



NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD

At its January meeting, the TPB was briefed on new projects being proposed to be included in the 2015 update to the Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP), such as proposals to toll portions of I-66 in Virginia and expand the bike lane network in the District of Columbia. Also, as the region's administrator of a federal program to enhance transportation for seniors and individuals with disabilities, the TPB approved \$2.7 million in funding for a slate of local projects.

CHESAPEAKE BAY AND WATER RESOURCES POLICY COMMITTEE

CBPC received a briefing on the Conowingo Dam sediments issue by Bruce Michael, Maryland Department of Natural Resources. An expert panel also briefed the members on 2015 national and state legislative issues. Newly elected CBPC Chair, Montgomery County Councilmember Craig Rice, called for an Advocacy Workgroup to track General Assembly legislation, draft letters on national water issues, and conduct outreach. The group held their first weekly call on January 30.

CLIMATE, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY COMMITTEE

CEEPC was briefed on various Smart Cities Initiatives in the region and globally, which integrate technology into infrastructure to improve decision making, as well as performance, efficiency and sustainability. COG members will have opportunities to participate in more Smart City events this coming year.

REGION FORWARD COALITION

The Coalition set regional economic competitiveness as its 2015 focus and was briefed by Dr. Stephen Fuller on the state of the region's economy. The Coalition discussed how reductions to the federal workforce and contracting activity will impact long-term regional competitiveness, and how local governments and non-profits can respond to improve the region's business climate.



Heart of COG:
**ANDREW BURKE &
HOW COG GOT INTO THE
BUSINESS OF BIKE COUNTING**

Back in 2007, The Washington Post did a feature on COG's travel monitoring studies, which count people and vehicles entering the region's core and help inform planning efforts. A former COG employee, who had moved on to DDOT, saw the story and approached his onetime colleague Andrew Burke with a question: could COG count bike trips for the District of Columbia?

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE STORY.](#)

POTOMAC PIRANHAS PITCH

Montgomery County Councilmember and COG CEEPC Chairman Roger Berliner (pictured right) discussed regional water and stormwater management issues at a meeting of the Potomac Piranhas, a non-profit focused on cleaning up the Potomac River watershed by matching innovative environmental ideas with investment capital and grants.



INFRASTRUCTURE PRESENTATION TO DOWNTOWN BID

COG's Chuck Bean and Steve Walz gave a presentation on the State of the Region: Infrastructure Report for the Downtown DC BID.

TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD ANNUAL MEETING

More than twenty COG staff took part in the Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting. COG's Nicholas Ramfos gave two presentations—Measuring the Performance of Vehicle Trip Reduction and Mode Shift Strategies & Communication Trends: The Shift to Mobile. COG's Clara Reschovsky co-presided over a poster session on ACS and Census Transportation Planning Package Data.

SUCCEED THROUGH SERVICE PROGRAM

COG's Child Welfare Team participated in the kick-off event of Succeed through Service, a Ritz Carlton program where employees mentor disadvantaged students. The students will be raising money for the Friends of Wednesday's Child Fund, which supports the program featuring children in foster care who are waiting to be adopted.

SMART CITIES CONFERENCE PLANNING

COG participated in the inaugural meeting of the Smart Cities Week Planning Team. The group is working to coordinate the first U.S. Smart Cities Conference, which will be held in the District of Columbia in September. Smart Cities Council is coordinating this effort. Other planning team members include Brookings, NIST, Downtown DC BID, NVRC, and IBM. COG's Jeff King spoke on a panel where he outlined COG's interest in such solutions to improve government efficiency and assist in a transition to a low-carbon economy.



Outreach Highlight: EVENT OFFERS CONTACTS, RESOURCES TO HELP MEMBERS IMPLEMENT GREEN PURCHASING PROGRAMS

COG's Ronald F. Kirby Training Center was packed with participants attending the Green Purchasing Vendors' Fair. More than 120 representatives from local governments, school systems, and utilities joined over 30 vendors representing a wide variety of environmentally friendly products and services.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE AND FOR GREEN PURCHASING RESOURCES.](#)

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD - FEBRUARY 18

HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY POLICY COMMITTEE - FEBRUARY 20

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIR QUALITY COMMITTEE - MARCH 4

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

LOCAL MEDIA FEATURES INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT IN VARIOUS STORIES

The report was covered by The Washington Post, Washington Business Journal, NBC4, WTOP, and WNEW. It was also referenced in The Washington City Paper, Greater Greater Washington, and other online news sites. [CLICK HERE FOR THE NEWS ITEMS.](#)

PHIL MENDELSON, CHUCK BEAN PROMOTE REPORT VIA SOCIAL MEDIA

In addition to conducting several interviews with local media, District of Columbia Council Chairman Phil Mendelson recorded a video podcast with Chuck Bean to promote the report on social media. [CLICK HERE FOR THE VIDEO.](#)

CHUCK BEAN COMMENTARY IN THE WASHINGTON POST FEATURES INFRASTRUCTURE

A commentary on the region's infrastructure challenges by COG Executive Director Chuck Bean appeared in The Washington Post's Capital Business. [CLICK HERE FOR THE COMMENTARY.](#)

TPB ITEM ON LONG-RANGE PLAN, I-66 PROPOSALS ATTRACT ATTENTION

Several local news outlets covered a presentation by VDOT on their I-66 proposals for the Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP), including The Washington Post, WTOP, and WAMU. [CLICK HERE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST STORY.](#)



Media Highlight:

COG STAFF EXPERTS PROMOTE INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT ON NBC4

COG Deputy Executive Director Stuart Freudberg, Deputy Transportation Planning Director Robert Griffiths, and Regional Water Quality Management Chief Tanya Spano discussed the 2015 State of the Region: Infrastructure Report on NBC4's Viewpoint show.

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE SHOW.](#)