



MEMORANDUM

TO: COG Board of Directors
FROM: Chuck Bean, COG Executive Director
SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report – October 2021
DATE: October 6, 2021

POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) – At its September meeting, the TPB approved projects for funding through its new Transit Within Reach Program, received a briefing on its forthcoming climate change mitigation study (which is identifying potential pathways within the transportation sector to meet the region's goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions), and received briefings on planning principles and tools for advancing the development of transit-oriented communities.

Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) – In September, CEEPC approved a joint letter, with TPB and MWAQC, supporting the proposed rule to revise existing national greenhouse gas standards for passenger cars and light trucks to be more stringent. The committee also discussed transportation electrification and members learned about efforts from the U.S. Department of Energy, District of Columbia, and other local transit agencies.

Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC) – At the 10th Annual CBPC Bay & Water Quality Forum in September, federal and state officials stressed the importance of partnership with local leaders while outlining plans to leverage newly available funding to support Bay restoration efforts, address climate change, and prioritize equity within water quality programs.

Human Services Policy Committee (HSPC) – In September, HSPC heard from a panel of health and mental health experts discussing how to combat stigma to promote access to mental health services. Experts shared both their personal and professional experiences with mental health and discussed the challenges communities of color face in addressing mental health needs.



TPB APPROVES TRANSIT WITHIN REACH PROJECTS

The TPB awarded over \$240,000 in technical assistance funding to three local projects that will improve biking and walking to transit and support the regional focus on transit-oriented communities. The new program will provide consultant services for design and preliminary engineering for projects.

[Learn more about the projects](#)

OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

COG presentations – In September, COG Executive Director Chuck Bean briefed this year’s Leadership Greater Washington cohort on COG’s work and current focus on transit-oriented communities. Deputy Executive Director for Metropolitan Planning Kanti Srikanth briefed Connected DMV on Equity Emphasis Areas. Climate, Energy, and Air Program Director Jeffrey King and Senior Environmental Planner Maia Davis briefed the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors on climate and energy standings for Loudoun County and the region.

Car Free Day – COG’s Commuter Connections promoted Car Free Day, an annual event that encourages drivers to find more environmentally and health-friendly ways to travel. This year’s event was celebrated on Wednesday, September 22.

Regional Travel Survey – The TPB’s household travel survey, the Regional Travel Survey (RTS), collected detailed demographic and travel behavior information from about 16,000 randomly selected area households. Staff took a deeper dive in the RTS results and conducted an in-depth analysis based on questions collected from local governments and transit agencies.

[Read the Analysis](#)

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

D.C.-area leaders consider prioritizing equity in transportation and land use planning – WaPo story featured latest regional planning work on transit and equity discussed during the September TPB meeting—TPB Chair Charles Allen, and COG’s Chuck Bean and Kanti Srikanth quoted.

[The Washington Post](#)

Loudoun Supervisors Launch Energy Strategy Talks – COG’s Jeffrey King and Maia Davis updated the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors on current local and regional energy efforts.

[Loudoun Now](#)



RACIAL EQUITY LEARNING COHORT CONTINUES
COG, in partnership with Race Forward’s Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE), is convening more than 120 managers and staff from 11 jurisdictions, plus a COG staff team, who will participate in a yearlong racial equity education program. (photo from previous cohort)

[Read the news highlight](#)