



MEMORANDUM

TO: COG Board of Directors
FROM: Clark Mercer, COG Executive Director
SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report – September 2024
DATE: October 2, 2024

POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) – In September, the TPB received informational updates on the Regional Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Implementation (REVII) strategy, which included an EV charger siting priority map that state and local governments in the region can consult as they develop their EV charging station deployments and apply for federal and state grants. The TPB also received the results of the latest Washington-Baltimore Regional Air Passenger Survey. Also, staff announced that a Regional Transportation Safety Summit will be held on October 31.

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) – At its September meeting, MWAQC members discussed the development of an Environmental Justice Action Plan, including public feedback from a number of listening sessions held across the region. State monitoring experts briefed the committee on the process of conducting regulatory and community air quality monitoring, and COG staff provided an update on the 2024 ozone season, which had 7 Code Orange (unhealthy for sensitive groups) days.

Chesapeake Bay & Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC) – At CBPC's September meeting, federal, state, and local officials convened for the annual water quality forum. They discussed their long-term visions, priorities, and strategies for the Chesapeake Bay and local water resources. Both the EPA and state representatives reaffirmed their commitment to the Bay Program's Beyond 2025 initiatives, as well as their individual water quality efforts. Following the presentations, CBPC members engaged in an open dialogue with the speakers, who stressed the need to strengthen the future water workforce and involve the next generation and local communities in environmental stewardship and conservation.



DMVMoves Task Force

On September 23, the DMVMoves Task Force convened for its second meeting, which focused on several actions to improve customer experience across all transit systems and reviewed the funding needs of the regional transit network.

[View a summary of the meeting and presentation to the Task Force](#)

Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) – At its September meeting, CEEPC heard presentations on the newly published Regional Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Implementation (REVII) Strategy and two Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) grants to COG and the Maryland Clean Energy Center (MCEC) to deploy electric vehicle charging stations in the region. Members also heard from a panel of local climate leaders actively conducting climate outreach. Members discussed a memorandum received from Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC) that included nine recommendations to address the urgency of climate change.

Human Services Policy Committee (HSPC) and Food and Agriculture Regional Member Policy Committee (FARM) – At its September meeting, HSPC and FARM committees participated in a joint session. The Capital Area Food Bank presented the results of its 2024 annual Hunger Report, highlighting challenges related to food insecurity in the DC region. The committee also received a briefing on the Greater Washington Community Foundation's 2023 Voices DMV survey of community well-being, which measured key quality of life indicators such as economic opportunity, well-being, safety, and more. To conclude the discussion, HSPC and FARM committee members explored opportunities for collaboration in 2025 on the connection between food insecurity and related human service needs.

OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Transportation Planning – Several COG transportation planning staff participated in the Annual Conference of the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO). Mark Moran presented on travel demand forecasting models (ABMs), Lyn Erickson discussed reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and Katherine Rainone and Pierre Gaunaud presented on developing a regional transportation resilience improvement plan. Kanti Srikanth moderated a session on scaling the transit fiscal cliff, and Tim Canan also moderated a discussion on land use and housing linkages.

Housing and Planning Office Coordination - COG's Housing Directors and Planning Directors Committees met jointly on September 27 to discuss how to increase housing affordability and equity through zoning and land use reform. Presenters from the Urban Institute shared recent research on this topic, and then participants broke into a workshop on strategies to shape programs to achieve desired policy outcomes. Committee members also received special recognition for their work from representatives of the HUD DC Field Office as well as the HUD Region III Community Planning Department Director.



Festival del Río Anacostia

COG participated in the 9th Annual Festival del Río Anacostia in Bladensburg, MD alongside several partner organizations that COG works with to restore the watershed. Members of COG engaged with Latino community members, educating them about species that live in the watershed and providing hands-on fish demonstrations.

Public Safety – In September, the COG Public Order Subcommittee and the SWAT Subcommittee jointly met at the White House complex and received a briefing on 2024 election security threats.

Air Quality – This fall, Clean Air Partners will be surveying Baltimore-Washington residents on their perceptions and attitudes about regional air quality. The Public Awareness Survey is conducted every three years, and the results are used to inform the development of future work programs and initiatives.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

ICPRB’s new report – COG helped promote the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin’s (ICPRB) new report, “The Economic and Fiscal Costs of Water Supply Disruption to the National Capital Region”, and it received coverage from the Washington Post, NBC 4, WTOP, WUSA 9, DC News Now, and 7 News.

[Washington Post](#) – quotes COG Board Chair Charles Allen

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DMVMoves Task Force – The September 23 DMVMoves meeting was covered by Virginia Mercury, 7 News, and CTV News.

[Virginia Mercury](#) – quotes Task Force Members Mark Sickles, Scott Surovell, and Phyllis Randall

Elections security – The September COG Board briefing on election security was covered by Maryland Matters and MyMCMedia.

[Maryland Matters](#) – quotes COG Board Chair Allen and COG Board Members Kate Stewart, Evan Glass, and Phyllis Randall

Airport Passenger Survey – The TPB released the findings from its survey, which provides insights into air passenger travel habits, preferences, and priorities and helps the board assess and plan for the operations of airport facilities and the transportation network serving the region’s major airports. The survey received coverage from NBC4 and WTOP.

[NBC 4](#) – quotes COG Planning Data and Research Program Director Tim Canan



NOAA grant

The Water Resources Team recently received a nearly \$1 million grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to remove large debris, derelict vessels, and trash from the Anacostia Watershed. The story was covered by Fox 5, Chesapeake Bay Magazine, Washington Times, WTOP, CTV News, and the Washington Post.

[Washington Post](#) – quotes from COG Principal Environmental Planner Phong Trieu and COG Environmental Planner Caitlin Bolton

[WTOP](#) – quotes COG Environmental Planner Caitlin Bolton