



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wednesday, June 9, 2021

12:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.

WebEx Virtual Meeting (provided to members only by email)

Video livestream available to public on COG website

### AGENDA – PROPOSED AMENDMENTS INCLUDED

- 12:00 P.M.**
- 1. CALL TO ORDER**  
*Robert C. White, Jr., COG Board Chair*
  - 2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**  
*Robert C. White, Jr., COG Board Chair*
- 12:05 P.M.**
- 3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**  
*Chuck Bean, COG Executive Director*
  - 4. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**  
*Robert C. White, Jr., COG Board Chair*
    - A. Consent Agenda Resolution R30-2021.**
- 12:15 P.M.**
- 5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM MAY 12, 2021**  
*Robert C. White, Jr., COG Board Chair*

**Recommended Action: Approve minutes.**
  - 6. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**  
*Robert C. White, Jr., COG Board Chair*
    - A. Resolution R28-2021 – Resolution approving COG's Pension Plan Investment Policy Statement.
    - B. Resolution R29-2021 – Resolution commending City Manager Suzanne Ludlow's 27 years of public service at the City of Takoma Park.
    - C. **Resolution R30-2021 – Resolution authorizing COG to enter in a contract(s) and expend funds for an after-action report/improvement plan for events that occurred at the U.S. Capitol on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021.**

**Recommended Action: Adopt Resolutions R28-2021 – R30-2021.**
- 12:20 P.M.**
- 7. COG BOARD RACIAL EQUITY TRAINING (ELECTED OFFICIALS) TASK FORCE UPDATE**  
*Kate Stewart, Racial Equity Training Task Force Chair*

The board will be updated on the work of the Racial Equity Training Task Force.

**Recommended Action: Receive briefing.**

**12:25 P.M. 8. COG HEALTH OFFICIALS COMMITTEE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS**

*Dr. Travis Gayles, COG Health Officials Committee Co-Chair*

The board will be briefed on recommendations from the Health Officials Committee to support the health and well-being of our communities.

**Recommended Action: Receive briefing.**

**12:40 P.M. 9. THE REGION'S EQUITY EMPHASIS AREAS**

*Kanti Srikanth, COG Deputy Executive Director of Metropolitan Planning*

The board will be briefed on COG's Equity Emphasis Areas, a resource that uses U.S. Census tract-level data to identify communities that have significant concentrations of low-income and/or minority populations. The board will learn how this data and interactive tool is used in regional transportation planning and discuss how this information can be utilized in other planning areas.

**Recommended Action: Receive briefing.**

**1:20 P.M. 10. MULTI-SECTORAL GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION STRATEGIES**

*Jeffrey King, COG Director of Climate, Energy and Air Program*

*Kanti Srikanth, COG Deputy Executive Director of Metropolitan Planning*

Following up on the introductory briefing of the region's 2030 Climate Energy Action Plan last month, the board will be briefed on a set of greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction strategies in different sectors that have the potential to help the region achieve its 2030 GHG reduction goals.

**Recommended Action: Receive briefing.**

**1:55 P.M. 11. OTHER BUSINESS**

**2:00 P.M. 12. ADJOURN**

The COG Board Leadership Retreat is scheduled for July 23-24, 2021.

The next COG Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for September 8, 2021.

**AGENDA ITEM #2**

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

# COG Annual Leadership Retreat

Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Resort

Cambridge, Maryland

July 23 – 24, 2021

The 2021 Annual Leadership Retreat will focus on a plan for optimizing connected, transit-oriented communities in our region as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and plan for the next decade.

## OPTIMIZING PLACES: TRANSIT-ORIENTED COMMUNITIES

The board will build consensus around a set of 2030 goals that optimize high capacity transit station areas and enhance equity emphasis areas and also integrate with COG's existing regional housing targets and greenhouse gas emission reduction goals. Areas of discussion:

- 1) **Optimizing the Region's High Capacity Transit Station Areas:** Board members will discuss the 225 high capacity transit station areas—154 currently in development, 71 more planned—identified by the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board and consider affirming these areas as “transit oriented communities,” places where we must optimize growth and land-use implications.
- 2) **Utilizing Equity Emphasis Areas:** Building off the board's commitment to be anti-racist and weave equity throughout all COG's work, the board will discuss the region's 350 Equity Emphasis Areas, geographic areas with concentrations of minority and low-income populations used for transportation planning, and consider how we can utilize this data to address racial equity in regional plans and policies, and especially in our planning for 2030.
- 3) **Achieving Our Climate Goals:** *Metropolitan Washington 2030 Climate Energy Action Plan* outlines strategies for achieving the region's greenhouse gas emission reduction goals that were approved by the board in 2020.
- 4) **Meeting Our Regional Housing Targets:** COG's Regional Housing Targets for 2030, approved by the board in 2019, address the region's unmet housing needs—including amount, affordability, and accessibility of area housing.

## COVID-19 IMPACTS AND RECOVERY

The board will be briefed on the regional impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and discuss key considerations for the region as we plan for recovery. The board will hear from Dr. Mauro Guillen, University of Pennsylvania Zandman Professor of International Management, on how today's biggest trends will collide and reshape the future.

## RSVP

If you have not yet done so, please RSVP to secure your place at the retreat by contacting Pat Warren at [pwarren@mwkog.org](mailto:pwarren@mwkog.org) or (202) 617-0823.

# **AGENDA ITEM #3**

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**



## MEMORANDUM

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

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### 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](#)



# **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  
May 12, 2021**

**BOARD MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES:** See attached chart for attendance.

**SPEAKERS:**

Rodney Lusk, COG Secretary-Treasurer  
Julie Mussog, COG Chief Financial Officer  
Richard Keech, Loudoun County Office of Elections Deputy Registrar  
Alysoun McLaughlin, Montgomery County Deputy Elections Director  
Terri Stroud, District of Columbia Board of Elections General Counsel  
Tom Barnett, Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness Director  
Kristy Greenwalt, District of Columbia Interagency Council on Homelessness Director  
Jeffrey King, COG Director of Climate, Energy and Air Program  
Kanti Srikanth, COG Deputy Executive Director of Metropolitan Planning

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

COG Board Vice Chair Christian Dorsey called the meeting to order at 12:00 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

- A. COG 2021 Annual Leadership Retreat

**3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

COG Executive Director Chuck Bean briefed the board on the Transportation Planning Board's new Transit Within Reach grant program, which funds design and preliminary engineering projects to help improve bike and walk connections to transit. He also highlighted some of COG's growing planning areas, including Equity Emphasis Areas and the Enhanced Mobility Program which recently received funding through President Biden's America Rescue Plan. Bean also gave an update on COG's return to office plan and recognized the Office of Finance and Administrative Services staff for their hard work.

**4. AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA**

There were no amendments to the agenda.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from the April 14, 2021 board meeting were approved.

**6. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

- A. Resolution R24-2021 – Resolution approving updates to COG's Title VI Plan and Program.
- B. Resolution R25-2021 – Resolution approving amendments to COG's Investment Policy.
- C. Resolution R26-2021 – Resolution approving amendments to COG's Operating Reserve Policy.

**ACTION: Approved Resolutions R24-2021 – R26-2021.**

**7. 2021 FOSTER PARENT APPRECIATION**

The board recognized the 2021 Foster Parents of the Year, a group of 10 families from metropolitan Washington. They also viewed a regional video highlighting the families and their fostering journey.

**ACTION: Received briefing.**

**8. FISCAL YEAR 2021 THIRD QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT**

COG Secretary- Treasurer Rodney Lusk and Chief Financial Officer Julie Mussog briefed the board on the FY 2021 third quarter (July 2020 - March 2021) financial statements.

**ACTION: Received briefing.**

**9. FISCAL YEAR 2022 WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET**

COG Executive Director Chuck Bean and Chief Financial Officer Julie Mussog briefed the board on the FY 2022 Work Program and Budget recommended by the COG Budget and Finance Committee. The board adopted Resolution R27-2021 approving the work program and budget of \$49.3 million for FY 2022.

**ACTION: Received briefing and approved Resolution R27-2021.**

**10. COG ELECTION OFFICIALS COMMITTEE**

Loudoun County Office of Elections Deputy Registrar Richard Keech, Montgomery County Deputy Elections Director Alysoun McLaughlin, and District of Columbia Board of Elections General Counsel Terri Stroud briefed the board on the security of upcoming elections and changes in voting trends and election processes.

**ACTION: Received briefing.**

**11. 2021 REGIONAL HOMELESS ENUMERATION**

Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness Director Tom Barnett and District of Columbia Interagency Council on Homelessness Director Kristy Greenwalt briefed the board on the results of the 2021 Point in Time count completed by COG's Homeless Services Committee. The enumeration revealed a total of 8,309 literally homeless individuals, the lowest number of persons counted experiencing homelessness since the region began coordinating in 2001 and the third year in a row that the literally homeless total has been below 10,000 persons.

**ACTION: Received briefing.**

**12. COG 2030 CLIMATE AND ENERGY ACTION PLAN**

COG Director of Climate, Energy and Air Program Jeffrey King and COG Deputy Executive Director of Metropolitan Planning Kanti Srikanth briefed the board on COG's 2030 Climate Energy Action Plan and the efforts of member jurisdictions to develop local climate action, resilience, energy and electric vehicle plans.

**ACTION: Received briefing.**

**13. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**14. ADJOURN**

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 P.M.

**May 12, 2021 Attendance**

<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Y/N</u>	<u>Alternate</u>	<u>Y/N</u>
<b><i>District of Columbia</i></b>				
<b>Executive</b>	Hon. Muriel Bowser		Ms. Beverly Perry Mr. Wayne Turnage Ms. Lucinda Babers	Y
	Mr. Kevin Donahue		Eugene Kinlow	
<b>Council</b>	Hon. Phil Mendelson	Y		
	<b><i>Hon. Robert White</i></b>	Y		
<b><i>Maryland</i></b>				
Bowie	Hon. Tim Adams	Y		
Charles County	Hon. Reuben Collins	Y	Thomasina Coates Gilbert Bowling	
City of Frederick	Hon. Michael O'Connor	Y		
Frederick County	Hon. Jan Gardner		Ms. Joy Schaefer	Y
College Park	Hon. Denise Mitchell	Y	Hon. Patrick Wojahn	
Gaithersburg	Hon. Robert Wu		Hon. Neil Harris	Y
Greenbelt	Hon. Colin Byrd	Y	Hon. Emmett Jordan	P
Laurel	Hon. Craig Moe		Hon. Michael Leszcz Mr. Bill Goddard	Y
Montgomery County				
<b>Executive</b>	Hon. Marc Elrich		Mr. Richard Madaleno	
<b>Council</b>	Hon. Tom Hucker			
	Hon. Nancy Navarro			
Prince George's County				
<b>Executive</b>	Hon. Angela Alsobrooks		Ms. Tara Jackson	Y
<b>Council</b>	Hon. Derrick Leon Davis			
	Hon. Sydney Harrison			
Rockville	Hon. Bridget Donnell Newton	Y		
Takoma Park	<b><i>Hon. Kate Stewart</i></b>	Y	Hon. Cindy Dyballa Hon. Peter Kovar	
Maryland General Assembly	Hon. Brian Feldman			
<b><i>Virginia</i></b>				
Alexandria	Hon. Justin Wilson		Hon. Redella Pepper	
Arlington County	<b><i>Hon. Christian Dorsey</i></b>	Y		
City of Fairfax	Hon. David Meyer		Hon. Jon Stehle	
Fairfax County	Hon. Jeff McKay		Hon. James Walkinshaw	
	Hon. Penelope Gross	Y	Hon. Daniel Storck	
	Hon. Rodney Lusk	Y	Hon. Walter Alcorn	
Falls Church	Hon. David Snyder	Y	Hon. David Tarter	
Loudoun County	Hon. Juli Briskman	Y		
Loudoun County	Hon. Phyllis Randall	Y		
Manassas	Hon. Mark Wolfe	Y		
Manassas Park	Hon. Darryl Moore	Y		
Prince William County	Hon. Ann Wheeler	Y		
	Hon. Andrea Bailey	Y		
Virginia General Assembly	Hon. George Barker	Y		

Y = Present, voting

(P) = Present as Alternate in addition to Primary

# **AGENDA ITEM #6**

## **ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS  
June 2021**

**A. RESOLUTION APPROVING COG'S PENSION PLAN INVESTMENT POLICY STATEMENT**

The Board will be asked to adopt Resolution R28-2021 approving the updates to COG's Pension Plan Investment Policy Statement approved by the COG Pension Plan Advisory Committee (PPAC) in May 2021. The purpose of the policy is to clearly define the long-term investment objectives, risk tolerance and constraints of the COG Pension Plan. Updates to the policy include: updated language to include current investment best practices, updated asset allocation policy from domestic to all equities, requires a formal review of the asset allocation policy every five years, and changes voting proxy from COG Human Resources Director to COG Chief Financial Officer. The COG Pension Plan Advisory Committee has approved these updates and recommends Board approval.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt Resolution R28-2021.**

**B. RESOLUTION COMMENDING CITY MANAGER SUZANNE LUDLOW'S 27 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE AT THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK**

The Board will be asked to adopt Resolution R29-2021 commending City Manager Suzanne Ludlow on her 27 years of service at the City of Takoma Park. Ms. Ludlow has served as City Manager since 2015. She began her career with the City in 1993 as Assistant Director of Housing and Community Development. She has held a number of positions over the years, including Unification Coordinator and Community and Government Liaison. She became Deputy City Manager in 2008 and held that position until she was named City Manager in 2015. Ms. Ludlow has been a strong advocate for regional collaboration and graduated from the COG Institute for Regional Excellence. She is an active member of the COG Chief Administrative Officers Committee and was elected to serve as Chair of the Committee in 2021. The COG Board of Directors applauds the great work Ms. Ludlow has done not only to improve the lives of those in Takoma Park, but for all residents in the metropolitan Washington region.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt Resolution R29-2021.**

**C. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COG TO ENTER IN A CONTRACT(S) AND EXPEND FUNDS FOR AN AFTER-ACTION REPORT/IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR EVENTS THAT OCCURRED AT THE U.S. CAPITOL ON JANUARY 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2021**

**(Proposed addition to consent agenda by amendment to the agenda on June 9, 2021)**

The board will be asked to adopt Resolution R30-2021 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to enter into a contract(s) and expend in the amount of \$159,961.39 to develop an After-Action Report/Improvement Plan (AAR/IP) on the regional law enforcement response to the January 6, 2021 events that occurred at the U.S. Capitol, as well as events preceding the Inauguration. The AAR/IP will specifically focus on how to improve regional technical operations, deployments, and mutual aid requests for local governments. Funds for this project are available in the COG Regional Public Safety Fund and the Department of Homeland Security and Public Safety Budget.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt Resolution R30-2021**

# PENSION PLAN

# INVESTMENT POLICY STATEMENT

July 2011

Amended May 2021



Metropolitan Washington  
**Council of Governments**



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## Statement of Purpose

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (“the Council”) established this Investment Policy Statement (“IPS”) to clearly define the long-term investment objectives, risk tolerance and constraints of the Council Pension Plan (the “Plan”). This written IPS will guide the Council fiduciaries regarding the effective supervision, management, and monitoring of the Plan investments. By its implementation, this IPS should provide a mechanism through which all of the Plan’s needs, circumstances, and objectives are addressed.

The IPS will establish a framework through which the appropriateness and suitability of investment recommendations and actions are evaluated.

## Background

The Plan is a tax-qualified defined benefit pension plan established on July 1, 1965. The Plan has been amended and restated several times since its inception, as described in the Plan Document. The Plan is maintained by the Council for eligible employees in accordance with the terms, conditions, and provisions of the Plan, as set forth in the Plan Document. The Plan was established and is maintained to provide retirement income and other benefits for certain of its employees and their beneficiaries.

The Plan and the benefits provided thereunder are funded through a combination of investment earnings on the Plan’s assets and contributions provided in accordance with provisions specified in the Plan Document.

The Plan is a “governmental plan” within the meaning of Code section 414(d), and the Plan is not mandated by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (“ERISA”). Several ERISA standards have been adopted by the Council and serve to guide the management and administration of the Plan.

## Roles and Responsibilities

The Council appointed a Pension Plan Administrative Committee (“the Committee”) to administer the investment policies of the Plan and provide oversight for the management of the Plan’s assets. The Committee shall establish and approve any and all modifications to the investment policies. This responsibility includes, but is not limited to, the asset allocation policy for the Plan. Specific investment goals stated herein shall be reviewed periodically, and when appropriate, new goals and standards shall be adopted by the Committee.

The Plan’s fiduciaries (Committee members) are held to the following fiduciary standards:

- Serving the exclusive interest of Plan participants and beneficiaries;
- Acting prudently;
- Ensuring that plan assets are diversified; and
- Administering the Plan in a cost conscious manner.

The Committee is charged with the fiduciary responsibility of supervising the management of the Plan's assets. To assist in these functions, the Committee is authorized and permitted to engage the services of investment managers, custodians, and consultants, who possess the necessary specialized facilities and skilled manpower to assure its expertise under the governing laws as may now, or in the future apply to the investments of the Plan.

Investment Managers are delegated the sole and exclusive authority to manage the assets of the Pension under that Investment Manager's investment control, including the power to acquire and dispose of those assets. This authority is subject to the guidelines and limitations contained in their contracts, prospectuses, and this IPS.

The Investment Consultant has the responsibility to provide investment performance reporting on the Pension's Investment Managers. The Investment Consultant is also responsible for recommending periodic changes to this IPS, asset allocation strategies, and the Investment Manager lineup. The Investment Consultant serves in a co-fiduciary capacity.

## Investment Objectives

The Plan's objective is to provide benefits as anticipated through a carefully planned and executed investment program, which achieves a reasonable long term total return consistent with the level of risk assumed.

The risk tolerance of the Plan is moderate. The time horizon for this Plan is long-term, defined as twenty (20) years or more.

The Plan's investment objectives are:

- Achieve a long-term annualized total rate of return (net of investment management fees), which meets or exceeds the actuarial target rate of return for the Plan; and
- Achieve a near-term annualized total rate of return (net of investment management fees), which meets or exceeds the return of the policy benchmark for the Plan, which is a weighted average of the target weighting and the benchmark for each asset class in the Plan.
- Maintain the purchasing power of the principal amount of the Plan's assets over time. (The Plan has a Cost of Living Adjustment ("COLA") requirement. In years when the Consumer Price Index ("CPI") increases, the COLA will be equal to the lesser of one half of the increase in the CPI or 3%. More detail on the COLA is contained in the plan document.);
- Diversify assets sufficiently, avoiding large specific risks and minimizing the volatility of the investment returns of the Plan; and
- Manage the Plan in a cost-effective manner.

By its implementation, this Investment Policy Statement should increase the likelihood that the Plan will achieve its long-term financial goals.

## Investment Policy Guidelines

The policies and procedures of the Plan's investment program guide its implementation and shall consider, among other things:

- A. The financial condition of the Plan.
- B. The expected long-term outlook for capital markets.
- C. The Plan's risk tolerance.
- D. The future growth of liabilities (benefit payments) related to active and retired participants.

Investments shall be made with the care, skill, prudence and diligence under circumstances then prevailing that a prudent investor would use in the administration of a plan of like character and with like aims.

Actual achievement of the stated investment objectives requires a long-term disciplined investment management philosophy. The investment philosophy of the Committee is to create a management process with sufficient flexibility to capture investment opportunities as they may occur, yet maintain reasonable parameters to ensure prudence and care in the execution of the Plan's investment program.

It is the responsibility of the Committee to determine the specific allocation of the investments among the various asset classes considered. The long-term asset allocation policy shall be expressed in terms of a target and ranges for each asset class.

The following types of investment vehicles are permissible for investment of plan assets:

- Mutual Funds
- Commingled pooled funds
- Separate Accounts
- Group Annuity Contracts

The Committee may consider both actively and passively (index managers) managed investment strategies and may allocate funds across managers to develop an efficient and feasible investment structure for each asset class.

The Council delegates proxy voting for securities to the Plan's investment managers. The investment managers are expected to vote these proxies in the best interests of the Plan's participants and their beneficiaries.

The Council delegates proxy voting for mutual funds to the Council's Chief Financial Officer, who, in consultation with the Investment Consultant is expected to vote these proxies in the best interests of the Plan's participants and their beneficiaries.

The Plan shall at all times comply with existing and future applicable federal and state statutes/regulations.

## **Asset Allocation Policy**

It is the responsibility of the Committee, with the assistance of the Plan's Investment Consultant, to review the asset allocation of the Plan on an ongoing basis. The Plan's Asset Allocation Policy will be

based upon current capital market expectations and the Plan's investment horizon, liquidity needs, risk tolerance, and investment objectives.

A formal review of this asset allocation policy shall be conducted at least every five years to ensure that the current asset mix is consistent with the long-term objectives of the Pension.

The asset allocation policy identifies the target allocation and the ranges around the targets for the asset classes in the Plan. This policy is expected to provide diversification of assets in an effort to maximize investment return to the Plan, consistent with prudent market and economic risk. All of the Plan's assets are to remain invested at all times in the asset classes as designated by the policy. The strategic asset allocation of the Plan is as follows:

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' Pension Plan

Asset Allocation Policy

<i>Asset Class</i>	<i>Allowable Range</i>	<i>Target</i>	<i>Benchmark</i>
<b>Equities</b>	50-70%	60%	S&P 500 Index
<b>Fixed Income</b>	30-50%	40%	Barclay's U.S. Aggregate Index
<b>Cash Equivalents</b>	0-5%	0	3-month Treasury bill

If multiple managers with different investment styles (growth and value) are used by the Plan within the equity sub-asset classes noted above, then target allocations should be made so that there is no distinct style bias within the Plan's overall portfolio.

It is understood that some deviation may occur to the above allocations due to capital market fluctuations; therefore, the portfolio allocations will be assessed periodically and a strategic rebalancing may occur at that time.

## Performance Monitoring

The Investment Consultant shall provide the Committee with periodic reports, no less than semi-annually, on the performance of the Plan's investment assets.

Investment performance will be measured on two levels: against objectives for the total Plan and against objectives for the individual managers. Investment performance will be measured periodically, and performance relative to objectives shall be judged over a period of three to five years.

The Plan's total performance will be measured against a policy benchmark, which is a weighted average of the target weighting and the benchmark for each asset class. The performance objective for the total Plan is to outperform this policy benchmark over a full market cycle.

The performance of investment managers will be measured against the performance of their respective benchmarks and their peers. If the Plan employs an investment manager, who utilizes a specific investment style (ex. growth or value), then the appropriate style index should be used when evaluating performance.

Active investment strategies are typically expected to produce returns (net of investment management fees) that exceed the performance of the index (their benchmark) over a 3 to 5-year period. Active investment strategies are also typically expected to generate performance, which meets or exceeds the performance of their median peer (top 50%) in the same style of management over a 3 to 5-year period. Passive investment strategies (index managers) are expected to generate

performance, which closely approximates the performance of their respective benchmarks or indices after taking fees into account (net of fees).

## Investment Manager Selection

New investment options may be typically added only after an investment manager search is conducted or from the Investment Consultant's list of recommended or preferred investment managers. This process shall consider, among other things, the qualitative and quantitative characteristics of potential investment options from among a universe of available options. The manager search process may be more comprehensive for an active manager than for a passive or index manager.

The investment selection process begins with the compilation and organization of data on the universe of investment options within an asset class utilizing relevant tools. The Investment Consultant shall use a screening process to create a list of select options for further review. The screening process shall incorporate metrics such as:

- A. Returns. No investment manager or fund shall be considered unless performance information is available covering a minimum of five (5) years. An exception to this rule may be made when a manager starts a fund, which is comparable in investment style to a recently closed fund from the same investment manager.
- B. Separate Account Managers will only be considered if they can provide performance information for the relevant strategy dating back at least five (5) years.
- C. Investment Management organization. Each investment option should be managed by a bank, an insurance company, a registered investment company (mutual fund), a registered investment advisor (RIA), or a separate account manager.
- D. Tenure of the Portfolio Managers.
- E. Expenses. Generally, investments will not be considered if their expenses are greater than the fund category average. Exceptions may be made on an as-needed basis due to the availability of investment options due either to fund closures or required investment minimums. Separate Account Manager fees should be reasonable for the style of investment and asset class.
- F. Holdings must be consistent with investment style.
- G. Size and growth of assets under management.
- H. Consistency of investment style and process.
- I. Consistency of investment performance both on an absolute and a risk-adjusted basis
- J. Upside and downside capture of returns and the ratio between upside and downside capture.
- K. Excess returns relative to the appropriate benchmark for active managers.
- L. Tracking error of passively managed investment options relative to the appropriate benchmark.

The Committee is aware that an investment's past performance is not a guarantee of future returns.

## **Investment Manager Watch List and Removal**

The Investment Consultant may place Investment Managers or Investment Options on a watch list for the following factors:

- A. Failure to meet performance standards;
- B. Departure of one or more key personnel (ex. investment manager);
- C. Significant change in ownership or control of the firm;
- D. Significant loss of assets under management by the firm or investment option;
- E. Significant change or drift in the portfolio management style;
- F. Substantive change in portfolio turnover;
- G. Any violation of SEC rules or regulations; or
- H. Material litigation against the firm or its manager(s).

The severity of these concerns will determine whether the Investment Manager or Investment Option will be recommended for immediate removal or placed on the Watch List. The concerns that result in placement on the Watch List should be addressed and resolved in a timely manner. Watch List additions and removals are handled on a case-by-case basis.

The Committee has the authority and responsibility for removing an Investment Option or Investment Manager from the Fund. Typically, this will be done in consultation with the Committee and the Investment Consultant.

Investment Managers on the Watch List will be specifically identified in the Investment Consultant's report.

## **Review Procedures**

The Committee shall review this Investment Policy Statement periodically, or whenever appropriate to determine the continued feasibility of achieving the investment objectives and the appropriateness of the Investment Policy Statement for achieving those objectives. It is not expected that this Investment Policy Statement will change frequently. Specifically, short-term changes in the financial markets should not require adjustments to this Investment Policy Statement.

Committee meetings or communications can occur more frequently if significant concerns arise about the investment strategy or performance, or if key changes occur in any investment manager's personnel or organizational structure. Should the Committee determine at any time that changes, additions, or deletions to either the Plan's investment structure, or this Investment Policy Statement are advisable, it will pursue and/or implement those changes on a timely basis.



## **Acknowledgements**

The overall Investment Policy Statement of the Plan will be reviewed periodically and on an as needed basis. This policy shall remain in effect until changed or modified in writing.

**ADOPTED this XX day of XXXX 2021**

# **AGENDA ITEM #7**

## **COG BOARD RACIAL EQUITY TRAINING (ELECTED OFFICIALS) TASK FORCE UPDATE**

# **AGENDA ITEM #8**

## **COG HEALTH OFFICIALS COMMITTEE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS**



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** COG Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Dr. Travis Gayles, COG Health Officials Committee Co-Chair (Montgomery County)  
Dr. LaQuandra Nesbitt, COG Health Officials Committee Co-Chair (District of Columbia)  
**SUBJECT:** Policy Recommendations to Support the Health & Well-Being of our Communities  
**DATE:** June 2, 2021

---

## OVERVIEW

On behalf of the Health Officials Committee (HOC), we would like to thank the COG Board for their continued focus on the COVID pandemic over the past year. The pandemic exacerbates every issue identified by the 2018 [Uneven Opportunities Report](#). Communities that were ill equipped for good health outcomes based on the socio-economic circumstances of one's environment have been disproportionately impacted by the virus. Our living conditions are shaped by the choices we make as a community. They reflect the priorities set by policymakers, whether elected officials in government, business leaders and financial institutions, or other change agents in the private and nonprofit sectors.

We must address the root cause of poor health outcomes and identify essential solutions to the social needs of our residents, ultimately achieving better outcomes for the region.

Racial equity must be integrated in these efforts. Nearly half of the health variation in the region can be explained by place and racism. Our health is harmed by trauma and social division. People of color are more likely to experience racism and live in neighborhoods with fewer resources that lack the conditions for good health. Considering the deleterious experience of discrimination and racism, it is evident how unequal opportunity leads to inequities across racial and ethnic groups.

## PROPOSED CONSIDERATIONS

Over the last few years, HOC took on projects to identify the communities that have limited resources for good health. Based on these efforts, we would like to submit considerations to the COG Board as they pursue a more equitable, resilient, and prosperous region.

- (1) Address root causes by improving economic and social conditions for populations in need.**
  - Improve job opportunities, increase wages, reduce poverty, and promote economic mobility by using policy action by the government and the private sector.
  - Reform and invest to improve the quality of education—from early childhood through post-secondary education.
  - Achieve the regional housing targets to ensure safe, stable, and affordable housing.
  - Support essential workers with paid leave and create safety provisions to support health and well-being.
  - Sustain programs assisting communities most impacted by the pandemic.
  - Create and sustain programs that effectively link people to needed social services, including food security, housing, and rental assistance.
  - Build cross-racial alliances to understand and address common causes of health threats facing different racial and ethnic groups, including racism and discrimination.

- Ensure future plans and guidance considers varying housing environments, including multi-generational households and living environments with unrelated residents.

**(2) Strengthen the public health system.**

- Commit resources to recruit and retain a robust public health workforce and infrastructure.
- Support core functions in public health by making investments including data systems for better surveillance and platforms with community-level data.
- Use health impact assessments to factor in the health implications of policies, programs and projects in all sectors, including education, transportation, housing, and crime.

**(3) Invest in communities.**

- Involve communities in future decision and planning processes.
- Stimulate economic development by business, investors, and philanthropy, and the promotion of new industry in marginalized communities.
- Use cross-sectoral solutions that improve schools, employment, the environment, and transportation to improve health and economic well-being in the community.
- Develop cross-sector partnerships to leverage and target resources and expand opportunities to break the cycle of poverty.

**(4) Include health in regional planning efforts.**

- Embed public health assessments in the early stages of all planning efforts in the jurisdictions and across the region.
- Incorporate health considerations/metrics into larger planning efforts.

Everyone benefits from this approach, not only the residents in low-income neighborhoods and communities of color, but also the entire regional economy. Economic and racial inequity saps the strength of the economy and everyone pays a price for inaction.

We thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration and welcome the opportunity for further discussion.

# **AGENDA ITEM #9**

## **THE REGION'S EQUITY EMPHASIS AREAS**

MAPS

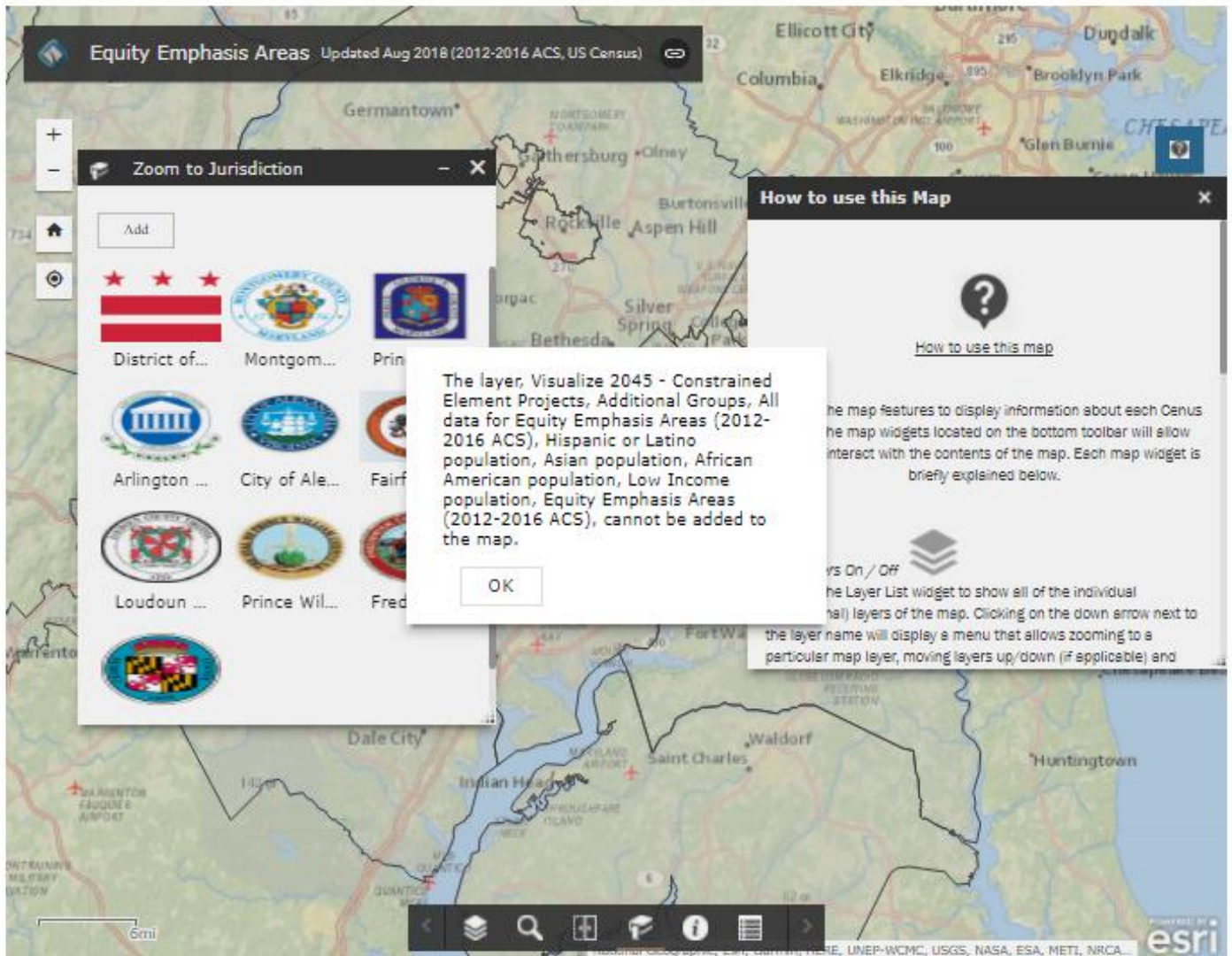
# Equity Emphasis Areas

Jun 20, 2018



Equity Emphasis Areas are geographic areas with high concentrations of low-income and/or minority populations. The Transportation Planning Board created the Equity Emphasis Areas Map to serve as an analytical tool to assess whether those areas may be disproportionately impacted by transportation projects in Visualize 2045, the region's long-range plan.

Additionally, the Equity Emphasis Areas will be used in other planning activities and will be made available to local jurisdictions to assist with considering equity in initiatives such as education, health, and green space. The most recent update was June 2018. It was first approved in March 2017.



**Equity Emphasis Areas** Updated Aug 2018 (2012-2016 ACS, US Census)

**Zoom to Jurisdiction**

Add

- District of...
- Montgom...
- Prin...
- Arlington ...
- City of Ale...
- Fairf...
- Loudoun ...
- Prince Wil...
- Fred...

The layer, Visualize 2045 - Constrained Element Projects, Additional Groups, All data for Equity Emphasis Areas (2012-2016 ACS), Hispanic or Latino population, Asian population, African American population, Low Income population, Equity Emphasis Areas (2012-2016 ACS), cannot be added to the map.

OK

**How to use this Map**

How to use this map

The map features to display information about each Census the map widgets located on the bottom toolbar will allow interact with the contents of the map. Each map widget is briefly explained below.

Layers On / Off

The Layer List widget to show all of the individual (half) layers of the map. Clicking on the down arrow next to the layer name will display a menu that allows zooming to a particular map layer, moving layers up/down (if applicable) and

# Equity as a Priority Policy: Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

Advancing equity among traditionally underserved communities is a key principle for many of us working in local and regional transportation planning. While identifying small geographic areas with concentrations of disadvantaged populations is a common practice in project- and planning-level Environmental Justice (EJ) analyses, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) housed at and staffed by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) presents a way of leveraging this work to support equity considerations at the regional level that is also applicable across levels of government and planning fields and provides lessons learned.

The TPB is the federally designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for metropolitan Washington, serving 44 members, 3,500 square miles (5,633 kilometers), and more than 5 million people and 3 million jobs. The TPB ensures compliance with federal laws

and requirements, provides a regional policy framework and forum for coordination, and provides technical resources for decision-making.

Equity has been an important policy priority for the TPB since its founding. The TPB's 1998 Vision statement embraced equity as a key principle. Its long-range transportation plan, *Visualize 2045*, emphasizes the need for multimodal, affordable, and safe mobility options to promote prosperity, accessibility, livability, and sustainability throughout and for all residents in the entire region. In July 2020, the TPB adopted a resolution committing itself to be anti-racist in its work and seeking to advance equity. It affirmed equity as a founding principle to be integrated throughout all activities and recognized that past actions have been exclusionary or have had a disparate impact on people of color and marginalized communities.<sup>1</sup> The TPB is committed to correcting such inequities in all programs and policies.

*By Sergio Ritacco,  
Transportation  
Planner, COG*



SHUTTERSTOCK/RITU MANOJ JETHANI

*When it comes to public transportation in the Washington, DC, USA region, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board has identified equity as an important policy priority.*



One way that the TPB considers equity relates to efforts that respond to the federally prescribed Environmental Justice (EJ) requirements for MPOs. Under guidance and resources stemming from the 1994 Executive Order #12898, the TPB conducts an analysis of its long-range metropolitan transportation plan, *Visualize 2045*, to identify and address disproportionately high and significantly adverse impacts on minority and low-income populations.

During the development of the latest EJ analysis, the TPB approved a methodology identifying a set of geographically defined places with high concentrations of minority and low-income populations and called them “Equity Emphasis Areas” (EEAs). EEAs use a region-specific index of U.S. Census tract-level data to identify areas (see Table 1). EEAs are identified by calculating a tract concentration ratio for each population group by comparing the tract-level share of population to its respective regional average. A tract-level population group index score is applied to each groups’ concentration ratio and totaled to identify a EEA index score for applying a score threshold. The EEA indexing process identifies areas as having:

1. A high concentration of low-income population\*
2. A high concentration of two or more minority populations\*\*
3. Tracts with high concentrations of one minority population that also meet a secondary low-income threshold which is at or above the regional average for low-income.

\* For the purposes of identifying EEAs, a person is considered low-income if their household income is less than one-and-a-half times the federal government’s official poverty threshold dependent on household size.

\*\* For the purposes of identifying EEAs, racial and ethnic minority populations include African American, Asian, and Hispanic/Latino of all races

While many MPOs have adopted the practice of identifying small, specific geographic areas for EJ considerations, the TPB led a unique approach based on consensus and interdisciplinary engagement. TPB staff worked in coordination with key audiences, including its members, its public-based advisory committees, staff within the region’s largest member jurisdictions, and the TPB’s public-based advisory committees, among others. This approach generated stakeholder buy-in, created awareness of the tool, and provided TPB staff with important feedback on tailoring the index-based methodology to the region. As a result, EEA geographies initially intended to meet EJ requirements for MPOs’ evolved into a tool with applicability in public sector fields where the location of concentration of traditionally disadvantaged communities are important considerations.

The TPB’s EEAs have been applied to advance equity considerations within transportation policy, planning, and programming, and in other public sector fields. TPB staff use EEAs to analyze policy priorities when developing its long-range transportation plan and efforts to better understand transportation safety. EEAs have been included in regional project selection programs’ evaluation criteria. TPB member jurisdictions have begun using EEAs as a consideration in transit planning, when analyzing the impacts of COVID-19 and planning for recovery, as well as locating mobile health food programs. COG is also considering EEAs in environmental vulnerability analysis and housing affordability evaluations.

The TPB’s process for identifying small geographic areas with concentrations of traditionally disadvantaged population groups can provide lessons learned to others engaged in similar efforts:

**1. Create trust through consensus building.**

From the onset, engaging stakeholders from various backgrounds and disciplines ensures the method is sounder and more accurate. Consider adjusting how areas are identified with the specific demographic characteristics of your region, either through complex indexes or simple thresholds, and allocate time to hone your product.

**2. Update data over time.** While often incremental, people and places change over time resulting in differences between when demographic data are collected, analyzed, and implemented in policy, planning, and programming. Consider committing to a process of updating demographic data on a prescribed schedule that considers

Table 1.

Concentration compared to the regional average	Equity Emphasis Area Index Score			
	Low-Income	African American	Asian	Hispanic or Latino
Less than 1.0	0	0	0	0
Between 1.0 – 1.49	1.0 - 1.49	0	0	0
Between 1.5 – 3.0	4.5 - 9.0	1.5 - 3.0	1.5 - 3.0	1.5 - 3.0
Greater than 3.0	9.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
<b>Total Index Score</b>	Greater than or equal to 4.00 is an Equity Emphasis Area			



During its latest Environmental Justice Analysis, the Transportation Planning Board approved a methodology identifying “Equity Emphasis Areas” with high concentrations of minority and low-income populations throughout the Washington, DC, USA region.

these changes and provides for enough update to the source demographic data.

3. **Promote and make data available to give them life.** Plan to make data available to interested audiences, and provide resources like mapping, summary data tables, and examples of applicability.

The TPB also urges considerations of the following enhancements and limitations:

1. **Data are one of many ways to consider equity.** Efforts like EEAs and region-scale Environmental Justice analysis are enhanced with comprehensive stakeholder outreach and engagement. Qualitative research provides a greater richness and depth, especially on understanding the needs and challenges of disadvantaged populations, to what one may ascertain strictly through quantitative analysis.
2. **Concentration and thresholds have their limitations.** While thresholds have use in region-wide environmental justice and other geo-spatial analyses, by design they do not consider

the location of all individuals that identify in that transportation disadvantaged population group and should not be used to assume impacts for all individuals in that group.

Equity has been an important policy priority for the TPB since its founding, recognizing that past actions have been exclusionary or have had a disparate impact on people of color and marginalized communities. MPOs and similar-type transportation agencies looking to advance and improve region-specific equity considerations throughout their policy, planning, and programming responsibilities can consider implementing Equity Emphasis Areas, a transferable strategy. For additional information visit [www.mwcog.org/equityemphasisareas](http://www.mwcog.org/equityemphasisareas). **itej**

## References

1. Transportation Planning Board. July 22, 2020. “Resolution R1-2021 - Resolution to Establish Equity as a Fundamental Value and Integral Part of all Transportation Planning Board’s Work Activities.”

# **AGENDA ITEM #10**

## **MULTI-SECTORAL GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION STRATEGIES**

**(To view the full 2030 Action  
Plan, [click here](#))**

# METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON 2030 CLIMATE AND ENERGY ACTION PLAN

Executive Summary

November 2020



Metropolitan Washington  
**Council of Governments**

## **METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON CLIMATE ACTION PLAN**

Prepared by the Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC)

Adopted on November 18, 2020

### **ABOUT COG**

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is an independent, nonprofit association that brings area leaders together to address major regional issues in the District of Columbia, suburban Maryland, and Northern Virginia. COG's membership is comprised of 300 elected officials from 24 local governments, the Maryland and Virginia state legislatures, and U.S. Congress.

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### **ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY**

Alternative formats of this document are available upon request. Visit [www.mwcog.org/accommodations](http://www.mwcog.org/accommodations) or call (202) 962-3300 or (202) 962-3213 (TDD).

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is a hub for partnerships to facilitate sustainable growth, a well-maintained transportation system, clean air, water, and land, safe and healthy communities, and a vibrant economy. This work is guided by COG's comprehensive *Region Forward vision*, to ensure a more prosperous, accessible, livable, sustainable, and equitable future for all area residents. In this role, COG has established goals to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and improve regional climate resiliency. The COG Board established new 2030 goals to supplement earlier 2020 and 2050 goals. The new goals call for further reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, and being a Climate Ready Region, including increased investments in resiliency, by 2030.<sup>i</sup>

This 2030 Climate and Energy Action Plan builds on previous action plans and establish priority collaborative actions for COG's Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) members to work on together over the next ten years to help move the region towards meeting its' 2030 goals. All the actions in the plan are voluntary; the success of the plan will depend on active regional collaboration and implementation.

## Plan Purpose and Scope

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a body of the United Nations that assesses the science related to climate change, the world is already experiencing the impacts of 1 degree Celsius of global warming above pre-industrial levels. Additionally, the IPCC notes that more severe climate impacts could be avoided if global warming is limited to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Globally, emissions need to fall by 45 percent from 2010 levels by 2030 and carbon neutral by 2050 to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. The IPCC acknowledges rapid and far reaching transitions are needed world-wide in order to limit global warming.<sup>ii</sup>

The 2030 greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction goals adopted by the COG Board of Directors on October 14, 2020 align with the level of effort called for by the IPCC. COG Board Resolution R45-2020 established interim climate change goals including:<sup>iii</sup>

- The climate mitigation goal of 50 percent greenhouse gas emission reductions below 2005 levels by 2030;
- The climate resilience goal of becoming a Climate Ready Region and making significant progress to be a Climate Resilient Region by 2030; and
- The need to incorporate equity principles and expand education on climate change into COG's CEEPC and its members' actions to reach the climate mitigation and resiliency goals.

To be a Climate Ready Region by 2030, all local governments must assess current and future climate risks, and be actively integrating climate planning across government plans, operations, and communications. To fully be a Climate Resilient Region, the region must have the ability to adapt and absorb against disturbances caused by current and future, acute and chronic climate impacts and successfully maintain essential functions.

The purpose of this plan is to establish priority collaborative actions for COG and its members to work on together over the next ten years to help move the region towards meeting the 2030 goals. Achieving the regional goals would require unprecedented, aggressive cross-sectoral action from all COG members and its state and federal partners.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Ten principles guide this plan's voluntary collaborative climate action implementation process. These principles reflect CEEPC's commitment to environmental quality, economic prosperity, and equity. As climate leaders, CEEPC is committed to the following principles:

- 1. Collective Action:** We will continue to work together to leverage our impact and facilitate application at scale.
- 2. Effective Partnerships:** We will continue to share best practices, learn together, and coordinate on implementation to advance regional transformation.
- 3. Lead by Example:** We have a continued commitment to internal implementation of long-term solutions to reduce the climate impacts of our operations.
- 4. Integration:** We understand climate action is inherently multidisciplinary and will promote cross-department coordination, including in areas such as equity, health, and economic development.
- 5. Flexibility:** We understand the need for flexibility in how our public agencies and stakeholders across the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia work to achieve regional GHG goals.
- 6. Transparency:** We will continue to measure and report progress in a manner easily understandable by all.
- 7. Innovation:** We support a just transition to a clean energy economy through the application of innovative technology, policies, and processes by public and private sectors.
- 8. Community Leadership:** We will continue to educate, motivate, and empower action from our community's institutions, businesses, non-profits, and residents.
- 9. Inclusive Engagement:** We commit to inclusive community engagement and equitable provision of climate and energy programs and services.
- 10. Advocacy:** We will continue to support state and federal policies and programs that protect the human and environmental health of our communities.

## Plan Elements

There are four core elements to this plan, including:

- **Greenhouse Gases:** This section of the plan provides a summary of regional GHG inventory trends from 2005 to 2018, business-as-usual (BAU) GHG emission projections through 2030, and technical scenario showing what it will take for the region to reach GHG reductions of 50 percent below 2005 levels by 2030.
- **Climate Mitigation Strategy:** This section of the plan identifies CEEPC's priority collaborative mitigation actions to move the region toward achieving the GHG emission reduction goal of 50 percent by 2030, below 2005 levels. The action areas include Planning, Equity, Clean Electricity, Zero Energy Buildings, Zero Emission Vehicles, Mode Shift and Travel Behavior, Zero Waste, and Sequestration.
- **Climate Risks and Vulnerabilities:** This section of the plan provides a summary of the Regional Climate, Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (CRVA). The CRVA evaluates climate hazards including extreme heat, drought, lightning and thunderstorms, flash and riverine flooding, coastal flooding and extreme winter conditions. The CRVA also evaluates factors



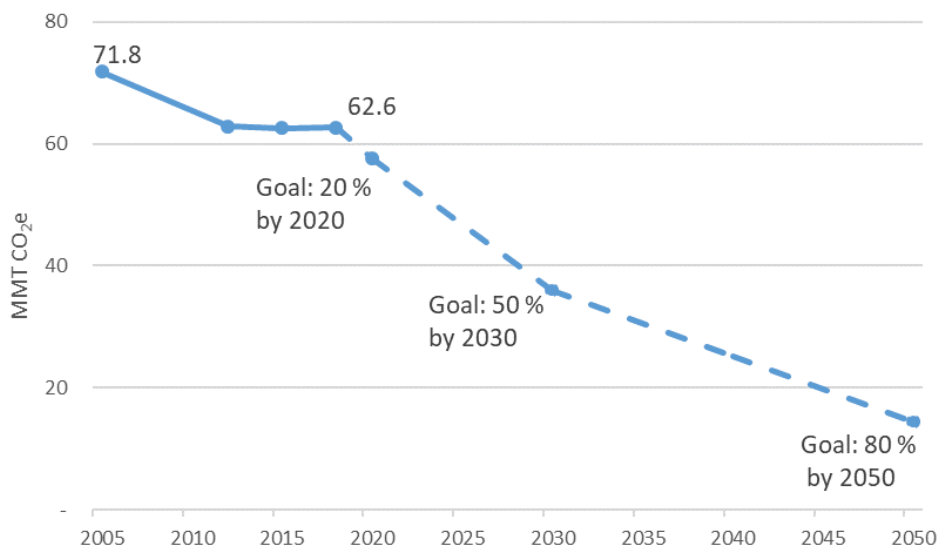
impacting adaptive capacity, such as infrastructure conditions and maintenance, access to basic services, and public health.

- **Climate Resilience Strategy:** This section of the plan identifies CEEPC’s priority collaborative climate resilience actions to move the region toward achieving the goal of becoming a Climate Ready Region and making significant progress to be a Climate Resilient Region by 2030. The action areas include Planning, Equity, and Resilient Infrastructure.

## GHG Inventory

COG’s greenhouse gas inventories show that the region’s progress to date towards the GHG emission reduction goals has been mixed. The region exceeded its 2012 goal but is lagging on progress towards its 2020 goal. The most recent inventory indicates that 2018 GHG emissions in the region decreased by approximately 13 percent below 2005 levels, despite a 19 percent growth in population. Per capita emissions decreased between 2005 and 2018 from 15.6 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO<sub>2e</sub>) in 2005 to 11.4 MTCO<sub>2e</sub> in 2018. Expedited and concerted actions will be needed throughout the region to achieve future goals of 50 percent GHG emission reduction by 2030 and 80 percent by 2050 (Figure ES-1).

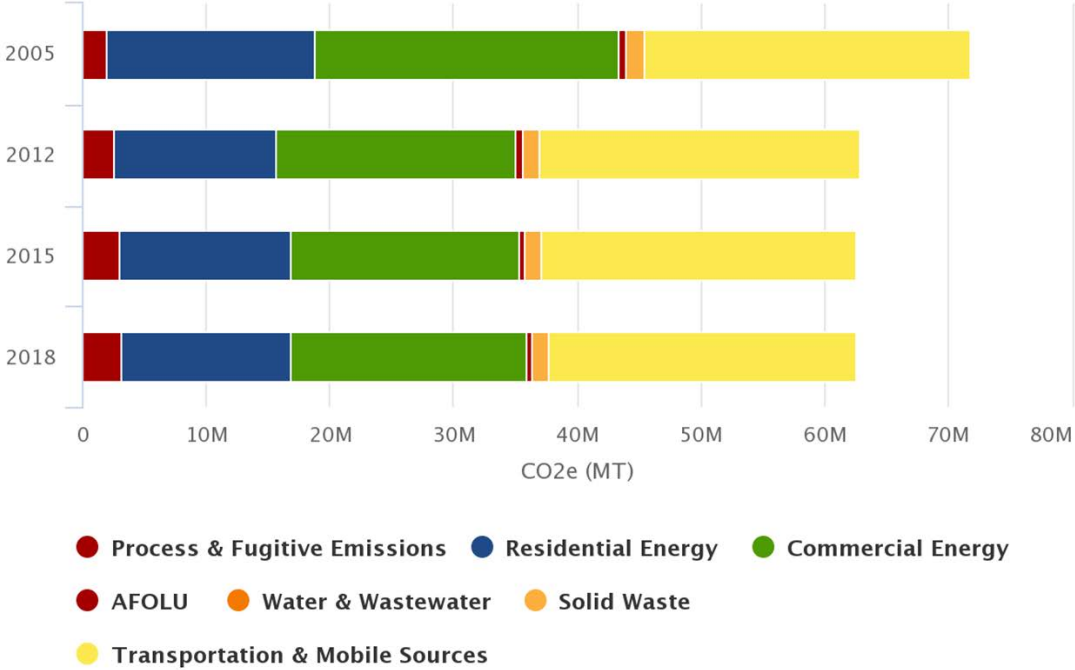
**Figure ES-1: Metropolitan Washington GHG Trends and Goals**



## EMISSIONS ACTIVITIES

The inventories measure GHG-emitting activities undertaken by residents, businesses, industry, and government located in metropolitan Washington, as well as emissions from visitors. Approximately 90 percent of metropolitan Washington’s GHG emissions come from residential and commercial building energy consumption and transportation. Building energy consumption accounts for 52 percent and 40 percent is from transportation. The remainder of emissions comes from other activities and sources including solid waste, wastewater treatment, agriculture and fugitive emissions (Figure ES-2).

**Figure ES-2: Metropolitan Washington GHG Emissions by Activity**

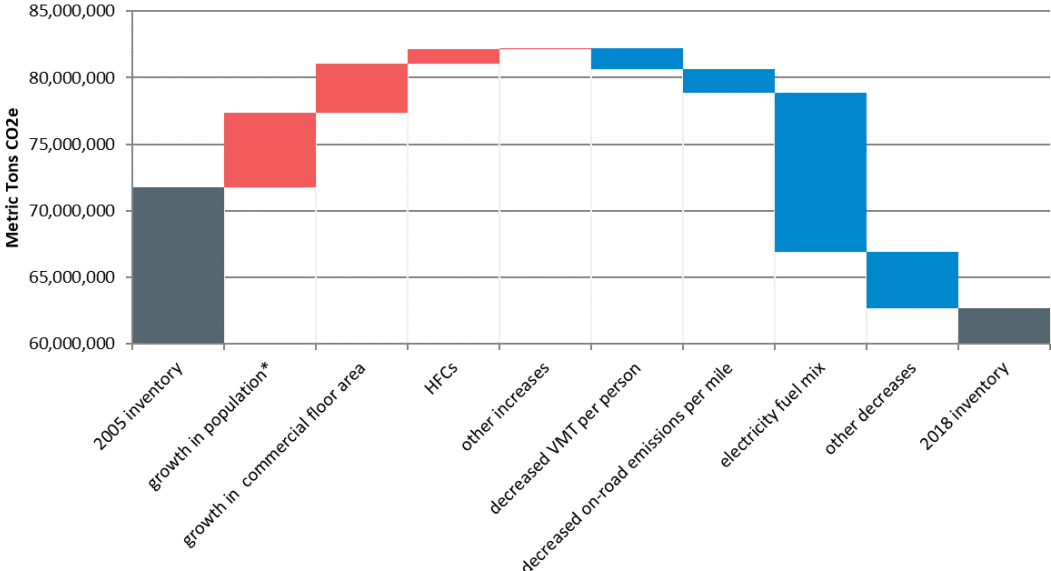


Source: ICLEI’s ClearPath, an online greenhouse gas inventory tool.

**DRIVERS OF GHG CHANGE**

The metropolitan Washington GHG Contribution Analysis results in Figure ES-3 shows what has driven increases and decreases in emissions between inventory years 2005 and 2018. The main drivers increasing emissions (red bars) include growth in population, commercial space, and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). Driving down emissions (blue bars) is mainly a cleaner grid, cleaner cars and reduced vehicle miles traveled (VMT) per person.

**Figure ES-3: Drivers of Metropolitan Washington GHG Changes**

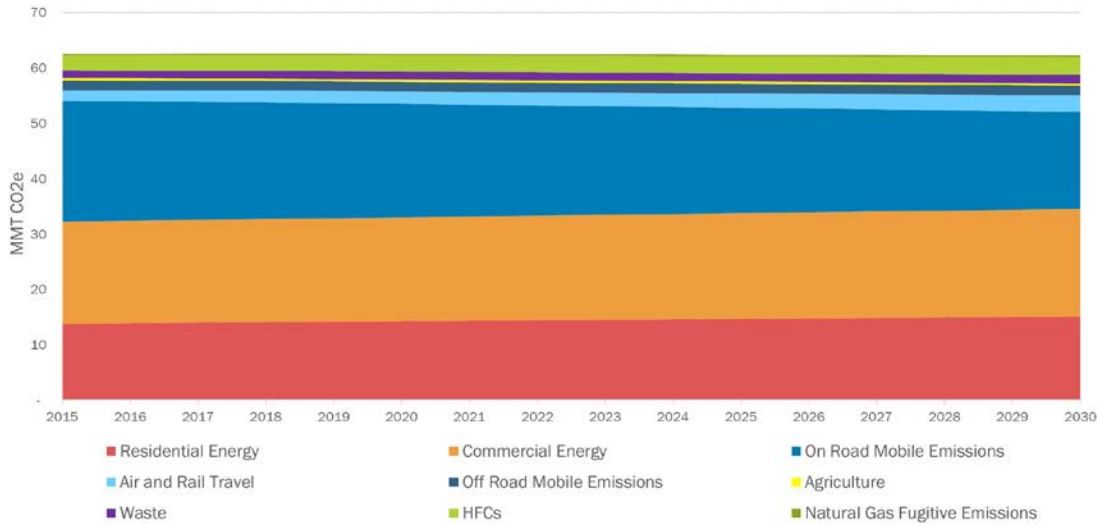


\*Includes effects of population on residential energy, VMT and waste generation.

## Business-As-Usual Projections<sup>iv</sup>

Business-as-usual (BAU) projections provide a baseline scenario for future GHG emissions. BAU projections take into account population, housing, and commercial growth as well as policies and practices that have been in place and implemented to-date to reduce GHG emissions. Figure ES-4 shows that the region’s anticipated BAU emissions projected out to 2030 overall remain flat.

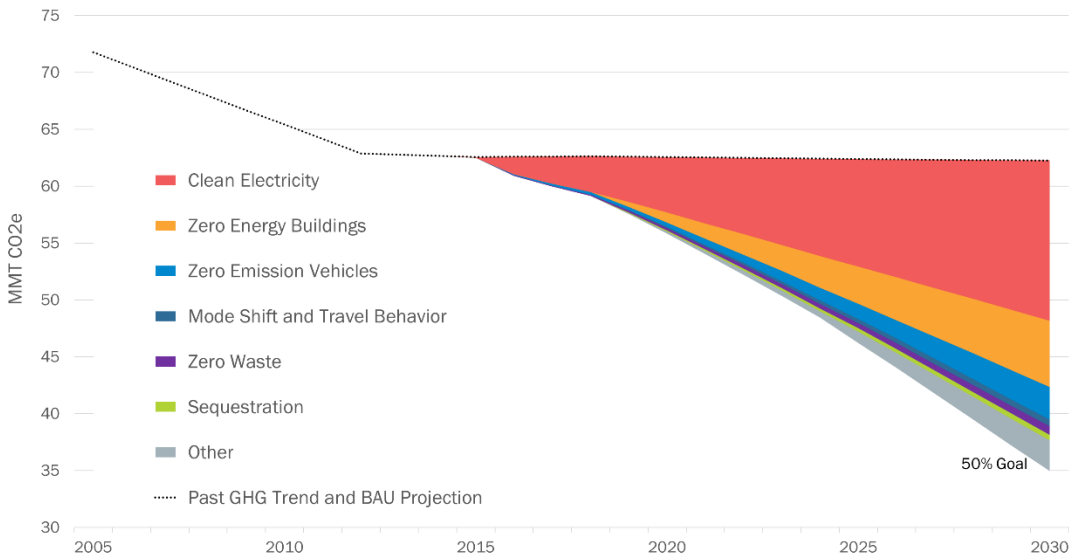
**Figure ES-4: Metropolitan Washington Business-As-Usual Projections**



## 2030 Scenario<sup>v</sup>

The 2030 scenario for this plan analyzes the technical potential of "What Would It Take" for metropolitan Washington to reach a 50 percent reduction in GHG emissions by 2030 from 2005 levels. This scenario leverages results from a previous scenario analysis conducted in 2015 by COG’s Ad-Hoc Multi-Sector Work Group and results have been updated based on new data and progress since that time. Figure ES-5 on the shows a summary of the 2030 scenario results. Considerable action across local, regional, state, and national levels will be needed.

**Figure ES-5: Metropolitan Washington “What Would It Take” Scenario Results**



## Regional Mitigation Strategy

The Regional Mitigation Strategy includes collaborative actions to support the region in achieving the GHG emission reduction goals of 50 percent by 2030 below 2005 levels and 80 percent by 2050.

The climate action areas included in the Regional Climate Mitigation Strategy address: Planning, Equity, Clean Electricity, Zero Energy Buildings, Zero Emission Vehicles, Zero Waste, Mode Shift and Travel Behavior and Sequestration. Within these action areas are high-level priority actions for COG and its members to focus on through 2030. All actions are voluntary. Table ES-1 is a summary of the climate action areas and priority collaborative actions described in this strategy.

**Table ES-1: Metropolitan Washington Priority Collaborative Mitigation Actions**

Climate Action Area	Action ID	Priority Collaborative Action
Planning	PL - 1	Advance Climate Planning and Track Progress
Equity	EQ - 1	Enable Equitable Planning Practices
	EQ - 2	Prioritize Sustainable Energy Access for All
Clean Electricity	CE - 1	Advocate for Aggressive Renewable Portfolio Standards
	CE - 2	Accelerate Development of On-Site Renewables
	CE - 3	Accelerate Deployment of Battery Storage
	CE - 4	Accelerate Development of Microgrids for Critical Infrastructure
	CE - 5	Accelerate Development of Large-Scale Off-Site Renewables
	CE - 6	Advocate for and Implement Community Choice Aggregation
Zero Energy Buildings	ZEB - 1	Expand Building Benchmarking Requirements
	ZEB - 2	Accelerate Deep Building Retrofits
	ZEB - 3	Enhance Green Building Codes and Policies to Facilitate Net Zero Energy Building Development
	ZEB - 4	Expand Proper Disposal and Leak Detection of Refrigerants
Zero Emission Vehicles	ZEV - 1	Expand Light-Duty Electric Vehicle Deployment
	ZEV - 2	Accelerate Electrification of Medium- and Heavy-Duty Vehicles
	ZEV - 3	Build Out Regional Electric Vehicle Charging Network
Mode Shift and Travel Behavior	MSTB - 1	Invest in Infrastructure that Increases Transit, Carpooling, and Non-Motorized Travel
	MSTB - 2	Bring Jobs and Housing Closer Together
	MSTB - 3	Enhance Options for Commuters
Zero Waste	ZW - 1	Implement Curbside Organics Recycling Programs
	ZW - 2	Reduce Solid Waste Generation
	ZW - 3	Build Markets for Circularity
Sequestration	SQ - 1	Strategically Plant New Trees on Publicly Owned Land
	SQ - 2	Enhance Regulatory Capacity to Manage Tree Canopy and Forest Protection
	SQ - 3	Enhance Incentives and Financing Mechanisms for Tree Planting and Preservation on Privately Owned Lands

## Climate Risk and Vulnerabilities

In 2018, The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released the *Global Warming of 1.5 °C*, an IPCC special report, highlighting that the world is already experiencing the impacts of 1 degree Celsius warming above pre-industrial levels but more severe climate impacts could be avoided if global warming is limited to 1.5 degrees Celsius. If the rate of warming continues, 1.5 degrees Celsius warming is likely to occur between 2030 and 2052 with more frequent and severe extreme weather events becoming even more prevalent.<sup>vi</sup>

As the IPCC noted internationally, metropolitan Washington is also experiencing the impacts of a changing climate. Observations in metropolitan Washington show that temperatures and the water surface level in the Potomac River have been rising and will continue to rise. Extreme weather events and increases in the number of extreme heat and cold days will increase risks to health, energy usage patterns, plant and animal habitats, and infrastructure. These changes are also affecting stormwater, drinking water, and wastewater. Implementing regional adaptation strategies are necessary to reduce the impacts of climate change.<sup>vii</sup>

A climate risk and vulnerability assessment (CRVA) was conducted for metropolitan Washington with the goal of understanding the climate hazards that face the region and assessing the likelihood and impact of current and future hazards on the region. Climate change may increase the frequency or severity of climate hazards in metropolitan Washington, including extreme heat (high day and night temperatures), drought, flooding (flash, riverine, and coastal), lightning and thunderstorms, and extreme winter conditions.

## METHODOLOGY

The regional CRVA methodology is based on the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM) framework. GCOM is a global alliance of cities and local governments that support voluntary action to address climate change and ensure a low emission, climate resilient future.<sup>viii</sup> The CRVA identifies and describes current and anticipated climate hazards metropolitan Washington faces. As shown in Table ES-2, each hazard is assigned a risk level, based on probability and level of consequence (probability x consequence). After the hazard risks are identified, an assessment is conducted to determine the future change in intensity and frequency, and the timeframe over which this will occur: Immediately, Short Term (by 2025), Medium Term (by 2050), and Long Term (after 2050).

**Table ES-2: Climate Risk Sourcing Matrix**

		Probability		
		Low (1)	Moderate (2)	High (3)
Consequence	High (3)	3	6	9
	Moderate (2)	2	4	6
	Low (1)	1	2	3

Next, vulnerabilities were assessed to determine the degree in which the people, systems, sectors, and systems are susceptible to current and future climate impacts. The impacts assessed include, but are not limited to: services lost, environmental impact, property damages, public health threats, economic losses, and other disruptions to day-to-day operations. For each hazard, relevant population groups in the region were identified that are most vulnerable to future climate hazards and impacts. Finally, for each hazard, factors were assessed that may impact the region’s adaptive capability.

As shown in Table ES-3, the most prominent climate hazards facing metropolitan Washington include extreme heat and flash and riverine flooding. More frequent extreme heat days will lead to public health concerns, increase energy demand, travel disruptions, and maintenance and infrastructure damages. With more frequent and intense storms, flash and riverine flooding will increase disruptions and damages to infrastructure and emergency services, and further threaten vulnerable populations.

**Table ES-3: Risk Level of Hazards in Metropolitan Washington**

Hazard	Probability	Consequence	Risk
Extreme Heat	3	3	9
Drought	2	3	6
Flooding (Flash and Riverine)	3	3	9
Coastal Flooding	3	2	6
Lightning/Thunderstorm	3	2	6
Extreme Winter Conditions	2	3	6

The region must adapt to climate change. Adaptive capacity is defined as “the ability of systems, institutions, humans and other organisms to adjust to potential damage, to take advantage of opportunities or to respond to consequences.”<sup>ix</sup> Table ES-4 shows the degree of challenge identified for each sector evaluated in the CRVA. Infrastructure conditions pose the highest degree of challenge due to the impacts on maintenance costs, aging facilities, interoperability, and increased demand. Resilient critical infrastructure is essential to the well-being, health, and safety of the people in metropolitan Washington. Implementing resilient measures for all critical infrastructure by 2050 is necessary to respond to a changing climate.

**Table ES-4: Metropolitan Washington Adaptive Capacity Degree of Challenge**

Factor	Degree of Challenge
Infrastructure Conditions/Maintenance	High
Access to Basic Services	Moderate
Access to Healthcare	Moderate
Public Health	Moderate
Housing	Moderate
Poverty	Moderate
Community Engagement	Moderate
Environmental Conditions	Moderate
Economic Health	Low

## VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Climate change will impact people and communities differently. Potentially vulnerable populations may include low-income, minority, marginalized groups, women and girls, persons in sub-standard housing, people with limited English proficiency, the elderly, children, people with chronic health problems, or disabled persons. As vulnerable populations face greater risks, their consideration and inclusion in climate change planning is essential to ensure equitable distribution of benefits. Creating resilient communities is only possible when inclusion of vulnerable populations' needs are met.

## Regional Resilience Strategy

The Regional Climate Resilience Strategy includes collaborative actions to support the region in achieving the climate resilience goals of becoming a Climate Ready Region and making significant progress to be a Climate Resilient Region by 2030. To move the region toward becoming more resilient, the region needs to ensure that all populations are included and prioritize resilience of the region's most vulnerable populations.

The climate action areas included in this Regional Climate Resilience Strategy address: Planning, Equity, and Resilient Infrastructure. Within these action areas are high-level priority actions for COG and its members to focus on through 2030. All actions are voluntary. Table ES-5 is a summary of the climate action areas and priority collaborative actions described in this strategy. The actions are based on the needs identified in the regional climate risk and vulnerabilities assessment.

**Table ES-5: Metropolitan Washington Priority Collaborative Resilience Actions**

Climate Action Area	Action ID	Priority Collaborative Action
Planning	PL - 2	Support Capacity Building for Climate Resilience Planning
	PL - 3	Develop Integrated Approach to Climate Resilience Planning
	PL - 4	Update Local and Regional Plans to Address Climate Risks
Equity	EQ - 3	Support Engagement of the Public on Climate Risks, with a Particular Emphasis on Potentially Vulnerable Populations
	EQ - 4	Support Equitable Secure Energy Access
Resilient Infrastructure	RI - 1	Support Establishment of Resilience Hubs
	RI - 2	Improve the Resilience of Critical Infrastructure
	RI - 3	Implement Measures to Equitably Address Urban Heat Island
	RI - 4	Enhance Green Infrastructure Networks
	RI - 5	Implement Measures to Reduce Flood Risk

## Conclusion

COG's Climate and Energy Program is one of the nation's first initiatives to address climate change on a regional level. The regional effort is led by the Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) and guided by this plan. COG will continue to work with its regional partners to meet its goals for 2030 and beyond.

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<sup>i</sup> Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. (2016). *COG and Our Region webpage*. Washington D.C. Retrieved from <https://www.mwcog.org/about-us/cog-and-our-region/>.

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<sup>ii</sup> Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. (2018). *Summary for Policymakers of IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 Degrees Celsius*. Retrieved from <https://www.ipcc.ch/2018/10/08/summary-for-policymakers-of-ipcc-special-report-on-global-warming-of-1-5c-approved-by-governments/>.

<sup>iii</sup> Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. (2020). *Certified Resolution R45-2020 – Endorsing Regional Climate Mitigation and Resiliency Goals*. Washington D.C. Retrieved from <https://www.mwcog.org/documents/2020/10/14/certified-resolution-r45-2020---endorsing-regional-climate-mitigation-and-resiliency-goals/>.

<sup>iv</sup> Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. (2018). AR5 Annex II Glossary. Retrieved from [https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/02/WGIAR5-AnnexII\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/02/WGIAR5-AnnexII_FINAL.pdf).

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<sup>v</sup> Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. (2016). *Multi-Sector Approach to Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions in the Metropolitan Washington Region Final Technical Report*. Washington D.C. Retrieved from <https://www.mwcog.org/documents/2016/08/01/multi-sector-approach-to-reducing-greenhouse-gas-emissions-in-the-metropolitan-washington-region-final-technical-report/>.

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<sup>vi</sup> Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. (2018). *Summary for Policymakers of IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 Degrees Celsius*. Retrieved from <https://www.ipcc.ch/2018/10/08/summary-for-policymakers-of-ipcc-special-report-on-global-warming-of-1-5c-approved-by-governments/>.

<sup>vii</sup> Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. (2014). *Building A Climate Resilient National Capital Region*. Washington D.C. Retrieved from <https://www.mwcog.org/about-us/newsroom/2014/10/02/building-a-climate-resilient-national-capital-region-climate-change-climate-resiliency/>.

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<sup>viii</sup> Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy. (2018). *Global Covenant of Mayors Common Reporting Framework*. Retrieved from [https://www.globalcovenantofmayors.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/FINAL\\_Data-TWG\\_Reporting-Framework\\_website\\_FINAL-13-Sept-2018\\_for-translation.pdf](https://www.globalcovenantofmayors.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/FINAL_Data-TWG_Reporting-Framework_website_FINAL-13-Sept-2018_for-translation.pdf).

<sup>ix</sup> Ibid



**AGENDA ITEM #11**

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**AGENDA ITEM #12**

**ADJOURN**