



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wednesday, June 12, 2024
12:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.
Walter A. Scheiber Board Room

Virtual participation available for members upon request
Public livestream on website

AGENDA

- 12:00 P.M.** **1. CALL TO ORDER**
Rodney Lusk, COG Board Vice Chair
- 2. CHAIR'S REPORT**
Rodney Lusk, COG Board Vice Chair
- A. COG Leadership Retreat – July 19-20**
- 12:05 P.M.** **3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**
Clark Mercer, COG Executive Director
- 12:10 P.M.** **4. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**
Rodney Lusk, COG Board Vice Chair
- 5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM APRIL 10 AND MAY 1, 2024**
Rodney Lusk, COG Board Vice Chair
- Recommended Action: Approve minutes.**
- 6. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**
Rodney Lusk, COG Board Vice Chair
- A. Resolution R15-2024: Resolution approving updates to COG's Title VI Plan and Program**
- Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution R15-2024.**
- 12:20 P.M.** **7. 2024 FOSTER PARENT APPRECIATION**
Rodney Lusk, COG Board Vice Chair
- The board will recognize the 2024 foster parents of the year and view a video highlighting each family's fostering journey.
- Recommended Action: Receive briefing.**

- 12:30 P.M. 8. FISCAL YEAR 2025 WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET**
Clark Mercer, COG Executive Director
Julie Mussog, COG Chief Financial Officer
- The board will be briefed on the proposed FY 2025 (July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025) Work Program and Budget, which was reviewed and recommended for approval by the Budget and Finance Committee.
- Recommended Action: Receive briefing and adopt Resolution R16-2024.**
- 12:45 P.M. 9. HOMELESSNESS IN METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON: RESULTS AND ANALYSIS FROM THE ANNUAL POINT-IN-TIME COUNT OF PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS**
Triina Van, Arlington County Homeless Services Coordinator
Hilary Chapman, COG Housing Program Manager
- The board will be briefed by COG Homeless Services Committee Chair Young on the results of the Point in Time count, an annual enumeration of persons experiencing homelessness in the metropolitan Washington region.
- Recommended Action: Receive briefing and discuss.**
- 1:20 P.M. 10. DMVMOVES UPDATE**
Clark Mercer, COG Executive Director
Kanti Srikanth, COG Deputy Executive Director for Metropolitan Planning
- The board will receive an update on the DMVMoves initiative and discuss development of a unified vision for transit service in the region.
- Recommended Action: Receive briefing and discuss.**
- 1:55 P.M. 11. OTHER BUSINESS**
- 2:00 P.M. 12. ADJOURN**
The COG Leadership Retreat is scheduled to take place in-person on July 19-20. There are no regular COG Board meetings in July or August.

AGENDA ITEM #2

CHAIR'S REPORT

AGENDA ITEM #3

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



MEMORANDUM

TO: COG Board of Directors
FROM: Clark Mercer, COG Executive Director
SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report – June 2024
DATE: June 5, 2024

POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) – In April, the TPB approved funding for nine Transportation Land-Use Connections projects and received updates on Visualize 2050, the National Capital Region Transportation Plan—including a summary of comments received during the March public comment period. At the May meeting, the TPB made a key decision in the development of Visualize 2050 when the board approved the scope of work and project inputs for the plan's Air Quality Conformity Analysis. The board opted to remove one project, I-495 Southside Express Lanes, from the list of project inputs, agreeing to discuss further its inclusion during the June 20 meeting. In addition, the board approved six projects in MD and VA for the TPB Regional Roadway Safety Program.

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) – At the May MWAQC meeting, COG Environmental Engineer Sunil Kumar provided an update on ozone season and COG Air Program Chief Jen Desimone presented MWAQC's FY 2025 Work Program and Budget, which the committee approved. In addition, members provided input on their jurisdiction's environmental justice priorities as their feedback will be used to assist with the development of the environmental justice action plan.

Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC) – At the May CBPC meeting, members focused on water workforce diversity, with presentations by WSSC Water and by Defensores de la Cuenca. CBPC members also prepared to issue proclamations and social posts for Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week, the week of June 1-9.



Food and Agriculture Regional Member Policy Committee Spring Initiatives

The COG Food and Agriculture Regional Member Policy Committee (FARM) had a productive spring, engaging leaders in several key initiatives to support local and regional food systems. These included hosting a third annual forum at USDA headquarters, organizing an all-day Regional Food Aggregation and Distribution Summit, and sending letters to Congress to advocate for regional priorities in the 2024 Farm Bill.

[Learn more about the farm-related initiatives](#)

Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) – At the May CEEPC meeting, staff presented the FY 2025 Work Program and Budget for the Regional Environment Fund, which the committee approved. The committee also received a briefing on Solar for All, a program that expands the number of low-income and disadvantaged communities primed for residential solar investment. Members also learned about SolSmart, a no-cost technical assistance program designed to help local governments and regional organizations accelerate the growth of clean, affordable solar energy in their jurisdictions. To conclude the meeting, members were briefed on Metro’s environmental sustainability performance.

Human Services Policy Committee – At the May meeting, Committee members reviewed the preliminary results of the annual Point-in-Time enumeration of people experiencing homelessness. Members were also briefed on the collaborative community work in Prince George’s County to end youth homelessness. Speakers included representatives from the county leadership, a youth service provider, and a youth who had served previously as Co-Chair of the community Youth Advisory Board and who now provides housing services to youth who are unstably housed or experiencing homelessness.

Region Forward Coalition (RFC) – In April, the RFC meeting centered around accessibility in the metropolitan Washington region. Members received a briefing on improving accessibility through placemaking, promoting accessibility through the Transportation Land-Use Connections (TLC) program, and enhancing accessibility through the National Capital Trail Network. To conclude the conversation, the NoMA BID talked about how the Metropolitan Branch Trail has helped shape NoMa’s design and connections to other neighborhoods and beyond.

OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Public Safety - On May 4, COG DHSPS held the 32nd Annual NCR Wreath Laying Ceremony and Honor Guard Competition at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial to recognize corrections officers who have fallen in the line of duty. COG Board Vice Chair Rodney Lusk provided remarks at the event. On May 16, COG hosted a meeting of the National Security Council’s NCR Security Interagency Policy Committee and NCR law enforcement, emergency management, and homeland security stakeholders.

Air Quality - COG’s Clean Air Partners launched their summer campaign with a gas-powered lawn tool equipment exchange. Residents registered to bring gas powered equipment into participating Ace Hardware stores in exchange for new electric equipment. It was accompanied by Clean Air Partners backyard bubble events, which includes an exhibit to educate the public about ways to reduce emissions related to lawn and gardening.



2024 Bike to Work Day

On May 17, City of Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson and COG’s Commuter Connections Director Daniel Sheehan kicked off Bike to Work Day at the Alexandria pit stop. This year’s event featured more than 100 pit stops throughout the DMV.

Institute for Regional Excellence – Applications for the COG Institute for Regional Excellence are now open until July 1, 2024. This year-long program is in partnership with the George Washington University’s Center for Excellence in Public Leadership. Nearly 500 local government employees have graduated from IRE, becoming certified public managers. Apply at: mwkog.org/ire

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Homelessness Report – The regional homelessness report received coverage from the Washington Post, Fox 5, Axios DC, MyMCM, ARLnow, Center Square, FFXnow, Inside NoVa, Gazette Leader, Washington Blade, and the Connections Newspapers.

[Washington Post](#) – quotes COG Housing Manager Hilary Chapman

[Fox 5](#) – quotes COG Human Services Policy Committee Chair Rodney Lusk

Go Recycle Battery Management Campaign – The COG battery management campaign was covered by WTOP, Fox 5, and ARLnow.

[ARLnow](#) – [story on battery management campaign](#)

Regional Tree Canopy Goal – The regional tree canopy goal and report received coverage from Virginia Mercury, MoCo360, the Washington Informer, and ARLnow.

[Virginia Mercury](#) – quotes COG regional tree canopy subcommittee chair and tree specialist Michael Knapp and COG Principal Environmental Planner and Regional Urban Forester Brian LeCouteur.

[MoCo360](#) – quotes COG regional tree canopy subcommittee chair and tree specialist with the Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services Michael Knapp.

Street Smart Virtual Reality Campaign – The Street Smart Campaign received coverage from WTOP, WUSA 9, and DC News Now.

[WTOP](#) – [story on Street Smart Campaign](#)



Joint COG/WMATA meeting – The first ever joint COG/WMATA meeting was covered by the Washington Business Journal, WTOP, NBC 4, 7 News, and WUSA 9.

[NBC 4](#) – quotes COG Board Chair Charles Allen and COG members

[WTOP](#) – quotes COG Board Chair Charles Allen and COG Executive Director Clark Mercer

AGENDA ITEM #4

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

AGENDA ITEM #5

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 North Capitol Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20002

MINUTES
COG Board of Directors Meeting
April 10, 2024

BOARD MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES: See attached chart for attendance.

SPEAKERS:

Randy Clarke, WMATA General Manager & CEO
Paul Smedberg, WMATA Board Chair
Clark Mercer, COG Executive Director
Penny Gross, Former Fairfax County Supervisor
Brian LeCouteur, COG Principal Environmental Planner
Michael Knapp, COG Regional Tree Canopy Subcommittee Chair
Kanti Srikanth, COG Deputy Executive Director for Metropolitan Planning
Dan Sheehan, COG Transportation Operations Program Director
Lyn Erickson, COG Transportation Plan Development and Coordination Program Director
Rachel Beyerle, COG Transportation Communications Manger

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COG Board Chair Charles Allen called the virtual meeting to order at 12:00 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Allen announced the new date and location for the May 1, COG and WMATA Board of Directors meeting to be held at the Mayflower Hotel.

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

COG Executive Director Clark Mercer briefed the board on the following:

- The Transportation Planning Board at COG approved 15 non-highway projects in Virginia, a total of \$19.5 million in federal funding through the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program.
- The Department of Homeland Security and Public Safety on March 19 and 20 hosted the biennial COG Fire Health and Safety Symposium with 200+ participants from across the region. The Department of Homeland Security and Public Safety also hosted a number of Tabletop exercises.
- The Department of Environmental Planning completed and submitted to EPA a new Priority Climate Action Plan under EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program.
- New Think Regionally podcast on air quality which features COG Air Quality Chief Jen Desimone, along with representatives from the DC Department of Energy and Environment and Clean Air Partners.
- Three new publications: *Conserving Trees and Forests in Metropolitan Washington*, *A People's Guide to Transportation Decision-Making in the National Capital Region*, and the COG Annual Report.
- COG's Director of Human Resources retired this month after 24 years at COG.
- EPA finalized a rule around forever chemicals and Steve Bieber will be in contact with jurisdictions' water and utilities staff.

4. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were no amendments to the agenda.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM March 13, 2024

The minutes from the March 13, 2024, board meeting were approved.

Action: The board approved the March 13, 2024 meeting minutes.

6. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

There were no items on the consent agenda.

7. UNIFIED VISION FOR TRANSIT SERVICE IN THE REGION

The board discussed the development of a unified vision for transit service in the region.

Action: Received briefing and discussed.

8. CONSERVING TREES AND FORESTS IN METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON

The board was briefed by Former Fairfax County Supervisor Gross, COG Principal Environmental Planner Brian LeCouteur, and COG Regional Tree Canopy Subcommittee Chair Michael Knapp on the state of the region’s tree canopy, the development of a new regional goal, and strategies for action at the local level.

Action: Received briefing and adopted Resolution R14-2024.

9. COMMUTER CONNECTIONS – 50 YEARS HELPING THE REGION GET TO WORK

The board was briefed on the Commuter Connections program by COG Deputy Executive Director for Metropolitan Planning, and COG Transportation Operations Program Director Dan Sheehan. The program promotes the use of ridesharing, transit usage, walking and biking as alternatives to commuting in single occupant vehicles.

Action: Received briefing and discussed.

10. A PEOPLE’S GUIDE TO TRANSPORTATION DECISION MAKING IN THE NCR

The board was briefed by COG Transportation Plan Development and Coordination Program Director Lyn Erickson, and COG Transportation Communications Manager Rachel Beyerle on a new guide that explains the intricacies of how and where transportation decisions are made in this region, the role the TPB plays in coordinating this process, and how community members can participate in transportation planning and funding decisions.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

12. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 P.M.

**COG Board of Directors
Virtual Meeting
April 10, 2024 Attendance**

Jurisdiction	Member	Y/N	Alternate	Y/N
<i>District of Columbia</i>				
Executive	Hon. Muriel Bowser		Ms. Beverly Perry	Y
	Mr. Kevin Donahue		Mr. Tomas Talamante	Y
Council	Hon. Phil Mendelson	Y	Hon. Brianne Nadeau	Y
	Hon. Charles Allen	Y		
<i>Maryland</i>				
City of Bowie	Hon. Tim Adams		Hon. Dufour Woolfley	
Charles County	Hon. Reuben Collins	Y	Hon. Thomasina Coates	
City of Frederick	Hon. Michael O'Connor	V	Hon. Kelly Russell	
Frederick County	Hon. Jessica Fitzwater		Ms. Victoria Venable	V
City of College Park	Hon. Denise Mitchell	Y	Hon. Fazlul Kabir	
City of Gaithersburg	Hon. Robert Wu		Hon. Neil Harris	
City of Greenbelt	Hon. Emmett Jordan	Y	Hon. Kristen Weaver	
City of Laurel	Hon. Keith Sydnor	Y	Hon. James Kole	
Montgomery County - Exec	Hon. Marc Elrich		Mr. Richard Madaleno	Y
Montgomery County - Council	Hon. Evan Glass	V		
Montgomery County - Council	Hon. Kate Stewart	V		
Prince George's County - Exec	Hon. Angela Alsobrooks		Ms. Tara Jackson	V
Prince George's County - Council	Hon. Tom Dernoga	V	Hon. Wanika Fisher	
Prince George's County - Council	Hon. Ingrid Watson		Hon. Krystal Oriadha	
City of Rockville	Hon. Monique Ashton			
City of Takoma Park	Hon. Talisha Searcy			
Maryland General Assembly	Hon. Brian Feldman			
<i>Virginia</i>				
City of Alexandria	Hon. Justin Wilson	Y	Hon. Kirk McPike	
Arlington County	Hon. Libby Garvey	Y		
City of Fairfax	Hon. Catherine Read	Y	Hon. Tom Ross	
Fairfax County	Hon. Rodney Lusk	Y	Hon. Daniel Storck	
Fairfax County	Hon. Jeff McKay		Hon. Andres Jimenez	
Fairfax County	Hon. James Walkinshaw	Y	Hon. Walter Alcorn	
City of Falls Church	Hon. Caroline Lian	Y	Hon. David Snyder	
Loudoun County	Hon. Laura TeKrony			
Loudoun County	Hon. Phyllis Randall	Y	Hon. Koran Saines	
City of Manassas	Hon. Mark Wolfe	Y	Hon. Sonia Vasquez Luna	Y
City of Manassas Park	Hon. Darryl Moore	Y		
Prince William County	Hon. Deshundra Jefferson	Y	Hon. Kenny A. Boddye	
Prince William County	Hon. Andrea Bailey		Hon. Tom Gordy	
Virginia General Assembly	Hon. Mark Sickles	Y		

Y = present

Total: 26 voting

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
The Mayflower Hotel – District Ballroom
Washington, DC

MINUTES
COG-WMATA Boards of Directors – Joint Meeting
May 1, 2024

BOARD MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES: See attached chart for attendance.

SPEAKERS:

Charles Allen, COG Board Chair
Randy Clarke, WMATA Executive Director
Clark Mercer, COG Executive Director
Paul Smedberg, WMATA Board Chair

1. CALL TO ORDER

This was a joint meeting of the COG Board of Directors and the WMATA Board of Directors. COG Board Chair Charles Allen and WMATA Board Chair Paul Smedberg called their respective board meetings to order at 12:00 P.M.

2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Allen and Chair Smedberg provided welcome remarks and asked board members present to introduce themselves. District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser provided remarks.

3. PRESENTATION: UNIFIED VISION FOR TRANSIT IN THE DMV REGION

COG Executive Director Clark Mercer and WMATA General Manager/CEO Randy Clarke presented a proposal for a partnership to develop a unified vision for transit in the DMV region. They shared a project outline, focus areas, and how government, business, and community stakeholders would participate in the process. They introduced consultants Nuria Fernandez and Nick Donahue who will support the initiative.

4. BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION AND FEEDBACK

Chair Allen and Chair Smedberg facilitated a discussion amongst board members.

5. CONSIDERATION OF JOINT RESOLUTION

Chair Allen made a motion, seconded by Loudoun County Chair Phyllis Randall, to adopt the COG-WMATA Joint Board Resolution Supporting COG-WMATA Transit Team to Develop a Regional Transit Vision. Arlington County Board Member Libby Garvey moved to make an amendment to the resolution, seconded by Prince William County Supervisor Andrea Bailey, to remove the word “(attached)” from resolved clauses 3 and 4 in reference to the list of task force and work group membership. After discussion, Garvey and Bailey withdrew their amendment motion and second. District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser moved to make an amendment to the resolution to add “including Union Station” to resolved clause 1. Chair Allen accepted this as a friendly amendment. The COG Board then voted to unanimously adopt the joint resolution. The WMATA Board voted to unanimously adopt the joint resolution.

Action: The COG and WMATA boards adopted the joint resolution.

6. ADJORN

Following the adoption of the joint resolution by both boards, the Chairs shared the new name and logo for the initiative: *DMVMoves, Moving our region forward, together*. The meeting was adjourned at 2:07 P.M.

COG Board of Directors Meeting Attendance

<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Y/N</u>	<u>Alternate</u>	<u>Y/N</u>
<i>District of Columbia</i>				
Executive	Hon. Muriel Bowser	Y	Ms. Beverly Perry	Y
	Mr. Kevin Donahue	Y	Mr. Tomas Talamante	Y
Council	Hon. Phil Mendelson	Y	Hon. Brianne Nadeau	Y
	Hon. Charles Allen	Y		
<i>Maryland</i>				
City of Bowie	Hon. Tim Adams		Hon. Dufour Woolfley	
Charles County	Hon. Reuben Collins	Y	Hon. Thomasina Coates	
City of Frederick	Hon. Michael O'Connor	Y	Hon. Kelly Russell	
Frederick County	Hon. Jessica Fitzwater	Y	Ms. Victoria Venable	Y
City of College Park	Hon. Denise Mitchell	Y	Hon. Fazlul Kabir	
City of Gaithersburg	Hon. Robert Wu	Y	Hon. Neil Harris	
City of Greenbelt	Hon. Emmett Jordan	Y	Hon. Kristen Weaver	
City of Laurel	Hon. Keith Sydnor	Y	Hon. James Kole	
Montgomery County - Exec	Hon. Marc Elrich	Y	Mr. Richard Madaleno	
Montgomery County - Council	Hon. Evan Glass	Y		
Montgomery County - Council	Hon. Kate Stewart			
Prince George's County - Exec	Hon. Angela Alsobrooks		Ms. Tara Jackson	Y
Prince George's County - Council	Hon. Tom Dernoga		Hon. Wanika Fisher	
Prince George's County - Council	Hon. Ingrid Watson		Hon. Krystal Oriadha	
City of Rockville	Hon. Monique Ashton	Y		
City of Takoma Park	Hon. Talisha Searcy			
Maryland General Assembly	Hon. Brian Feldman	Y		
<i>Virginia</i>				
City of Alexandria	Hon. Justin Wilson		Hon. Kirk McPike	Y
Arlington County	Hon. Libby Garvey	Y		
City of Fairfax	Hon. Catherine Read	Y	Hon. Tom Ross	
Fairfax County	Hon. Rodney Lusk	Y	Hon. Daniel Storck	
Fairfax County	Hon. Jeff McKay	Y	Hon. Andres Jimenez	
Fairfax County	Hon. James Walkinshaw	Y	Hon. Walter Alcorn	
City of Falls Church	Hon. Caroline Lian	Y	Hon. David Snyder	Y
Loudoun County	Hon. Laura TeKrony	Y		
Loudoun County	Hon. Phyllis Randall	Y	Hon. Koran Saines	
City of Manassas	Hon. Mark Wolfe	Y	Hon. Sonia Vasquez Luna	Y
City of Manassas Park	Hon. Darryl Moore			
Prince William County	Hon. Deshundra Jefferson		Hon. Kenny A. Boddye	
Prince William County	Hon. Andrea Bailey	Y	Hon. Tom Gordy	
Virginia General Assembly	Hon. Mark Sickles	Y		

Y = present

Total: 34

WMATA Board Members Present: Paul Smedberg, Joe McAndrew, Tracey Hadden Loh, Sarah Kline, Matt Letourneau, Don Drummer, Valerie-Joy Santos.

AGENDA ITEM #6

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS
June 2024

A. RESOLUTION APPROVING UPDATES TO COG'S TITLE VI PLAN AND PROGRAM

The Board will be asked to adopt Resolution R15-2024 updating COG's Title VI Plan and Title VI Program, which outlines how COG and the TPB ensure nondiscrimination in all programs and activities. The Program was prepared pursuant to the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and to comply with Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant recipient guidelines. The Plan was prepared pursuant to FHWA requirements. The Program must be updated and submitted to the FTA for approval every three (3) years. The Program and Plan are reviewed annually to ensure federal compliance. COG staff intends to continue to update these documents as often as necessary to make the documents "living" and a useful resource for the public. These updates include revised text, more recent Census data on low-income, minority and limited-English speaking populations, and a description of outreach efforts to these populations. COG's Executive Director and General Counsel have reviewed the updates and recommend approval.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt Resolution R15-2024.

AGENDA ITEM #7

2024 FOSTER PARENT APPRECIATION



2024 Foster Parents of the Year

City of Alexandria Foster Parents of the Year: Meagan Wilson

Ms. Wilson has been a resource parent for Alexandria for five years. She has the biggest heart and her desire to help and give to children is inspiring. She always makes herself available and consistently goes above and beyond. Meagan has taken infants all the way up to 18-year-olds into her home, she has stayed connected with children who have left her home and moved on, she has celebrated the children's birthdays and other milestones, she has accepted respite placements and is always our 'go to' family when we are struggling to find a placement for a youth. When others don't answer the call Meagan does so again and again. Most recently Ms. Wilson has accepted a fifteen-year-old girl into her home with welcome arms as an emergency placement. But in true Meagan fashion, she has extended her home and herself as long as needed.

Arlington County Foster Parent of the Year: Maria Calzada and Jorge Abanto

Maria Calzada and Jorge Abanto have been foster parents with Arlington County for almost eight years. They are the definition of commitment. Maria and Jorge repeatedly stretch to meet the needs of children and families. After having a sibling group of two join them, they worked tirelessly over the following three years on the goal of returning them home. When that was no longer an option, they adopted the two siblings and became a family of four. Maria and Jorge have since proceeded to welcome six more children into their home. Whenever called upon, this family says yes and extends themselves to meet whatever the need, including placements in the middle of the night as well as volunteering at community events supporting recruitment efforts. Last but not least, their language abilities as native Spanish speakers as well as their racial and cultural identities are priceless given the over representation of Hispanic families and their children within the child welfare system. Their commitment to ensure these children have their cultural and racial identity needs met is an invaluable asset to the program and the community it serves.

Charles County Foster Parent of the Year: Regena Greene

Regena Greene has shown extraordinary dedication, compassion, and commitment to the children in foster care. She was faced with a complicated placement, and she handled it with care and respect. She was able to continue providing support and care during very difficult times in the child's life even when she is battling personal family issues. She meets the five core competencies.

District of Columbia Foster Parents of the Year: Taylor and Madeline Woodman

Madeline and Taylor Woodman have been licensed resource parents with DC CFSA since September 2020. Since that time, they have fostered several children and have adopted two children and are currently in the process of adopting a sibling group of two. This family continuously demonstrates a true understanding of foster care and all the unpredictable things that come along with this journey. In addition to caring for foster children in their care, they often help other resource families in our community by providing respite. The Woodmans have done an amazing job advocating for children and are instrumental in helping with transitioning children back with their biological families. They also serve as mentors to other resource families. The Woodmans are the true embodiment of quality resource parents. They are caring, connected, and committed to the kids who have been placed in their care.

Fairfax County Foster Parents of the Year: Calvin C. Dyson

Calvin Dyson's desire to make the world a better place grew into his becoming both an adoptive father of two sons and a foster father. Although not a fluent Spanish speaker when he began his adoption journey, Calvin immersed himself in learning what he could about his adoptive son's country of origin and the Spanish language. Calvin learned that physical gestures and Google Translate helped communicate information and feelings when two people did not share the same language. These skills greatly helped Calvin and his son when they became a foster family for a young boy who had recently arrived to this country and spoke very little English and no Spanish. Calvin made this child feel comfortable in his home. Calvin took the boys to grocery stores that carried food products they liked and were familiar with from their countries of origin. In addition to being creative with language and culture, Calvin worked tirelessly with school personnel, social workers, therapists, and medical professionals to help his foster children. When Calvin receives calls about children in need of foster placement, he believes the children are not the behaviors and histories written on paper. He believes that with the right support, any youth can be successful.

Frederick County Foster Parents of the Year: Shafiq and Lauren Satterfield

Shafiq and Lauren Satterfield have been licensed resource parents with the Frederick County Department of Social Services for the past four years. During this time, they have specifically opened their hearts and home to two children from different families and backgrounds. The Satterfields' warm, caring, and engaging disposition has allowed the children in their care to experience immediate safety and security as well as their respective birth families who have also experienced comfort and ease while working with them. The Satterfields finalized the adoption of their daughter this month after caring for her over the past two years. It was a testament to who they are, as the court room was filled with an abundance of people across various spectrums of their lives from family, friends, fellow foster parents, and their daughter's birth family. The couple also has a long supportive history with the other child who is now in their care, which is also pre-adoptive. Shafiq and Lauren had cared for her as an infant before she left their home, and then two years later without any hesitation, they welcomed her back into their home when an adoptive resource was needed. The lifelong bonds and connections they have established are priceless.

Loudoun County Foster Parents of the Year: Alayzia and Joseph Coney

Alayzia and Joseph Coney have been foster parents with Loudoun County since April 2021. They have opened their home to children in foster care of all ages, including young adults. Alayzia and Joseph value permanency and want to be a forever family for the children and youth that enter their home. They previously adopted a young parenting adult and have become a permanent connection for another young adult as well. The Coneys are currently in the process of adopting two special needs children. One of the children has cerebral palsy but Alayzia and Joseph do not let his diagnosis limit how he experiences life. This child has flourished in their home and is now enjoying amusement park rides, swimming, and most importantly, being part of a warm and loving forever family. Alayzia and Joseph welcome challenges and eliminate barriers for children who have experienced great hardships. Being strong advocates for the education needs of the children in their care is another extraordinary strength of this family. Alayzia and Joseph Coney are an excellent example of unconditional love and commitment, and Loudoun County is fortunate to have them as part of the Foster Care and Adoption team.

Montgomery County Foster Parents of the Year: Susan Otto

Susan Otto is dedicated to supporting children. As a special education teacher for over twenty years, and clinician with the Infants and Toddlers Program she has worked with children from a range of backgrounds. She became a licensed foster parent in November 2019 and immediately accepted her first placement, who ended up staying with her for three years! From day one, Susan was a natural foster parent. As a career special educator, she is comfortable with behavior modification, setting boundaries, and helping children feel safe. Susan is flexible, loving, realistic, and gifted in her ability to address the special needs of our children. Currently, Susan is caring for brothers who are one and two years old. She uses every opportunity to build skills with the boys, work on behaviors and manage the scars of trauma. Susan is also a wonderful resource to other foster parents and knows how to obtain the support and information that she needs. As a foster parent, she is committed to Child Welfare's goal of reunification and although it is hard to say goodbye when a child leaves, she trusts that she has helped the children in her care develop skills that will help them succeed in the next stage of life.

Prince George's County Foster Parents of the Year: LaTosha Boley

LaTosha Boley has been a licensed resource parent in Prince George's County since 2022. In that short period of time, she has shown herself to be a great supporter of children, their families, and the Department. Boley is flexible and very patient. Understanding the need for resource parents in our county, specifically the need for homes for teens, she rarely declines an opportunity for a child to join her family. She has opened her home to youth who presented with challenging behaviors and provided the best care for them, even maintaining the placement when difficult. Boley has a genuine spirit and cares deeply for the youth we serve, opening her home a second and third time to youth with challenging behaviors she had previously fostered. Boley uses her unique parenting skills to engage youth and make them feel comfortable. She has gone above and beyond promoting keeping siblings together and has fostered many sibling groups. She previously had a sibling group of four and currently has a sibling group of two. Boley has remained committed to parenting teens and is in the process of obtaining guardianship of a 16-year-old currently in her home.

Prince William County Foster Parents of the Year: Kristy & Carly McDowell

Linda Cheeks has been an extraordinary beacon of hope, love, and stability for foster children, especially for teenaged girls in Prince William. Her dedication, compassion, and unwavering commitment to the well-being of these children have been truly remarkable. Cheeks approaches each child with a genuine sense of compassion and empathy. She understands the unique challenges that foster children face and works tirelessly to provide them with a nurturing and supportive environment. Cheeks has gone above and beyond to ensure that each child's needs are met, whether it's advocating for educational resources, healthcare, or emotional support. Cheeks provides a loving home for foster children, especially young mothers and their babies. She also recognizes the importance of family reunification, when possible. She will work collaboratively with birth families and social services to support reunification efforts while ensuring the child's safety and well-being. The impact Cheeks has had on the lives of the children in her care is immeasurable and ongoing. Through her love, support, and guidance, she has helped countless children overcome adversity and build brighter futures. Cheeks embodies the qualities of an exceptional foster parent: compassion, advocacy, stability, and a deep commitment to the well-being of the children in her care.

AGENDA ITEM #8

FISCAL YEAR 2024 WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET

**[View the draft document on
the COG website](#)**



MEMORANDUM

TO: COG Board of Directors
FROM: Julie Mussog, Chief Financial Officer
SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2025 Proposed Final Work Program and Budget
DATE: June 5, 2024

I am pleased to present the board with the [FY2025 Work Program and Budget](#) for Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOCG).

Revenue

Compared to FY2024 budget revenue, the FY2025 Work Program and Budget estimates a \$6.4 million (14.6%) increase in operating revenue. The increase in revenue is driven by \$3.6 million in new funding for Environmental Programs including a new Department of Defense (DOD) grant for base studies, flood preparedness and climate work, a \$1.5 million increase in Transportation Planning primarily for UPWP, and the remainder is due to a reclass from Subrecipient Pass Through to Operating.

Federal and State Revenue Increases (\$3.2 million, 51% of total revenue increase)

- A \$1.2 million increase in Homeland Security and Public Safety (DHSPS) revenue due to a reclass of Securing the Cities (STC) revenue from Subrecipient Pass Through to Operating.
- A \$1.0 million increase in Transportation Planning is driven by \$1.5 million in increased funding for Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Offset by a decrease in funding for Continuous Airport Systems Planning (\$0.4 million).
- An \$0.8 million increase in Environmental Resources revenue for a new DOD grant for a base study.

Regional Funds (\$0.2 million, 2% of total revenue increase)

- The increase is across the four regional funds and is reflective of the 4.3% increase in line with the Member Dues increase.

Member Dues Assessment (\$0.2 million, 3% of total revenue increase)

- The FY2025 per-capita rate of 84.5 cents is a rate increase of 3.5 cents from the FY2024 rate or an increase of 4.32% in the rate. Overall dues are 4.34% higher than FY24 due to the combination of rate and population increases.

Other Revenue (\$2.8 million, 44% of total revenue increase)

- The increase is due to new funding for flood preparedness and local climate planning projects.

Expenditures

Overall expenditures are up \$9.5 million (21%) from the FY2024 budget due to:

- Consulting expense mostly in Environmental Resources for new grants
- Contract staff expense in DHSPS
- Merit increases for staff, and related personnel expenses
- Estimated general inflation increases

The largest increase in expenditures is for consultants (\$7.7 million) and \$6.0 million is attributable to the new grants in Environmental Resources. Another \$1.3 million is in Transportation Planning for the UPWP and the remaining increase of \$0.4 million is in Transportation Operations for the Commuter Connections Work Plan.

Program staff salaries increased by \$0.5 million or 3.7% from the FY2024 budget and is reflective of the pay increase assumption and planned new hires in Transportation Planning. Interns, temp staffing and contract staff expense increased by \$0.6 million driven by increases in the DHSPS for staff that transitioned to contracts. Other direct programming expense increase is primarily due to the reclass of STC to operating.

Pass-through funds and special revenue funds totaling \$8.1 million are noted separately from the general operating budget, bringing the total amount of funds expected to be received and disbursed by MWCOG in FY2025 to \$58.7 million.

As of June 30, 2023, Board Designated reserves total \$10.2 million. The capital reserve (\$4.9 million) is 100% funded and the operating reserve (\$5.2 million) is 100% funded as per the reserve policies. It is expected in the current fiscal year (FY2024), none of the operating reserve will be used. Thus, the operating reserve will remain 100% of the target policy level (minimum of \$5.0 million) at the conclusion of FY2024. The FY2025 budget assumes no use of the operating reserve to fund FY2025 programs and services. No contributions to the operating reserve fund are provided in this budget which will result in the operating reserve remaining at \$5.2 million or approximately 100% of policy target at year end FY2025. The capital reserve will continue to be funded at 100% and will receive a \$1.0 million transfer from the Undesignated fund balance to help fund the future building renovation.



FY 2025 PROPOSED WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET

Advancing Regional Priorities

Clark Mercer
COG Executive Director

Julie Mussog
COG Chief Financial Officer

COG Budget and Finance Committee
June 12, 2024



Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

FY 2025 Budget: Guiding Principles

Staff is presenting a balanced budget with continued emphasis on core planning areas—transportation, environment, public safety, community planning and housing.

- No new programs being proposed for FY 2025.
- Historical increase in funding for TPB driving some use of undesignated funds.
- Focus on work environment to ensure members have a dedicated and talented supporting staff team.



COG regularly brings together area officials across a variety of disciplines for exercises and trainings on how to coordinate during emergencies, such as this Emergency Preparedness Council exercise in March 2024.

COG Member Benefits

COG is the place where area leaders connect with each other to address regional challenges and plan for the future.

Programs: COG provides a wide range of programs and services for its members, partners, and residents.

- The Transportation Planning Board (TPB) at COG helps ensure all major transportation projects receive federal funding/approvals.

Research and data: COG staff provide members with data and tools to inform decision-making.

Cooperative purchasing: COG members save money and time through regional bulk purchasing, contracting opportunities.

Member Benefits

Working together at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), area leaders set priorities and produce results that improve our region's quality of life.

- COG ensures all major **transportation projects** receive federal funding and approvals. These projects must be included in the long-range plan of the Transportation Planning Board (TPB) at COG, the region's federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization.
- COG coordinates **air quality planning** and monitors pollution, which is a key focus area since COG began working in the 1970s. The Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee at COG will be working with EPA to assure that the region meets the 2010 ozone standard and can handle the program.
- COG establishes **mutual aid agreements** for local governments to ensure that resources and services are available during emergencies, in real time, to help neighboring jurisdictions.
- COG administers regional **public works initiatives**. For example, under an agreement it secured and manages, COG provides support to start the Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant, which treats approximately 10 percent of the region's wastewater.
- COG leads **financial security planning** by helping officials understand existing risks and make investments to enhance opportunities, including the launch of the WISHER plan, which helps local governments assess their financial health.
- COG is building action on **climate change**, demonstrated by the region's attainment of its 2020 greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal and recognition by the United Nations as a leader in leading the world in climate planning.
- COG is preparing the region for **public health emergencies**, building on its extensive coordination during the pandemic as well as new tools to share health and hospital data.
- COG is helping local governments advance **social equity** within their jurisdictions by providing regional training opportunities and resources, led by the County Executive Action Planning Unit to inform planning and budgetary decisions.
- COG is supporting regional management of **electric vehicles** (EVs) through a new working group focused on joining a multi-jurisdiction electric vehicle network.

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

FY 2025 Budget of \$58.7 Million

Operating Funds

\$50.58 Million

Pass-Through Funds

\$ 8.13 Million



FY 2025 Proposed COG Budget

MWCOG FY 2025 Budget with Comparisons	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 Budget	FY2025 Budget
Operations	43,741,800	44,136,000	50,576,600
Subrecipient Pass Through	5,188,500	13,208,800	8,131,000
Special Revenue Funds	46,000	124,400	-
Totals	48,976,300	57,469,200	58,707,600

Supporting Regional Priorities

FY2025 DEPARTMENT & PROGRAM SUMMARY		Operations Revenue	Pass-Through and Other Funds	Total FY2025 Revenue Budget	% of Total
1.0	Transportation Planning	23,671,600	-	23,671,600	40%
2.0	Transportation Operations	8,508,000	4,054,300	12,562,300	21%
3.0	Community Planning & Services	1,654,600	-	1,654,600	3%
5.0	Homeland Security & Public Safety	4,316,800	4,076,700	8,393,500	14%
6.0	Water Resources	4,817,800	-	4,817,800	8%
7.0	Environmental Resources	5,033,700	-	5,033,700	9%
8.0	Air Quality	1,170,300	-	1,170,300	2%
9.0	Strategic Initiatives & Member Svc.	1,403,800	-	1,403,800	2%
Totals		50,576,600	8,131,000	58,707,600	



Highlights of the FY 2025 Work Program

Unified vision for transit: Comprehensive examination of the region's entire network to develop a new, long-term vision for transit service, funding, and governance.

Visualize 2050: The Transportation Planning Board will focus on final approval of the *Visualize 2050: National Capital Region Transportation Plan*.

Roadway safety: The TPB will work on advancing a new regional safety study to better understand roadway crashes and inform an update of recommended safety strategies.

Commuter Connections: COG will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of coordinating Commuter Connections and leverage the milestone in public outreach and a marquee event.



Highlights of the FY 2025 Work Program (continued)

Homelessness coordination: COG will seek new opportunities for regional collaboration, such as the new partnership with national nonprofit Community Solutions' Built for Zero initiative.

Crime data: COG will work on developing a regional system to collect data and report on crime trends and information to regional decision-makers.

Water supply: COG will coordinate with a coalition of water utilities and other partners to implement a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers feasibility study of the region's water supply.

Solar energy: COG will continue coordinating on best practices to deploy solar energy systems, including through a Solar Summit with local climate, energy, and procurement staff.



Highlights of the FY 2025 Work Program

Member Dues Rate Increase of \$0.035 from FY 2024 rate (decided October 2023)

Operating Revenue Increase of \$6.4 million or 14.6% over FY 2024 Work Program

- Additional Funding for Existing Programs (\$1.5 million - Transportation)
- New grant from DC for FEMA work, DoD and Climate projects (\$3.5 million – Climate)
- Reclass of Securing the Cities revenue from Pass-Through to Operating (\$1.3 million – Public Safety)

Sub-recipient Pass-Through Decrease of \$5.2 million or -38% over FY 2024 Work Program

- FY 2024 had \$2.7 million Amtrak repower project and reclass of some Public Safety revenue to operating.

Reserves Fully Funded

Budget Approval Process

- October:** Board of Directors approves the annual assessment of Member Dues and Regional Fees to be used in developing the Work Program and Budget.
- April:** Budget and Finance Committee reviews draft Work Program and Budget prepared by Management and recommends approval or modifications.
- June:** Board of Directors approves or modifies the proposed Work Program and Budget.
- July:** Work Program and Budget is implemented at the start of the new fiscal year.



Recommendation to the COG Board of Directors

- Action Item: Recommend adoption of the proposed FY 2025 Work Program and Budget.



Clark Mercer

COG Executive Director
cmerc@mwkog.org

Julie Mussog

COG Chief Financial Officer
jmussog@mwkog.org

mwkog.org

777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002



Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, NE
WASHINGTON, DC 20002-4239**

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE FY 2025 WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) comprises the region's 24 local governments and their governing officials, plus area members of the Maryland and Virginia legislatures and the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, and COG provides a focus for action on issues of regional concern; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) has adopted *Region Forward* as its strategic plan guiding the development of its fiscal year work program and budget; and

WHEREAS, the COG Board of Directors' policy boards and committees, with support from the COG management staff, have developed their proposed work programs and budgets based on *Region Forward* and anticipated revenue sources; and

WHEREAS, COG bylaws require the Executive Director to submit a proposed budget of the corporation to the Board of Directors for approval or modification; and

WHEREAS, the Budget and Finance Committee comprised of the COG Board executive committee, chairs of the Transportation Planning Board and the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee, and COG Secretary Treasurer, reviewed and recommended approval of the proposed FY 2025 Work Program and Budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT:

The board approves the proposed FY 2025 Work Program and Budget and directs the Executive Director to implement the work program and budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

AGENDA ITEM #9

**Homelessness in Metropolitan Washington:
Results and Analysis from the Annual Point-
in-Time (PIT) Count of Persons Experiencing
Homelessness**

**[View the full report on the
COG website](#)**

AGENDA ITEM #10

DMVMOVES UPDATE

[Visit the DMVMoves website](#)

AGENDA ITEM #11

OTHER BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM #12

ADJOURN