

MEMORANDUM

TO: COG Board of Directors
FROM: Chuck Bean, COG Executive Director
SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report – September 2019
DATE: September 4, 2019

POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) – This summer, the TPB approved projects in Maryland and the District of Columbia for funding through the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), which funds transportation projects like bicycle, pedestrian, trail, and Safe Routes to School. The TPB approved the projects, inputs, and scope of work for the 2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TPB also discussed and approved the Maryland Department of Transportation's request for a TIP amendment for the Nice Bridge replacement and declared September 21- 23 as Car Free Days.



COG ANNUAL LEADERSHIP RETREAT
Board members gathered on the Eastern Shore in July for COG's 2019 Annual Leadership Retreat, where the group focused on the region's unmet housing needs.

Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) and Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC)

CEEPC and CBPC met jointly in July to discuss tree canopy benefits, including mitigating climate change and flooding, and policies and resources for jurisdictions to preserve trees. Members were also briefed on the CEEPC Tree Subcommittee's two-year work plan.

Region Forward Coalition (RFC) – The RFC July meeting focused on “livability” and featured discussions about the suburbanization of poverty with University of Maryland's Dr. Willow Lung-Amam and strategies to address homeless services with District of Columbia Councilmember Brianne Nadeau.

OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

2020 Census – COG and 14 partners convened a regional forum on June 6, Interventions that Work: 2020 Census and Hard-to-Reach Communities, to prepare for the census. Hundreds of public, private, and nonprofit leaders attended.

Capital Fortitude Exercise – Area public health, public information, law enforcement, and emergency management officials participated from July 17-20 in Capital Fortitude, a full-scale exercise to evaluate how area governments would respond to a biological attack, including their ability to dispense medication quickly.

incenTrip Launch – Commuter Connections and the Maryland Transportation Institute at the University of Maryland launched incenTrip at the National Press Club on August 28. The new mobile app allows commuters in the region to save time, money, and fuel, while earning rewards for planning trips.

Water Survey – The results of COG’s Community Engagement Campaign regional water use survey revealed the majority of residents trust their water utilities and 71 percent choose tap water over bottled for drinking. The survey results will help inform future communication efforts.

Employer Recognition Awards – On June 21, Commuter Connections recognized area employers Toole Design Group of Silver Spring, Washington Headquarters Services of the District of Columbia and Alexandria, and Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association of Frederick for their commitment to promoting innovative and sustainable commute alternative programs.

Go Recycle Campaign – COG’s 2019 Go Recycle campaign, an effort to educate the public about recycling and encourage residents to recycle at work, home, and in public spaces, reached more than 13.7 million people through advertising on radio, digital, and social media.

Breathe Easy Summer Campaign – Clean Air Partners wrapped up its summer campaign to educate residents on actions they can take to improve the region’s air. The campaign featured a press event, 12 public outreach events across the region, and advertising.



INTERVENTIONS THAT WORK: 2020 CENSUS
Hundreds of area leaders came together at the June event to share strategies for ensuring a complete and accurate 2020 Census count, which is critical to local communities in the region receiving vital federal dollars.

[Read the news highlight](#)

Kosovo Delegation – COG’s water supply program staff met with a delegation from Kosovo to discuss water supply planning and resilience. The delegation of regional government, private sector, and water utility staff was sponsored by the U.S. Department of State.

Regional Food and Agriculture Supply Chain Studies "Movement Summit" – This day-long, interactive COG summit on June 24 brought together technical assistance providers, policymakers, government staff, advocates, business, and funders from the region to consider and share new information about the area’s food system.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

The Housing Disconnect – COG Executive Director Chuck Bean is quoted about COG's work since late 2018 to determine what it would take to increase housing to better provide for the region’s growing workforce.

[Washington Business Journal story](#)

Commuter Connections App Wants to Pay You to Get Out of Your Car – Commuter Connections Director Nicholas Ramfos and Transportation Planning Board Chairman Martin Nohe are quoted about the new incenTrip app.

[WAMU story](#)

As County Housing Permits Rise, Regional Commercial

Development Slumps – COG Planner John Kent is quoted about the findings of COG’s *Commercial Construction Report*, released in June.

[Frederick News-Post article](#)

Prince George’s County Joins Neighboring Jurisdictions in Implementing Vision Zero Program – COG Transportation Planner Michael Farrell was interviewed about efforts to reduce traffic-related incidents and fatalities.

[WAMU’s Kojo Nnamdi Show segment](#)

Is That Your Fatberg? It Is If You’re Dumping Grease Down the Sink – COG Environmental Planner Heidi Bonnaffon is quoted about the results of the CEC’s Water Use Survey.

[WAMU story](#)



AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN THE DC AREA
COG Board Chair Robert White, COG Executive Director Chuck Bean, and COG Housing Directors Committee Co-Chair Helen McIlvaine discussed housing affordability in the region on NBC Washington’s News 4 Your Sunday.

[Watch the segment](#)