



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

April 2016

COMMITTEE WORK   FEATURE   OUTREACH   CALENDAR   MEDIA

### Policy Boards & Committees

#### NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD (TPB)

The TPB voted to include transportation projects – such as proposals to expand and convert I-395 HOV lanes inside the Capital Beltway to Express Lanes and to expand the District of Columbia's dedicated bicycle lane network – in an air quality analysis for the 2016 amendment of the region's Constrained Long-Range Plan (CLRP). Transportation projects must first meet federal air quality standards to be included in the CLRP. The TPB will vote on the final 2016 CLRP Amendment in November.

#### CLIMATE, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY COMMITTEE (CEEPC)

A panel of corporate leaders from Mars, National Geographic, Siemens, and Vermont Energy Investment Corporation (VEIC) spoke before CEEPC at its March meeting. The panel shared sustainability program best practices and discussed how government and businesses can work together to promote sustainability. COG also updated CEEPC members on plans to develop a corporate sustainability report to establish a baseline of metrics and actions for its internal operations and management.

#### CHESAPEAKE BAY AND WATER RESOURCES POLICY COMMITTEE (CBPC)

At its March meeting, CBPC members were briefed on water quality trading as an important tool for providing flexibility to local governments in achieving their Chesapeake Bay total maximum daily load (TMDL) pollution reduction goals and addressing growth. Members also agreed to evaluate the COG Board's Water Quality Policy Principles to ensure that they support such programs.



#### Event Highlight: METRO SUMMIT

COG and the Greater Washington Board of Trade sponsored a summit to discuss the future of the Metro system. The event, which was held during the week of Metrorail's 40th anniversary, was attended by more than 100 government, business, and civic leaders who addressed issues related to funding, safety, reliability, and governance. (Pictured Left to Right: Roger Berliner, Jack Evans, Paul Wiedefeld, and Daniel Waetjen)

[CLICK HERE FOR THE EVENT RECAP](#)

**WATER CONTAMINATION TABLETOP EXERCISE**

COG staff hosted the Health Officials Committee and area water utilities and emergency managers for a tabletop exercise in March to practice preparing for, managing, and responding to consequences resulting from a water contamination incident.

**CLIMATE ACTION CHAMPION GRANT OPPORTUNITIES**

COG and its member governments' designation as White House Climate Action Champions has earned the region two U.S. Department of Energy technical assistance opportunities. The grants include \$110,000 to evaluate microgrid potential at sites across the region, and \$50,000 for a geothermal site assessment and feasibility study for the City of Falls Church Campus Redevelopment site.

**USDA FOODLINC INITIATIVE**

COG will administer a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) initiative meant to bolster the supply chain to connect local farmers with the growing demand for local and regional food. As part of the FoodLINC initiative, COG will bring a full time coordinator on board to work with a range of stakeholders along the region's food value chain, increasing the flow of local products from farm to plate.

**THE FUTURE OF INNOVATIVE TRANSPORTATION**

Executive Director Chuck Bean facilitated a discussion at a Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce event on "The Future of Innovative Transportation," which included panelists from AAA, Transurban, Uber, and more.

**BACKUP POWER EXERCISE**

The Upper Occoquan Service Authority (UOSA) partnered with COG and the U.S. Army's 249th Prime Power Battalion to practice using the Army Corps' mobile electrical generators to power the Flat Branch Pump Station in Prince William County. Flat Branch is an essential part of the region's water infrastructure.

**ANIMAL SERVICES AWARDS**

COG's Animal Services Committee honored animal control officers, rescuers, volunteers, and others for outstanding performance in the fields of domestic and wildlife animal welfare. Twenty-four awards were presented to the personnel and others by WUSA's Stephanie Ramirez.

**PROTECT YOUR PIPES CAMPAIGN**

COG's Community Engagement Campaign (CEC) has launched the Protect Your Pipes initiative, [www.protectyourpipes.org](http://www.protectyourpipes.org), to engage with the region's residents about protecting critical infrastructure and source water by disposing of waste responsibly. The CEC is a partnership between COG and regional water and wastewater members.



Purchasing Series:  
**HARNESSING OUR PURCHASING POWER -  
GASOLINE FUEL**

Several local governments, public school systems, transportation authorities, and water utilities, participated in a COG cooperative contract for the purchase of gasoline fuel. Through volume purchasing, the contract has saved participants time, resources, and millions of dollars annually. *(Photo: Zach Sparks, The Severna Park Voice)*

[CLICK HERE FOR THE ARTICLE](#)

**TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD** - April 20

**COG BOARD OF DIRECTORS** - May 11  
Foster Parents of the Year to be recognized at the meeting.

**BIKE TO WORK DAY** - May 20

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE ABOUT THESE AND OTHER COG MEETINGS & EVENTS](#)

**SUMMIT ATTENDEES CONSIDER NEXT 40 YEARS OF METRO**

At a summit on the future of Metrorail, area leaders discussed how they can work together to restore the transit system’s “world-class” reputation. [CLICK HERE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE.](#)

**METRO SHUTS DOWN ENTIRE RAIL SYSTEM, COMMUTERS SEEK TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES**

Metro shut down its entire rail system for 29 hours on March 15 to perform safety checks throughout the system. Ahead of the shutdown, COG Executive Director Chuck Bean advised residents to seek alternate travel options and consult resources provided by Commuter Connections on carpooling, biking, and more. [CLICK HERE FOR THE WASHINGTON BUSINESS JOURNAL ARTICLE.](#)

Following the shutdown, COG Transportation Planning Director Kanti Srikanth weighed in on the ability of the region’s commuters to adapt to this event. [CLICK HERE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE.](#)

**COG PREDICTS REGIONAL POPULATION, JOB GROWTH BY 2045**

The region is projected to add 1.5 million people and 1.1 million new jobs by 2045, according to the Cooperative Forecasts developed by COG and local government planning departments. The number of jobs will grow the most (58 percent) in the outer suburbs, such as Loudoun County and Prince William County. The District of Columbia will experience the most population growth (46.9 percent). [CLICK HERE FOR THE WTOP ARTICLE.](#)

**BIKE TO WORK DAY REGISTRATION OPENS**

Registration for Bike to Work Day (BTWD) is now open. The event will take place this year on May 20. BTWD encourages commuters to consider biking to work and has continued to grow in the number of participants each year, said Nicholas Ramfos, Director of Commuter Connections. Last year, more than 17,500 people throughout the region participated. [CLICK HERE FOR THE DCIST ARTICLE.](#)



Member Feature:  
**Q&A WITH CRAIG RICE**

Montgomery County Councilmember Craig Rice serves as Chairman of COG’s Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee. We sat down with Chairman Rice to discuss his career in public service, and to hear how his committee is working to protect one of the region’s most important resources.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE ARTICLE.](#)