



MEMORANDUM

TO: COG Board of Directors
FROM: Chuck Bean, COG Executive Director
SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report – June 2021
DATE: June 2, 2021

POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) – At its May meeting, the TPB received briefings on the Enhanced Mobility grant solicitation, the first phase of a Climate Change Mitigation Study, and public input received during the first comment period for *Visualize 2045*, the region's long-range transportation plan. The board also approved an agreement with the Fredericksburg metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the shared planning area in Stafford County, and held a work session about the conformity projects for *Visualize 2045*.

Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) – In May, CEEPC launched a new DMV Climate Partners website, a platform to educate area leaders and residents about climate change and connect them with opportunities for action. The committee also recognized Jeff King as COG's new Climate, Energy, and Air Program Director and adopted the Regional Environmental Fund Work Program.

Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC) – At its May meeting, the committee was briefed on a series of infrastructure and workforce development bills as they pertain to funding water programs, and on the Chesapeake Bay Program's Local Leadership Work Group and its water educational modules for local officials.

Human Services Policy Committee (HSPC) – In May, the committee focused on substance abuse and the impact of COVID-19, and current efforts and regional opportunities to collaborate on solutions. Leaders from Loudoun and Prince William County led the discussion on strategies needed to overcome this challenge and what to expect post-COVID.



COG LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE TO EDUCATE AND ENGAGE ON CLIMATE
COG and local government partners have teamed up to educate area leaders and residents about the shared climate challenge and connect them with opportunities for action through a new platform—DMV Climate Partners.

[Visit the website](#)

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) – At its May meeting, MWAQC received an update on 2021 ozone season data so far, which showed overall higher ozone and fine particle levels this year compared to 2020 due to warmer weather and potentially increased emissions levels. MWAQC approved the FY22 Work Program and Budget, which included a new task to develop a State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the 2015 ozone standard. The region is not expected to attain the 2015 ozone standard by the August 2021 deadline based on monitored air quality monitoring data through 2020.

OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Bike to Work Day 2021 – The 20th anniversary of Bike to Work Day hosted by Commuter Connections and the Washington Area Bicyclist Association was held on May 21. Nearly 9,000 people participated in the event, which emphasized the link between biking and physical and mental health.

COG Presentations – Chuck Bean provided remarks on transit-oriented communities for Leadership Greater Washington on May 6 and at George Mason University on May 26.

Post-COVID Office Space Trends – COG’s Planning Directors Technical Advisory Committee hosted a panel of housing and real estate leaders in the region to discuss post-COVID office space demand and telework trends. The committee also received a briefing on the latest *Commercial Construction Indicators Report*.

[Watch the discussion and read the full report](#)

Air Quality – The region recorded its first Code Orange for the year on May 19. COG issued an “Unhealthy Air” alert, advising area residents to take proper health and safety precautions and will continue to provide air quality forecasts and current air quality conditions for the region.

America Recycles Day – COG’s annual America Recycles Day regional pledge contest, part of an effort to educate area residents about the benefits of recycling, concluded with two winners from Prince George’s County high schools. The winners pledged to be leaders in waste diversion and source reduction.

[Watch the video](#)



TPB APPROVES FUNDING FOR OLDER ADULTS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

TPB approved six projects for funding through the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSAA). These projects will help organizations providing transportation assistance to older adults and people with disabilities at risk for COVID-19.

[Learn more about the projects](#)

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Here are things that might change about your commute this fall – COG Deputy Executive Director for Metropolitan Planning Kanti Srikanth discusses the pandemic's effects on commuting habits, lessons businesses and transit agencies can take from a year of telework, and changes commuters might encounter as they return to offices.

[The Washington Post](#)

Traffic is starting to rebound, will look different post-pandemic – COG Planning Data and Research Program Director Tim Canan discusses the COVID-19 impacts on traffic patterns in the region.

[FOX 5](#)

Homelessness in DC region is lowest since Point in Time counts began – COG's *Homelessness in Metropolitan Washington Report* revealed there are 8,309 people experiencing homelessness in the region, the smallest number recorded since the regional count began 20 years ago.

[WTOP](#)

Greater Washington developers don't fear a work-from-home revolution. But there are big changes coming to the office. – COG hosted a panel of housing and real estate leaders from across metropolitan Washington to discuss results of COG's *2020 Commercial Construction Report*, post-COVID office space demand, and telework trends.

[Washington Business Journal](#)