



MEMORANDUM

TO: COG Board of Directors
FROM: Chuck Bean, COG Executive Director
SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report – September 2022
DATE: September 7, 2022

POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) – In June the TPB approved the *Visualize 2045* long-range transportation plan and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Plan update. The TPB also adopted on-road transportation sector greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals and adopted seven GHG reduction strategies. Also approved were four Regional Roadway Safety Program projects and Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) 2022-2025 performance targets. In July, the TPB approved \$5.1M in Maryland Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TAP) funding for the Frederick & Pennsylvania Line (F&PL) Railroad Trail, received map updates to Equity Emphasis Areas, and approved the Car Free Day proclamation.



NEW APPLICATIONS OF EQUITY EMPHASIS AREAS
Less than a year after being endorsed by the COG Board of Directors and incorporated into *Region United: Metropolitan Washington Planning Framework for 2030*, Equity Emphasis Areas (EEAs) are becoming part of the region's planning vocabulary.

[Read the news highlight/view updated map](#)

Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC)

– At its July meeting, CEEPC learned about Resilient Fairfax, the development of a comprehensive Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan for the county and the community to reduce risk to county residents, businesses, and infrastructure. CEEPC was also briefed on TPB's climate mitigation goals and strategies as well as its climate resilience initiatives.

Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC) – In July, CBPC members were briefed on the meaning of the EPA health advisory for per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and about COG's drought plan. Members also planned for the upcoming annual Bay Forum with the EPA and states in September and remodeled its annual paper competition.

Food and Agriculture Regional Member (FARM) Policy Committee – In July, FARM [sent a letter](#) urging the Biden Administration to incorporate a set of priorities in a new national strategy that will be announced during the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health in September. In

August, the committee strategized on a letter to the region's U.S. Senators to urge their support for the Healthy Meals, Healthy Kids Act (H.R. 8450) which is expected to be voted on in the House in the fall.

Region Forward Coalition (RFC) – In July, the RFC heard from Montgomery County Health & Human Services and SAMU First Response on how they are providing a humane response to legal migrants arriving in the region who are seeking asylum. The coalition recommended the COG Board consider a resolution expressing support for the migrants, which the board approved later in July. In addition, the coalition was briefed by Mary's Center and Culmore Clinic on strategies to overcome the barriers to healthcare access for immigrant populations.

OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

2030 Framework – COG Executive Director Chuck Bean presented *Region United* to the City of Rockville, Frederick County, City of Alexandria, and Prince William County.

Employer Recognition Awards – In June, COG's Commuter Connections program recognized five local employers and organizations for their outstanding commute alternative programs at the 25th annual Employer Recognition Awards ceremony.

[Learn more about the awardees.](#)

Homeless Services – In July, COG staff hosted a joint virtual workshop with the Human Services Policy Committee (HSPC) and the COG Homeless Services Committee for city, county, and state elected officials and government staff to discuss aligning racial equity objectives, identifying next steps to be included in the draft regional homeless services racial equity plan, and developing shared accountability for the plan's success.

Drinking Water and Wastewater Survey – COG's Community Engagement Campaign (CEC) conducted the [third annual survey](#), helping area water and wastewater utilities understand and respond to residents' awareness about their water.

Go Recycle – In June, COG ran its annual Go Recycle campaign, a regional effort to help educate area residents about the benefits of recycling and how to do it properly. Visit, www.gorecycle.org for more information and resources.



TPB APPROVES UPDATED LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The approved update to *Visualize 2045*, the region's federally-mandated, long-range transportation plan includes highway and transit projects totaling \$233 billion, that meet ozone air quality standards and other federal requirements.

[Learn more about the plan](#)

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

COG Board Chair Christian Dorsey discusses local action to address regional challenges - *The more aligned localities are in fighting regional ills, the more successful they will be.*

[Washington Business Journal – Op-ed by Chair Christian Dorsey.](#)

COG Executive Director Chuck Bean discusses regional priorities with Washington Post – *Want to curb traffic? Build homes near jobs and transit, COG leader says.*

[The Washington Post – Q&A by COG Executive Director Chuck Bean.](#)

D.C.-area office occupancy rates and transit ridership – *Offices have reopened. Persuading commuters to fill them isn't so simple.*

[The Washington Post – Quotes COG Planning Data and Research Program Director Tim Canan.](#)

Housing in the region – *New development means gentrification, right? Not necessarily, says a recent study.*

[Washington Business Journal – Quotes COG Housing Program Manager Hilary Chapman.](#)

TPB approves local Maryland trail project for federal funding – *Regional board approves \$5.1M grant for Frederick-Walkersville rail trail*

[Frederick News-Post – Quotes COG Transportation Planner John Swanson.](#)



PODCAST: THE FUTURE OF THE ECONOMY
On this episode of Think Regionally, host Robert McCartney talks with leaders in the government and non-profit sectors, including COG Board Member and Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks about new efforts to promote long-term economic growth and inclusive prosperity.

[Listen to the episode or read the transcript](#)