practices across continents.

INTER-REGIONAL WATER UNDERSTANDING

Tanya Spano, COG's Water Quality Management Chief, spoke to members of Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA) about success in watershed management in our region and Chesapeake Bay on behalf of the COG Chesapeake Bay Program. Efforts being made to treat wastewater and manage stormwater in metropolitan Washington are national best practices.



College Park Mayor Andy Fellows and DC Water General Manager George Hawkins say cheers to clean drinking water with COG Environmental Planner Heidi Bonnaffan and TapIt Program Coordinator John Deignan

TOAST TO TAP! EVENT DRAWS HUNDREDS TO CELEBRATE CLEAN WATER DRINKING ACT

DCWater and the COG-led Community Engagement Campaign organized Toast To Tap, an event recognizing the 40th anniversary of the Safe Water Drinking Act. DC Water General Manager George Hawkins spoke to this region's efforts to improve drinking water, a live band played, and dozens of local businesses and vendors participated in an open street fair, celebrating the centrality of water to our economy and health. The event also featured Fairfax Water's ever-popular "Water Bar" which served-up cool, delicious, safe tap water in TapIt Campaign branded reusable water bottles.

REGIONAL AIRPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE ADDRESSED

Loudoun County Supervisor and COG President, Matt Letourneau, organized a meeting of the region’s airport CEOs to address infrastructure needs and balanced growth at the Washington-Dulles, Reagan National and BWI-Marshall airports. The airports discussion drew coverage from WJLA-ABC 7, WTOP, and DCist.



HEALTH OFFICIALS BRIEF COG BOARD ON THE REGION’S READINESS RELATED TO EBOLA

Dr. Joxel Garcia, Director of the District of Columbia Department of Public Health (pictured right) and Dr. David Trump, Chief Deputy Commissioner for Public Health and Preparedness of the Virginia Department of Health briefed officials in October on how the National Capital Region has planned for and would respond to an Ebola case. COG also provided officials with an informational flyer focused on the region’s public health preparedness, health surveillance and monitoring, and regional communication. The briefing was covered by NBC4, ABC7, Univision, *The Washington Post* and several other media outlets.



COG’S FIRST EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WALTER SCHEIBER REMEMBERED

COG’s first Executive Director, Walter Scheiber, passed away on October 8 at the age of 92. Scheiber led COG for 25 years and hundreds gathered for a memorial service held at COG’s Walter A. Scheiber Board Room to pay respects to this great regional leader. His obituary was prominently featured in *The Washington Post*.



TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD –
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

COG 2014 ANNUAL MEETING –
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

For more information about these and other COG meetings and events, visit www.mwcog.org/calendar