

MEMORANDUM

TO: COG Board of Directors
FROM: Chuck Bean, COG Executive Director
SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report – March 2019
DATE: March 6, 2019

POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) – At its February meeting, the TPB approved regional targets for transit vehicles and stations. The targets address the age and condition of transit vehicles, stations, facilities, and equipment. The board also reviewed its annual budget and work program, up for approval in March. Other topics covered included a report on Traffic Incident Management Enhancement and a presentation on the Bus Transformation Project.

Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC) – In February, the CBPC wrote letters of support for Maryland General Assembly bills (House and Senate) banning expanded polystyrene, a plastic foam material. The CBPC also wrote a letter of support for Virginia Delegate David Bulova's appointment to the EPA Stormwater Infrastructure Funding Task Force.

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) – In February, MWAQC was briefed by COG staff on the ways air quality and transportation planning intersect and are coordinated between MWAQC and the TPB.

OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

A Regional Conversation with Amazon – COG hosted a gathering of more than 100 area leaders—representatives from local governments, businesses, nonprofits, and civic associations—for a regional conversation with Amazon on its plans to locate its new headquarters in Arlington. COG Executive Director Chuck Bean moderated the panel.



REGIONAL CONVERSATION WITH AMAZON

The COG event featured panelists from Arlington Economic Development, Amazon, Virginia Economic Development Partnership, JBG Smith, and the Fuller Institute. (Lathan Goumas/GMU)

[Watch the video](#)

Census 2020 – The Cooperative Forecasting Subcommittee met in February and was briefed on Census 2020 by Paul Reyes, Assistant Regional Census Manager. The group received an initial 2020 Census Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) Training. A more extensive training is planned for later in March.

DC Performance Oversight Hearing – COG Executive Director Chuck Bean and Deputy Executive Director Stuart Freudberg testified at the District of Columbia Council about COG’s top priorities for the year and the benefits received by COG members.

Community Leadership Institute – The TPB is now accepting applications for its Community Leadership Institute (CLI), to begin April 18. CLI is an educational program that encourages community leaders to get involved in transportation-related decision making at all levels.

National Association of Region Councils (NARC) conference – COG staff attended the NARC National Conference of Regions in the District of Columbia, which focused on regional issues such as infrastructure, transportation, housing, and the 2020 census. Participants discussed housing needs during a keynote presentation from U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Ben Carson.

Regional Planning and Growth – COG Department of Community Planning and Services Director Paul DesJardin participated in the 20th Annual Montgomery County Business Advisory Panel to review economic outlook conditions for the county’s budget. In addition, Housing Manager Hilary Chapman participated in meetings of the Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance and ULI Washington.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Amazon’s National Landing comes into focus – COG’s Regional Conversation with Amazon held at George Mason University is featured.

[NBC Washington story](#)

The future of DC metro area transportation – COG Transportation Planning Director Kanti Srikanth, TPB Chairman Martin Nohe, and TPB Vice Chairman Kelly Russell discussed the future of transportation in the region.

[NBC Washington’s News4Your Sunday segment](#)



Farming, food security in Washington region threatened by development – COG Regional Food Systems Value Chain Coordinator Lindsay Smith and Regional Agricultural Work Group founding member Hiu Newcomb discussed trends in area farming, food production.

[WAMU story](#)

Flextime program offers incentives to commuters who choose to avoid sitting in traffic – Commuter Connections Director Nicholas Ramfos is quoted about the new program that seeks to ease congestion.

[WTOP story](#)

Regional group looks to improve response to traffic incidents – COG Transportation Systems Performance Planning Director Andrew Meese is quoted about COG's initiative to enhance traffic incident management.

[Frederick News-Post story](#)