



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** COG Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Chuck Bean, COG Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** Executive Director's Report – November 2018  
**DATE:** November 7, 2018

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## POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

**National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB)** - At its October meeting, the TPB approved the region's new long-range transportation plan, *Visualize 2045*. The plan consists of more than 100 major projects that expand or change the region's highway or transit system capacity. For the first time, the plan also includes seven aspirational initiatives that the board identified for their potential to address some of the region's biggest transportation challenges.

**Region Forward Coalition (RFC)** – The RFC, which met at Kaiser Permanente's Center for Total Health, focused on the release of the Virginia Commonwealth University's report, *Uneven Opportunities: How Conditions for Wellness Vary Across the Metropolitan Washington Region*. The report was commissioned by COG's Health Officials Committee. A panel, including RFC Vice Chair Robert White, discussed strategies to improve health opportunities for all area residents.

## OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

**Bike and pedestrian projects** – The TPB approved about \$1.2 million in funding for four bicycle and pedestrian projects in the District of Columbia through the Transportation Alternatives program (TAP).

[TAP news highlight](#)

**Housing needs** – In October, Chuck Bean discussed COG's focus on the region's housing needs during presentations for the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Arlington, and the D.C. Chamber of Commerce. In addition, COG's Paul DesJardin and Hilary Chapman participated in a meeting with ULI Washington's housing task force to discuss opportunities for collaboration on addressing the region's shortage of affordably-priced housing.



**STAFF FEATURE**  
COG's Nicholas Ramfos helps commuters across the region find the best travel options to get to work. He's also been helping the region establish the Washington Metrorail Safety Commission and overseeing COG's Enhanced Mobility program.

[View the Heart of COG](#)

### **IRE Graduation and Awards**

– On October 12, COG’s Institute for Regional Excellence held a graduation ceremony for 31 new Certified Public Managers from across the region, and the program honored Loudoun County Administrator Tim Hemstreet and Arlington County Manager Mark Schwartz. Hemstreet was honored with the Visionary Leader Award; Schwartz received the Inspiring Leader Award. Both were honored for their contributions to COG’s Homeland Security Executive Committee and Chief Administrative Officers Committee.



(Tim Hemstreet, Chuck Bean, Mark Schwartz, and Joanne Gabor)

**Public safety exercise** - On November 3, the Maryland-National Capital Park Police hosted a regional search and rescue training exercise (SAREX) in Upper Marlboro, MD. The exercise was planned and coordinated through the Search Operations Subcommittee of COG’s Police Chiefs Committee.

**Combatting drunk driving** – At the Washington Regional Alcohol Program’s Annual Luncheon, COG received WRAP’s 2018 Community Partnership Award for supporting the annual *How Safe are Our Roads? Report*. COG’s Dave McMillion accepted the award at the event.

**Festival del Rio Anacostia** – On October 13, COG partnered with several public agencies and civic and environmental groups to organize the family-oriented event in Bladensburg, MD committed to connecting Latino residents with the Anacostia River.

**Drug Take Back Day** – The October 27 nationwide event was promoted in the region by COG and area partners, including law enforcement agencies, water and wastewater utilities, and health officials. The day reminds residents to do their part to prevent drug abuse, accidental ingestion, and the contamination of area water supplies by properly disposing of unwanted medication.

### **MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS**

**Regional leaders approve a vision for D.C. area commuters in 2045** – *Visualize 2045* featured. TPB Chairman Charles Allen (D.C.) and TPB Member David Snyder (Falls Church) quoted.

[Washington Post story](#)

**Life expectancy varies dramatically depending on where you live in DC area** – COG Health Officials Committee Member Reuben Varghese (Arlington County) quoted.

[WTOP story](#)

**Georgetown Climate Center Honored**– COG’s Climate and Energy Leadership Awards featured.

[Georgetown Law News story](#)