



# Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Executive Director's Report • July 2014

COMMITTEE WORK HEART OF COG OUTREACH MEDIA EVENTS/MEETINGS

Policy Board & Committee Work

## TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD

At its June meeting, the TPB was briefed on the new federal Enhanced Mobility program, which provides funding for accessible transportation projects across the region. The allotted funds for the program will provide up to \$5.6 million in matching grants for transportation improvements geared at increasing access for disabled persons and older adults to the transportation system. The new program has also led the TPB to update its Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan, which will guide funding decisions.

## HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY POLICY COMMITTEE

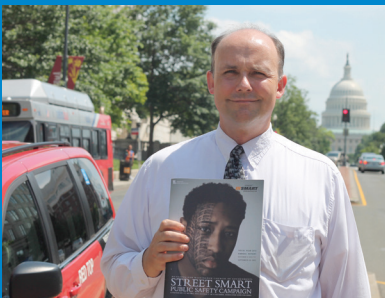
The Committee reviewed a draft of the 2013 Report on Crime and Crime Control, which provides information to governmental officials and the public as to the nature of the crime problem in the region. It also provides law enforcement administrators with criminal statistics.



*At the 17th Annual Commuter Connections Employer Recognition Awards, winners are honored for their efforts in reducing carbon footprints and regional traffic congestion by offering innovative transportation-benefits packages to employees*

## Heart of COG: Helping Ensure Safe Streets for All Area Residents

MIKE FARRELL, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING



Mike Farrell has dedicated the past 13 years at COG to onvening the region's environmental and transportation leaders to advance safer streets for pedestrians, cyclists, motorists and the environment. Furthering this effort, Mike introduced a now quadrennial Bike and Pedestrian Plan for the region, while also shepherding the development of both Complete Streets and Green Streets policies adopted by the COG and TPB Boards.

Mike also has spearheaded the Street Smart safety campaign, an advertising and outreach campaign across the region, encouraging all users of the road – from the casual pedestrian to the average driver – to pay attention, stay alert and keep the public safe while using the transportation network. Street Smart garners thousands of media impressions and highlights every year with promotions on sides of buses, highways and front and center in the news. Mike's work ensures that the region's elected leadership and members of the TPB are not only informed as policy makers, but safe as residents of communities across our region.

- Chuck Bean, Executive Director

### **NARC CONFERENCE**

In June, Executive Director Chuck Bean participated in the annual conference of the National Association of Regional Councils. Bean was elected to Executive Director's Council. COG Board member Penny Gross also addressed conference attendees as the outgoing Board President.

### **FORECLOSURE NETWORK**

Co-creators COG and the Nonprofit Roundtable of Greater Washington hosted the final meeting of the Capital Area Foreclosure Network (CAFN) leadership at COG. A final CAFN report will be presented at a future COG Board meeting.

### **SUSTAINABLE HOUSING**

In recent months, COG Environmental Planner Leah Boggs has organized tours of local 'Passive Houses' in Rockville and Arlington. These green buildings retain heat in winter and reduce AC use in summer, all while increasing indoor air quality.

### **SPONSOR FAREWELL**

Bean, Community Planning and Services Director Paul DesJardin, and COG Child Welfare Manager Kamilah Bunn attended a farewell for longtime regional sponsor, the Freddie Mac Foundation, at its headquarters in McLean.

### **CHESAPEAKE BAY TALK AT WAMU COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Gaithersburg Council member Cathy Dryzgula, COG Regional Water Quality Management Chief Tanya Spano, and Paul DesJardin participated in a panel of WAMU's Community Council on the Chesapeake Bay. Panelists noted the critical link between local water quality and Bay restoration efforts, progress made to-date, innovative practices, the high costs involved, the challenges in meeting regulatory requirements and public expectations, and the need for all parties to continue to work together to find effective, cost-effective and sustainable solutions – and to get buy-in from those customers/rate payers that ultimately have to pay for this work.

### **CHILD WELFARE ACTIVITIES**

COG's Child Welfare Team held fundraisers for foster families in Charles County and the District. The team also co-hosted a regional training for social workers with the National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections on June 4th at COG.

### **TRANSPORTATION AND LAND USE**

DesJardin Director and Transportation Planner John Swanson participated in the first meeting of the WMATA Land Use and Transportation Scenarios project in the District.

### **PRINCE WILLIAM FORECASTS**

COG Senior Planner Greg Goodwin and Paul DesJardin met with members of the Prince William County Planning staff in Woodbridge to discuss plans and research needs for the Cooperative Forecasts.

### **INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE BEST PRACTICES**

COG Department of Environmental Programs Director Steve Walz participated in a roundtable of climate adaptation successes and challenges at the Swedish Embassy.



*COG Board Member Cathy Drzyzgula at a WAMU panel speaking to water quality in Chesapeake Bay*



*A super energy efficient "passive house" in Rockville, MD that uses 80% less energy than traditional homes*

### **NBC4 SHOW FOCUSES ON AREA FOSTER CHILDREN, PARENTS...**

COG's Child Welfare Manager Kamillah Bunn and Arlington County Foster Parents of the Year, Ben and Shira Simon, appeared on NBC4's public affairs talk show, Viewpoint, sharing the story of foster care in the National Capital Region. The Simons along with foster parents from jurisdictions across the region were honored for their service to the community and dedication to their foster children at COG in May.

### **..AND AIR QUALITY**

Later in June, officials had the opportunity to discuss the region's significant progress and ongoing challenges related to air quality on Viewpoint. Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee Chairman David Snyder (Falls Church), Clean Air Partners Board Chair Lon Anderson (AAA) and Clean Air Partners Board Member Dr. Janet Phoenix (George Washington University) participated on the show.



*Arlington Foster Parents of the Year and COG Child Welfare Manager Kamillah Bun on NBC4 Viewpoint*

### **COG'S STEPHEN WALZ OP-ED ON ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE APPEARS IN THE WASHINGTON POST'S CAPITAL BUSINESS**

Walz's op-ed highlighted some of the main points from the May COG Board meeting's Regional Infrastructure Series item. He discussed the \$5.5 billion in investments over the next five years to replace and upgrade aging natural gas pipes and electric power lines as well as new technologies to improve reliability. Walz also reviewed how our region gets its energy as well as statistics that show how our region is a leader in regards to energy efficiency.

**TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD -**  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 16

**CHESAPEAKE BAY AND WATER RESOURCES POLICY COMMITTEE -**  
FRIDAY, JULY 18

**REGION FORWARD COALITION -**  
FRIDAY, JULY 18

**CLIMATE, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY COMMITTEE -**  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 23

**COG LEADERSHIP PLANNING & WORK SESSION -**  
FRIDAY, JULY 25 - SUNDAY, JULY 27 - CAMBRIDGE, MD

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIR QUALITY COMMITTEE**  
THURSDAY, JULY 31

*For more information about these events and other COG meetings, visit [www.mwcog.org/calendar](http://www.mwcog.org/calendar)*