



NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD

In December, the TPB reviewed a draft update to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for the National Capital Region, which includes hundreds of bicycle and pedestrian facility improvement projects. The Board will vote on the plan in January.

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIR QUALITY COMMITTEE

MWAQC discussed an EPA proposal to revise the 8-hour ozone standard. The proposal recommends lowering the standard in order to further protect public health and public welfare. The Committee was briefed on the proposal and what a lower standard would mean for the region.

CHESAPEAKE BAY AND WATER RESOURCES POLICY COMMITTEE

CBPC was briefed on the Chesapeake Bay Program's schedule for the 2017 Mid-Point Assessment of the Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), including key decision points over the next two years where the region will need to weigh-in. The Assessment is a mid-course check on progress toward the 2025 Bay restoration goals.

CLIMATE, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY COMMITTEE

CEEPC was briefed on the proposed Regional Permitting Recommendations for Residential Solar photovoltaic (PV) systems, developed for COG's Rooftop Solar Challenge Project. CEEPC voted to establish the recommendations as a regional guide for permitting small solar PV systems.

HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY POLICY COMMITTEE

HSPSPC discussed findings from State of Obesity Report by the Trust for America's Health, including a statistic that area children from the ages of 10 to 17 have the third highest obesity rate in the country. The Trust recommends policies that promote health and well-being, such as encouraging more Farmers Markets and renovating and building sidewalks to boost walking.



Member Feature:

ROCKVILLE MAYOR BRIDGET NEWTON HELPS LAUNCH COG VIDEO PODCASTS

COG inaugurated its new video studio by interviewing Mayor Newton about the vibrancy of Rockville Town Square and the future of land use and transportation planning for her city.

We look forward to featuring more officials and jurisdictions in the new year to help tell our stories about shaping more prosperous, accessible, livable, and sustainable communities.

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE VIDEO.](#)

INFORMATION SHARING AMONG REGIONAL COUNCILS

COG and NARC convened colleagues from 14 major metropolitan regional councils in November to share knowledge and identify challenges and issues common to larger regional councils. COG also welcomed counterparts from the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) in December to discuss regional planning related to transportation, the environment, as well as ARC's experience in helping its region prepare for the 1996 Olympics.

COG-BOARD OF TRADE STORMWATER FORUM

COG and the Board of Trade held a forum to facilitate greater understanding and communication between the public and private sectors on how to best reduce pollution from stormwater runoff into the region's rivers, stream, and lakes. The forum brought together public sector officials responsible for making the needed improvements to the region's water quality with the businesses who are responsible for much of the development and who are directly affected by the water quality requirements.

2ND ANNUAL CAOs RETREAT

The region's Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) and Deputy CAOs met for a second straight year to strengthen partnerships across area jurisdictions. While the CAOs hold regular committee meetings at COG, the retreat provided an informal setting for the more than 40 participants to share ideas related to their various responsibilities, including public safety, oversight of transportation projects, and environmental programs.

INPUT TO MURIEL BOWSER'S TRANSITION TEAM

COG provided information and recommendations to Mayor-Elect Muriel Bowser Transition Team on health, human services and homelessness as well as transportation and the environment.

CLIMATE WORKSHOP ON RISKS TO INFRASTRUCTURE

COG Environmental Programs Staff hosted a well-attended climate change workshop that focused on quantifying risks to infrastructure. Dr. Kelly Burks-Copes of the US Army Corps of Engineers presented a study conducted for Naval Station Norfolk that identified infrastructure failure thresholds for sea level rise and storm surge. Participants also discussed the region's climate resiliency needs.



Outreach Highlight: OFFICIALS TOUR NEW WMATA SOLAR POWERED WATER TREATMENT FACILITY

WMATA invited COG's energy and green building committee to an open house and tour of its new solar powered water treatment facility in Prince George's County. Participants included COG Board Member and Prince George's County Council Member Karen Toles, COG Executive Director Chuck Bean, and Maryland Department of the Environment Deputy Secretary David Costello.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE.](#)

CHESAPEAKE BAY AND WATER RESOURCES POLICY COMMITTEE - JANUARY 16

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD - JANUARY 21

REGION FORWARD COALITION - JANUARY 23

CLIMATE, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY COMMITTEE - JANUARY 28

GREEN PURCHASING VENDORS' FAIR - JANUARY 29

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

KOJO NNAMDI SHOW DISCUSSES TOLLS LANES & REGION'S TRANSPORTATION PLANS

COG DTP Director Kanti Srikanth participated as a guest on the WAMU show before the opening of the I-95 Express Lanes in Virginia. [CLICK HERE FOR THE SHOW.](#)

NEWS 8, WTOP FEATURE PICME PROJECT

COG Child Welfare Manager Kamilah Bunn was interviewed on NewsTalk and WTOP about PicMe, a photo project to find homes for area teenagers in foster care. [CLICK HERE FOR THE WTOP STORY.](#)

TPB REPORT ON THANKSGIVING TRAVEL GENERATES WIDESPREAD COVERAGE

COG Transportation Planners used minute-by-minute traffic information from a recent Thanksgiving for a detailed report on regional travel during the holiday week. It generated coverage from The Washington Post, Washington City Paper, WTOP, WAMU, WNEW, WUSA9, and DCist. [CLICK HERE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST STORY.](#)

PRINCE GEORGE'S MEDIA FEATURE TODD TURNER'S COG SCULL AWARD

The Gazette and Prince George's CTV News reported on COG's recognition of Prince George's Council Member Todd Turner as the winner of the 2014 Elizabeth and David Scull Metropolitan Public Service Award. Turner was recognized for his leadership over the past several years on the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board at COG. [CLICK HERE FOR THE GAZETTE STORY.](#)



Media Highlight

MENDELSON, BEAN DISCUSS REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE ON KOJO NNAMDI SHOW

COG Board Chairman Phil Mendelson, COG Executive Director Chuck Bean, and Brookings' Robert Puentes participated in a Kojo Nnamdi Show on regional infrastructure. Mendelson and Bean made many references to the COG Board's 2014 Infrastructure Series throughout the show.

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN TO THE SHOW.](#)