



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wednesday, April 14, 2021

12:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.

WebEx Virtual Meeting (provided to members only by email)

Video livestream available to public on COG website

AGENDA

- 12:00 P.M.**
- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
Robert C. White, Jr., COG Board Chair
 - 2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**
Robert C. White, Jr., COG Board Chair
- 12:05 P.M.**
- 3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**
Chuck Bean, COG Executive Director
 - 4. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**
Robert C. White, Jr., COG Board Chair
- 12:15 P.M.**
- 5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM MARCH 10, 2021**
Robert C. White, Jr., COG Board Chair
Recommended Action: Approve minutes.
 - 6. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**
Robert C. White, Jr., COG Board Chair
 - A. Resolution R20-2021 – Resolution authorizing COG to receive and expend grant funds from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 for the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities program
 - B. Resolution R21-2021 – Resolution authorizing COG to receive and expend grant funds from the Federal Transit Administration for the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities program**Recommended Action: Adopt Resolutions R20-2021 – R21-2021.**
- 12:20 P.M.**
- 7. COVID-19: VACCINE DISTRIBUTION UPDATE**
Dr. Danny Avula, State of Virginia Vaccination Coordinator
The board will be briefed on the status of regional distribution of the COVID-19 vaccines.
Recommended Action: Receive briefing.

- 12:35 P.M.** **8. STATEHOOD FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**
Gerry Connolly, U.S. Congressman
Chris Van Hollen, U.S. Senator
Muriel Bowser, District of Columbia Mayor
- The board will be briefed on the path to statehood for the District of Columbia and the status of current legislation in Congress. The COG Board Statehood Task Force will provide an update on their work and a recommendation to endorse statehood for the District.
- Recommended Action: Receive briefing and adopt Resolution R22-2021.**
- 1:15 P.M.** **9. COG CHIEF EQUITY OFFICERS COMMITTEE**
Karla Bruce, Fairfax County Chief Equity Officer
Tiffany Ward, Montgomery County Chief Equity Officer
- The board will be briefed by the leadership of the Chief Equity Officers Committee and consider a resolution to create a Racial Equity Task Force.
- Recommended Action: Receive briefing and adopt Resolution R23-2021.**
- 1:35 P.M.** **10. CONNECTED DMV GLOBAL PANDEMIC PREVENTION & BIODEFENSE CENTER**
Dr. James Crowe, Jr., Vanderbilt University Vaccine Center Director
Stu Solomon, Connected DMV President & CEO
- The board will be briefed on the new Connected DMV Global Pandemic Prevention and Biodefense Center.
- Recommended Action: Receive briefing.**
- 1:55 P.M.** **11. OTHER BUSINESS**
- 2:00 P.M.** **12. ADJOURN**
The next COG Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for May 12, 2021.

AGENDA ITEM #2

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

RISING TO THE MOMENT, PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE



Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

Message from the COG Board Chair and Executive Director

In 2020, our region—not to mention the entire world—faced an unprecedented challenge as we grappled with the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), the most serious public health crisis in over a century.

It's hard to believe that COG's wide network has been fully activated in service to the region for over a year. With vaccine distribution underway, there are certainly better days ahead, but it will continue to be critical to work together to respond to the pandemic. We also recognize that many of the issues we had entering 2020 persist and, in some cases, have been magnified by COVID-19—from food insecurity to health inequities, to housing instability.

As we move toward recovery, we must apply what we have learned from the pandemic, the resulting economic recession and quality of life impacts, in addition to the nation's reckoning on racial issues, to shape a better future. This will include more integrated planning across disciplines—transportation, housing, the environment, health and human services, and public safety—with a focus on advancing racial equity and enhancing our resiliency so that our region is better positioned for the 'certain uncertainties' of the future.

We also note that, like so many organizations, COG adapted to the times and embraced maximum telework and remote meetings. As the hub for regional partnership, this took some getting used to. The good news is that COG members and staff demonstrated an incredibly high level of dedication during these difficult times. Thank you for your hard work on behalf of our region in 2020 and for your engagement in the years ahead.

Visit mwcog.org/COG2020 to hear local leaders reflect on the region's work in 2020 to respond to COVID-19, advance equity, and plan for the future in COG's annual video.



Robert C. White, Jr.

2021 COG Board Chair



Chuck Bean

COG Executive Director

COVID-19 Coordination

COG supported area officials in their efforts to prepare for and respond to COVID-19—sharing best practices, research, data, and messaging. This network included the region's health officials as well as elected officials, city and county managers, emergency managers, public information officers, and many more.

Visit mwcog.org/covid19 to find more information and resources.



NEW TOOLS

State epidemiologists, in conjunction with COG, developed a way to securely share COVID-19 contact tracing data through an Association of Public Health Laboratories platform. COG also partnered with the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab on a dashboard for public health agencies and hospitals showing the medical surge status of the region's hospitals.

COMMON MESSAGING

COG worked with area public information officers to develop and share common messages about stopping the spread of COVID-19 to complement and amplify local and state communications efforts.



REGIONAL RESOURCES

COG regularly convened food policy leaders and providers, compiled and shared emergency food assistance resources, and the COG Board established a new ad hoc food and agriculture committee to focus on food insecurity in 2021. Commuter Connections offered new telework resources and commuting information to support a safe transition back to the workplace.

DATA TRACKING

COG staff tracked and reported the impact of COVID-19 on the region—particularly the effects on the transportation system, economy, environment, and health.



CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Officials and local government experts approved a 2030 Climate and Energy Action Plan, which outlines actions the region should take to meet its shared climate goals. The plan was developed by COG's Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee.

New Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Goal



TRANSIT ORIENTED COMMUNITIES

The National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) at COG developed a High-Capacity Transit Station Areas Map, or areas around Metrorail, commuter rail, light rail, streetcar, bus rapid transit, and multimodal stations, to help the region identify opportunities for enhancing housing and transportation connectivity in areas served by transit. It also endorsed a list of 49 Transit Access Focus Areas to prioritize walk and bike improvements near transit.



ROADWAY SAFETY

The TPB adopted a regional roadway safety policy—shared actions to reduce injuries and fatalities on area roadways. The board also established a Regional Safety Program to assist area jurisdictions with studying, developing, and implementing projects, programs, or policies that improve roadway safety.



NATIONAL CAPITAL TRAIL NETWORK

The TPB approved the National Capital Trail Network, a 1,400-mile, continuous system of long-distance, off-street trails, serving the entire region. It was also endorsed by the COG Board. The network will help the region prioritize bicycle and pedestrian projects.



EQUITY

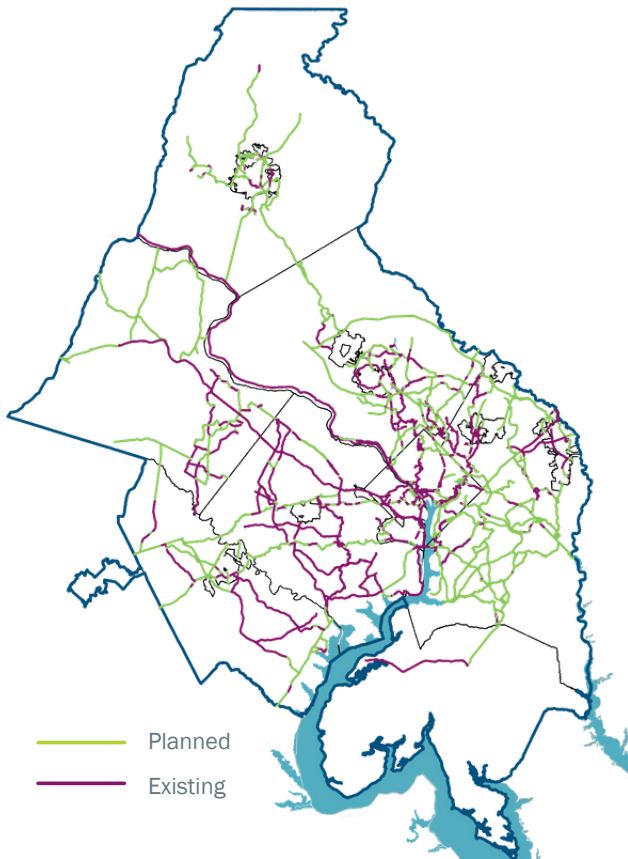
Following the killing of George Floyd and the nation's reckoning on racial issues, the COG Board of Directors and TPB passed resolutions establishing equity as a fundamental value to ensure a more prosperous, accessible, livable, sustainable, and equitable future for all area residents.

Several of COG's programs advanced initiatives centered on equity, including the creation of a regional fair housing plan and an equity brief focused on how race shapes health outcomes. Over the course of five town hall discussions hosted by COG and TPB, local government leaders discussed managing and responding to current challenges to shape a more equitable, resilient region.

◀ 100 local government staff graduated from COG's first Advancing Racial Equity Cohort, held with the Government Alliance on Race and Equity.

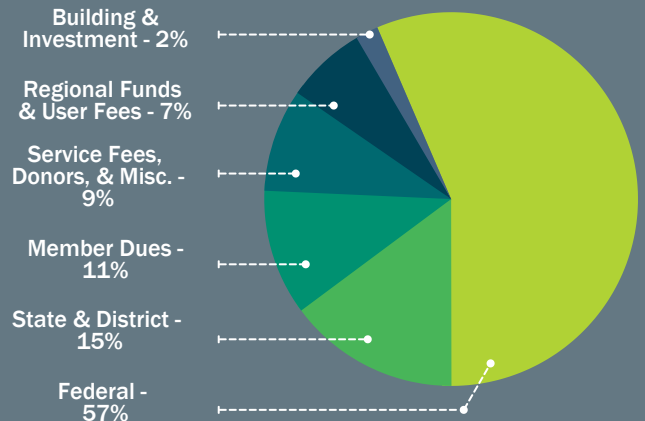
Visit mwcog.org/equity for more on these initiatives.

National Capital Trail Network



COG Financial Highlights

FY20 Total Revenue: \$40,544,000



About the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG)

COG is an independent, nonprofit association that brings area leaders together to address major regional issues in the District of Columbia, suburban Maryland, and Northern Virginia. COG's membership is comprised of 300 elected officials from 24 local governments, the Maryland and Virginia state legislatures, and U.S. Congress.

777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300. Washington, DC 20002 www.mwcog.org

Alternative formats of this document are available upon request.

Visit www.mwcog.org/accommodations or call (202) 962-3300 or (202) 962-3213 (TDD).

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2020 COG Leadership

CORPORATE OFFICERS

President

Phyllis Randall
Loudoun County

Vice President

Muriel Bowser
District of Columbia

Vice President

Nancy Navarro
Montgomery County

Secretary-Treasurer

Kate Stewart
City of Takoma Park

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair

Derrick L. Davis
Prince George's County

Vice Chair

Christian Dorsey
Arlington County

Vice Chair

Robert C. White, Jr.
District of Columbia

District of Columbia

Muriel Bowser
Phil Mendelson
Kevin Donahue

City of Bowie

Timothy Adams

Charles County
Reuben Collins

City of College Park
Monroe Dennis

City of Frederick
Michael O'Connor

Frederick County
Jan Gardner

City of Gaithersburg
Robert Wu

City of Greenbelt
Colin Byrd

City of Laurel
Craig Moe

Montgomery County

Marc Elrich
Tom Hucker
Nancy Navarro

Prince George's County

Angela Alsobrooks
Sydney Harrison

City of Rockville
Bridget Newton

City of Takoma Park
Kate Stewart

MD General Assembly
Brian Feldman

City of Alexandria
Justin Wilson

City of Fairfax
David Meyer

Fairfax County
Jeff McKay
Penelope Gross
Rodney Lusk

City of Falls Church

David Snyder

Loudoun County

Phyllis Randall
Juli Briskman

City of Manassas
Mark Wolfe

City of Manassas Park
Hector Cendejas

Prince William County

Ann Wheeler
Andrea Bailey

VA General Assembly
George Barker

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Chuck Bean

AGENDA ITEM #3

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



MEMORANDUM

TO: COG Board of Directors
FROM: Chuck Bean, COG Executive Director
SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report – April 2021
DATE: April 7, 2021

POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) – At its March meeting, the TPB approved its work program and budget for the year as well as Commuter Connections' work program and budget. After a robust report on public comments, the board discussed how staff work on climate change mitigation will factor into the process of developing the next long-range plan. The board also received briefings on Airport Ground Access and the *Regional Travel Survey*.

Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) – During its March meeting, CEEPC announced COG's recognition by the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM) as fully compliant with the global standards of best practices for climate planning. GCoM awarded COG "Mitigation" and "Adaptation" achievement badges in recognition. The committee also learned about zero energy building policies and guidance and the City of Frederick's climate action planning efforts.

Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC) – In March, CBPC discussed the 2021 General Assembly committee actions and related issues, and received a briefing from COG's Tree Subcommittee about its work and upcoming projects.

Human Services Policy Committee (HSPC) – At its March meeting, HSPC received a presentation by representatives from the Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP) and Children's National Hospital on early childhood development & early intervention. The committee also discussed mental and behavioral health challenges within the child welfare system and heard from child welfare directors from Prince George's County, City of Alexandria, and the District of Columbia.



Staff Spotlight: Karen Armendariz
The TPB recently released the findings of its *Voices of the Region* survey which asked area residents about their behaviors and attitudes about regional transportation, including travel during COVID-19 and post-pandemic expectations. COG Public Engagement Specialist Karen Armendariz was part of the survey team.

[Learn more about Armendariz's contribution to the survey](#)

OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

COG Presentations – Chuck Bean briefed the Council of the District of Columbia on COG’s work program and priorities.

Housing - COG Board Member Derrick L. Davis provided opening remarks for a HAND (Housing Association of Nonprofit Developers) webinar that unveiled their Housing Indicator Tool, which measures local progress on affordable housing production. COG's housing directors provided HAND with data for this effort. COG Department of Community Planning and Services Director Paul DesJardin and Housing Program Manager Hilary Chapman presented COG’s Housing Targets to the Prince George’s County Housing Opportunities for All (HOFA) work group led by Councilmember Danielle Glaros.

Visualize 2045 - The Transportation Planning Board has released the *Visualize 2045* update project inputs and the Air Quality Conformity Analysis of the financially constrained element for public comment. The comment period closes on May 3.

[Learn more about the plan and comment](#)

Bike to Work Day 2021 – Registration for the 20th Anniversary of Bike to Work Day (BTWD) on May 21 is now open. Organized by Commuter Connections and the Washington Area Bicyclist Association, this year’s event will be inclusive of those working from home and mindful of COVID-19 safety protocols.

[Visit the Bike to Work Day website to learn more.](#)

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

The Washington commute could return by fall for many workers. It won’t be the same as before – COG Deputy Executive Director for Metropolitan Planning Kanti Srikanth discussed the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on travel in the region.

[The Washington Post](#)

Which workers were hardest hit by pandemic-related job losses in DC region? –Paul DesJardin discussed job loss trends in metropolitan Washington as a result of the pandemic.

[WTOP](#)

AGENDA ITEM #4

**AMENDMENTS TO THE
AGENDA**

AGENDA ITEM #5

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 North Capitol Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20002**

**MINUTES
COG Board of Directors Meeting
March 10, 2021**

BOARD MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES: See attached chart for attendance.

SPEAKERS:

Monica Hopkins, ACLU-DC Executive Director

Patrick Ashley, DC Senior Deputy of Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Administration

Paul DesJardin, COG Director of Community Planning and Services

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COG Board Vice Chair Christian Dorsey called the meeting to order at 12:01 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

COG Executive Director Chuck Bean asked COG Water Resources Program Director Steve Bieber to brief the board on the region's energy system and grid resiliency. Bean then asked COG Deputy Executive Director for Metropolitan Planning Kanti Srikanth to give an overview of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the region and how these impacts are changing residents travel behavior. Srikanth also updated the board on COG's climate work progress, including its recent recognition by the Global Covenant of Mayors who found COG to be fully compliant with the global standards of best practices for climate planning. Bean also asked COG Government Relations Manager Monica Beyrouti Nunez to brief the board on COG's newly formed Chief Equity Officers Committee and their leadership, goals, and upcoming initiatives.

4. AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

There were no amendments to the agenda.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the February 10, 2021 board meeting were approved.

6. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Resolution R18-2021 - Resolution authorizing COG to receive a grant, procure and enter into a contract to conduct phase 36 of the Continuous Airport System Planning (CASP) Program
- B. Resolution R19-2021 - Resolution to clarify the COG Pension Plan Administration Committee (PPAC) fiduciary duties and responsibilities

ACTION: Approved Resolutions R18-2021 – R19-2021.

7. STATEHOOD FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ACLU-DC Executive Director Monica Hopkins briefed the board on the history of the path to statehood for the District of Columbia. COG's DC Statehood Taskforce Co-Chair's Derrick Davis and Christian Dorsey provided an update on the work of the taskforce and plan to propose a resolution for consideration at the April meeting.

ACTION: Received briefing.

8. COVID-19: VACCINE DISTRIBUTION

District of Columbia Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Administration Senior Deputy Patrick Ashley briefed the board on the status of regional COVID-19 vaccine distribution, including current and future challenges, virus variants, and communications efforts.

ACTION: Received briefing.

9. ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

COG Director of Community Planning and Services Paul DesJardin briefed the board on the regional economic impacts on the economy, environment, transportation, and health sectors resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and key considerations for the region as it plans for recovery.

ACTION: Received briefing.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

11. ADJOURN

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 P.M.

March 10, 2021 Attendance

<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Y/N</u>	<u>Alternate</u>	<u>Y/N</u>
<i>District of Columbia</i>				
Executive	Hon. Muriel Bowser		Ms. Beverly Perry Mr. Wayne Turnage Ms. Lucinda Babers	Y
	Mr. Kevin Donahue		Eugene Kinlow	
Council	Hon. Phil Mendelson			
	<i>Hon. Robert White</i>			
<i>Maryland</i>				
Bowie	Hon. Tim Adams	Y		
Charles County	Hon. Reuben Collins	Y	Thomasina Coates Gilbert Bowling	
City of Frederick	Hon. Michael O'Connor	Y		
Frederick County	Hon. Jan Gardner		Ms. Joy Schaefer	Y
College Park	Hon. Denise Mitchell	Y	Hon. Patrick Wojahn	
Gaithersburg	Hon. Robert Wu	Y	Hon. Neil Harris	P
Greenbelt	Hon. Colin Byrd		Hon. Emmett Jordan	
Laurel	Hon. Craig Moe	Y	Hon.. Michael Leszcz Mr. Bill Goddard	
Montgomery County				
Executive	Hon. Marc Elrich		Mr. Richard Madaleno	
Council	Hon. Tom Hucker			
	Hon. Nancy Navarro	Y		
Prince George's County				
Executive	Hon. Angela Alsobrooks		Ms. Tara Jackson	Y
Council	Hon. Derrick Leon Davis	Y		
	Hon. Sydney Harrison	Y		
Rockville	Hon. Bridget Donnell Newton	Y		
Takoma Park	<i>Hon. Kate Stewart</i>	Y	Hon. Cindy Dyballa Hon. Peter Kovar	
Maryland General Assembly	Hon. Brian Feldman			
<i>Virginia</i>				
Alexandria	Hon. Justin Wilson	Y	Hon. Redella Pepper	
Arlington County	<i>Hon. Christian Dorsey</i>	Y		
City of Fairfax	Hon. David Meyer	Y	Hon. Jon Stehle	
Fairfax County	Hon. Jeff McKay		Hon. James Walkinshaw	
	Hon. Penelope Gross	Y	Hon. Daniel Storck	
	Hon. Rodney Lusk	Y	Hon. Walter Alcorn	
Falls Church	Hon. David Snyder	Y	Hon. David Tarter	
Loudoun County	Hon. Juli Briskman	Y		
Loudoun County	Hon. Phyllis Randall	Y		
Manassas	Hon. Mark Wolfe	Y		
Manassas Park	Hon. Darryl Moore	Y		
Prince William County	Hon. Ann Wheeler	Y		
	Hon. Andrea Bailey	Y		
Virginia General Assembly	Hon. George Barker	Y		

Y = Present, voting

(P) = Present as Alternate in addition to Primary

AGENDA ITEM #6

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS
April 2021

A. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COG TO RECEIVE AND EXPEND GRANT FUNDS FROM THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 FOR THE ENHANCED MOBILITY OF SENIORS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES PROGRAM

The board will be asked to adopt Resolution R20-2021 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive and expend grant funds from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) in the amount of \$591,353 for the region. On March 11, 2021, ARP was signed into law by President Biden. It includes \$30.46 billion in supplemental appropriations allocated to support the transit industry during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Specifically, \$50 million of the \$30.46 billion will be distributed to the Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities program through formula grants. The goal is to provide operational and payroll support to Enhanced Mobility grantees in the region that have been adversely impacted by COVID-19 through a competitive solicitation process consistent with the region's FTA-approved Program Management Plan. Funding for this effort will be provided through a grant from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). COG is the designated recipient to administer the program funds. No COG matching funds are required.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt Resolution R20-2021.

B. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COG TO RECEIVE AND EXPEND GRANT FUNDS FROM THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION FOR THE ENHANCED MOBILITY OF SENIORS & INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES PROGRAM

The board will be asked to adopt Resolution R21-2021 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive and expend grant funds from the Federal Transit Administration's Enhanced Mobility of Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities (Section 5310) Program in the amount of \$6,901,542. COG and the Transportation Planning Board (TPB) are the designated recipient for Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program for the Washington, DC-VA-MD Urbanized Area. Enhanced Mobility provides funding for transportation for people with disabilities and older adults who have difficulty using public transportation. The program provides matching grant funds for non-profit organizations, local governments, transit agencies, and private for-profit providers. No COG matching funds are required.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt Resolution R21-2021.

AGENDA ITEM #7

COVID-19: VACCINE DISTRIBUTION

AGENDA ITEM #8

STATEHOOD FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Norton Announces Committee Markup and Vote on D.C. Statehood Bill to Be Held April 14th

Mar 31, 2021 | Press Release

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) today announced that the Committee on Oversight and Reform (COR) will mark up and vote on her District of Columbia statehood bill (H.R. 51) on Wednesday, April 14th at 10:00 a.m. It will be only the second markup of the bill in Congress since 1993 and will occur just two days before D.C. Emancipation Day, the holiday celebrating the freeing of thousands of slaves in the District of Columbia, and one day before the traditional tax filing deadline.

“This historic markup of the D.C. statehood bill, which will be only the second in Congress since 1993, will prepare the bill for the floor and will serve to help educate the American public on why statehood for the residents of our nation’s capital is so important,” Congresswoman Norton said. “As we held a hearing on the bill just last week, we learned that support for D.C. statehood in the latest poll had increased to 54% nationally. The hearing, markup and floor vote on our bill last Congress educated the millions of Americans who did not know that the Americans who live in their nation’s capital do not have the same rights they have. And this markup will occur just two days before Emancipation Day, when President Lincoln freed the slaves in the District before those in the states, but we’ll be celebrating the same theme: granting equal rights to residents of the District of Columbia. I thank Chairwoman Maloney for her leadership and support on D.C. statehood and for prioritizing the bill early this Congress, paving the way for House passage soon.”

“Thirty years ago, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton first introduced a bill to make D.C. a state, and because of her decades-long fight, D.C. statehood has never been closer to becoming a reality. I am so proud that we brought D.C. statehood to the House floor last Congress when it passed for the first time in history,” said Chairwoman Maloney. “Next month’s Committee mark-up is another important step towards giving 712,000 D.C. residents a voice and the political representation they deserve. I look forward to marking up the bill, passing it out of the House for the second time, and then working with the Senate to finally make it law.”

“I’m pleased that the House Oversight and Reform Committee will markup H.R. 51, the Washington, DC Admission Act and bring the District of Columbia one step closer to statehood for its more than 700,000 residents,” said Congressman Hoyer. “For too long, D.C. residents have been denied equal representation in our democracy. The citizens of the District of Columbia deserve the same voting rights as their fellow Americans in Maryland and Virginia, and statehood is the only way to ensure full and permanent representation. Following this markup, I look forward to working with Chairwoman Carolyn Maloney and Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton to bring this legislation to the House Floor in the near future.”

“Last week’s House Oversight Committee hearing made clear once again the moral imperative of granting D.C. statehood and finally giving the more than 700,000 residents of D.C., who pay federal taxes and serve in our Armed Forces, a voice and a vote in our democracy,” said Senator Carper, lead Senate author of the Washington, D.C. Admission Act (S. 51). “With the scheduling of this markup, we are one step closer to righting this historic wrong and living up to our founding fathers’ rallying cry of ‘No taxation without representation.’ I want to thank Congresswoman Norton for her determination and leadership on this issue.”

Last Congress, the House passed H.R. 51, which was the first time a chamber had ever passed the D.C. statehood bill. This Congress, H.R. 51 has 215 cosponsors. The Senate companion bill (S. 51) has 42 cosponsors. The bill would admit the State of Washington, D.C. and reduce the size of the federal district.

COR will live stream the markup and vote for the [public to watch here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=npHTsD_JqR4).
(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=npHTsD_JqR4).

###

Bowser, advocates make the case for D.C. statehood at House committee hearing

By **Meagan Flynn**

March 22, 2021 at 5:43 p.m. EDT



Advocates and Democratic lawmakers painted D.C. statehood as a matter of moral urgency and racial justice in a House hearing Monday, pushing back against Republican arguments that the cause is purely partisan and unconstitutional.

With 51-star flags lining Pennsylvania Avenue and pro-statehood signs lining yards across the city, the hearing before the House Committee on Oversight and Reform set in motion Democrats' plans to put a statehood bill up for a vote on the House floor before the summer. The bill, sponsored by D.C. Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D), is expected to pass for the second time since last year.

Now in control of the Senate and White House, as well as the House, Democrats are framing the statehood issue as a central part of their voting rights platform.

The bill still faces significant hurdles in the Senate, where the filibuster process means passage would require the all-but-impossible support of at least 10 Republicans. A number of Democratic senators are pushing various filibuster reform proposals, however, including a return to the "talking filibuster" or creating a filibuster carve-out for voting-rights legislation.

Mayor Muriel E. Bowser (D) was the first to offer testimony. She sought to counter House Republicans' argument that statehood was a Democratic "power grab" intended to cement the party's control of Congress. More than 700,000 people live in the District — a population greater than Wyoming and Vermont.

Tracing the history of statehood efforts, Bowser said the growth of the city's Black population historically contributed to the refusal of White lawmakers to grant full voting rights to residents, with some referring to Washington's "Negro problem."

Congress, Bowser said, has the ability "to right the wrong that happened 220 years ago," when the District of Columbia Organic Act gave Congress oversight of the city and said its residents could not vote in federal elections.

“The truth is, over 220 years we’ve had various experiences — of suffrage for Black men, to all of it being stripped away, to having appointed officials, to the situation where we are now, which is limited home rule,” Bowser said. “What we know is that we don’t have representation here in this House. . . . This is anti-democratic, and it’s un-American, and it has to be fixed now.”

Norton highlighted her own ancestors’ history in her plea to colleagues for support, noting that her great-grandfather “as a slave, walked away from a plantation in Virginia and made his way to D.C.” — where her family has “lived without equal representation for almost two centuries,” she said.

Her bill would shrink the federal district to a two-square-mile enclave of federal buildings, such as the Capitol and the White House, while making the rest of the city the State of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth — honoring abolitionist Frederick Douglass.

Republicans centered their opposition on constitutional grounds, saying they believed the Constitution envisioned the District as the seat of the U.S. government and never intended for it to be a state.

But their opposition also veered into arguments about why they believe D.C. does not deserve statehood.

Some Republicans, including Rep. Ralph Norman (S.C.) and Jody Hice (Ga.), noted the District’s lack of airports or a landfill, and its relative lack of car dealerships.

They questioned, as other GOP lawmakers have in the past, how the District could succeed as a state without large agricultural, manufacturing and mining sectors in its economy.

“They have no source of income,” Norman said, discounting the various ways that hundreds of thousands of city residents make a living, both inside and outside government. “In South Carolina, we have farming. In South Carolina, we have mining. The new State of Washington will have none of that.”

Bowser asked Republicans at one point not to discount Washington’s significant hospitality, sports and entertainment industries, while also stressing throughout the hearing that D.C. pays more federal taxes than most states.

Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-Md.), a constitutional law professor who has pushed for statehood since the 1990s, at one point grew exasperated with the Republican arguments.

“You are constantly trying to create a political and ideological test for admission to the union,” Raskin said. “The question is, are these taxpaying, draftable American citizens . . . deserving of equal rights? Of course they are.”

Zack Smith, a legal fellow at the Heritage Foundation called as a witness by Republicans, focused his testimony on the constitutional challenges to statehood.

The creation of the federal district is enshrined in the Constitution, which says “Congress shall have power to exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square).”

Smith argued the founders did not intend residents of the District to have the same voting rights as those in other states because of their proximity to the Capitol. Additionally, he said, the founders intended that the federal government, not state actors, would have the authority to call in federal police to protect the streets of the nation’s capital.

But Norton stressed Thursday that her bill does not eliminate the federal district, only changes its borders.

The federal government, she said, would still exercise its authority over the much smaller federal enclave that her bill would create. She also stressed that her bill seeks to pressure Congress to expedite repeal of the 23rd Amendment, which gives three electoral votes to the federal district. Republicans say the existence of the amendment is an insurmountable hurdle for statehood.

D.C.'s interim chief financial officer, Fitzroy Lee, noted the District's Triple-A credit rating in arguing that the city was financially prepared for statehood, though he acknowledged important decisions have yet to be made about how certain state-level departments would operate.

And Harry Wingo, a military veteran who lives in the city, posed the following question to lawmakers: "How can you ask D.C. veterans to keep carrying the burden of disenfranchisement when we have shouldered the burden of defending our country?"

Updated March 3, 2021

America's Racial Reckoning: What you need to know

Full coverage: [Race & Reckoning](#)

Newsletter: [Subscribe to About US to read the latest on race and identity](#)

George Floyd's America: [Examining systemic racism through the lens of his life](#)

Resources: [Understanding racism and inequality in America](#)



April 14, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker, United States House of Representatives
1236 Longworth H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader, United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Support for H.R.51/S.51, Washington, D.C. Admission Act

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), we are writing to offer our support for the Washington, D.C. Admission Act. As the association of local governments in metropolitan Washington, COG supports efforts to grant statehood to the District of Columbia.

Please see the attached resolution urging Congress to pass legislation to define a smaller federal district and establish the state of Washington, D.C. without delay.

Statehood for the District impacts the entire National Capital Region, home to more than 6 million residents, with hundreds of thousands of federal government employees and contractors serving the country. Residents currently living in the District, more than 11 percent of our region's population, a majority of them being Black and other persons of color, bear all responsibilities required of national citizenship, while being denied the rights and privileges afforded all other citizens of other states.

Given the inter-connectivity of the population living and working in the District of Columbia, suburban Maryland, and Northern Virginia, the designation of statehood for the District will positively impact residents throughout the metropolitan Washington region.

Please contact Chuck Bean, COG Executive Director, at (202)962-3260 or cbean@mwkog.org if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert C. White, Jr.
Chair, Board of Directors
District of Columbia

Christian Dorsey
Vice Chair, Board of Directors
Arlington County

Kate Stewart
Vice Chair, Board of Directors
City of Takoma Park

cc: Members of the COG Regional Congressional Delegation

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, NE
WASHINGTON, DC 20002**

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING STATEHOOD FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) comprises 24 of the National Capital Region's local governments and their governing officials, plus area members of the Maryland and Virginia legislatures and the United States Senate and House of Representatives, and COG provides a focus for action on issues of regional concern; and

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia is a founding member of COG and the center of the National Capital Region, and the District is the only jurisdiction in the United States that operates as a city, county, and state; and

WHEREAS, in 1788, James Madison wrote that the inhabitants of the federal district should have a "voice in the election of the government which is to exercise authority over them," and two-hundred years later, residents of the District of Columbia still lack representation in Congress and have no representation at all on matters before the Senate; and

WHEREAS, COG throughout its history has steadfastly supported the expansion of political rights for District of Columbia residents, from advocating for Home Rule, to more recent efforts to gain voting representation in Congress; and

WHEREAS, with a population of 712,000 residents, the District of Columbia exceeds the population of two states, anchors a metropolitan statistical area that is the sixth largest in the nation, and its residents pay annual federal taxes of more than \$27.5 billion – more per capita than any state and more total federal taxes than 22 states; and

WHEREAS, in November 2016, 86 percent of District of Columbia voters approved a referendum to make the District a state; and

WHEREAS, statehood for the District of Columbia impacts the entire National Capital Region, home to more than 6 million residents, with hundreds of thousands of federal government employees and contractors serving the country; and

WHEREAS, given the inter-connectivity of the population living and working in the District of Columbia, suburban Maryland, and Northern Virginia, the designation of statehood for the District will positively impact residents throughout the metropolitan Washington region; and

WHEREAS, statehood would allow the region to secure an equitable share of federal funding critical to address the current COVID-19 pandemic, vaccine distribution, and the immediate shortfalls essential to addressing the economic recovery of the region, and future public health emergencies; and

WHEREAS, statehood would allow the region more representation to advocate for additional federal infrastructure funding critical to address the needs of regional transportation systems such as the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA); and

WHEREAS, statehood would allow more control of regional public safety and coordination of mutual aid by granting the District of Columbia the ability to mobilize the District's National Guard when necessary to protect our region's residents, as well as federal assets, if requested; and

WHEREAS, statehood is necessary in realizing our regional commitment to advance racial equity as the District of Columbia's status means that their population, more than 11 percent of our region's residents, a majority of them being Black and other persons of color, bear all responsibilities required of national citizenship while being denied the the rights and privileges afforded all other citizens of other states; and

WHEREAS, statehood would add two Senators to the regional delegation and more accurately represent COG jurisdictions in Congress; and

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia has approved 25 consecutive balanced budgets relying on locally raised revenues, operates its own school system, manages its own SNAP, Medicaid, and transportation programs and receives federal block grants in the same manner as the 50 states that are typically awarded to states (Workforce training grants, Community Development Block Grants for housing, Ryan White Funding to combat HIV and Violence Against Women Act grants); and

WHEREAS, while the District of Columbia is fiscally self-sufficient with a \$16.9 billion gross budget, it is subject to Congressional review, unlike any other jurisdiction in the United States, and Congress maintains veto power over any law passed by the District's locally elected Mayor and City Council; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 51 and S.51 preserve the Capitol complex, the White House, National monuments and other federal property as the Federal District, independent of any state, in order to fulfill the constitutional mandate; and

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia has satisfied the four requirements to become a state: residents affirmed their desire to become a state; ratified a constitution; established new state boundaries; and committed to a republican form of government.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT:

The board supports statehood for the residents of the District of Columbia and urges Congress to pass legislation to define a smaller federal district and establish the state of Washington, D.C. without delay. The board directs the Executive Director, or his designee to share this resolution with Congressional leadership and the members of the metropolitan Washington regional Congressional delegation. Furthermore, the board encourages member jurisdictions to speak out in support of statehood for the District of Columbia.

AGENDA ITEM #9

COG CHIEF EQUITY OFFICERS COMMITTEE

**Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Chief Equity Officers Committee
Focus Areas and Priorities**

The purpose of the COG Chief Equity Officers Committee (CEOC) is to advance racial equity within COG programs and committees, COG member local governments, and throughout the metropolitan Washington region. The Committee will support COG's mission to be anti-racist and advance racial equity through work focused on implementing policies and practices that promote racial equity for all area residents and throughout COG's analyses, operations, procurement, programs, and priorities. The Committee's work will support the Chief Administrative Officers, the COG Board of Directors, and policy committees. The Committee is comprised of the Chief Equity Officer, or equity lead, from each COG jurisdiction. The Committee meets the fourth Thursday of the month at 2:00pm.

Scope of Work:

1. Serve as the hub for regional collaboration and coordination on advancing racial equity initiatives throughout the region, within COG's member local governments, and through COG's work.
2. Share information, data, resources, and best practices to advance racial equity and serve as a forum for cross-jurisdictional discussion.
3. Coordinate COG regional education and training initiatives as deemed appropriate by the Committee.
4. Support the COG Board of Directors, Chief Administrative Officers Committee and COG Policy Committees to advance racial equity through the priorities and projects executed each committee as requested.
5. Support the Region Forward Coalition to update the Greater Washington 2050 Compact focused on creating a more prosperous, accessible, livable, and sustainable metropolitan Washington by re-aligning the goals and targets to illuminate and support equity and inclusion.
6. Serve as a hub for collaboration and partnership with external community organizations on efforts to address racial equity in the region.

2021 Focus Areas:

1. Continue to organize and execute regional racial equity trainings
 - GARE Advancing Racial Equity in Local Governments – Introductory Cohort (second round)
 - GARE Advancing Racial Equity in Local Governments – Implantation Cohort (in progress)
 - Elected Officials Training
 - Sector Specific Implementation Training
2. Establish a regional definition of racial equity
 - “When race can no longer be used to predict life outcomes and outcomes for all groups are improved” (approved by the CEOC, to be considered by the Board at a future meeting)
3. Collaborate on regional communications to increase public understanding of local government racial equity initiatives
4. Create a regional implementation manual/guide that provides a framework for local governments to establish a chief equity officer and institutionalize racial equity work

**Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Chief Equity Officers Committee
2021 Committee Roster**

Jurisdiction	Name	Title
City of Alexandria	Jaqueline Tucker	Chief Equity Officer
Arlington County	Samia Byrd	Chief Race and Equity Officer
Town of Bladensburg	<i>Vacant</i>	
City of Bowie	<i>Vacant</i>	
Charles County	Renesha Miles	Chief Equity Officer
City of College Park	Bill Gardiner	Interim City Manager
District of Columbia	Brian McClure <i>Committee Vice Chair</i>	Council Office of Racial Equity Director
Fairfax County	Karla Bruce <i>Committee Chair</i>	Chief Equity Officer
City of Fairfax	Melanie Crowder	Chief of Staff/City Clerk
City of Falls Church	Steve Mason	Human Resources Director
City of Frederick	Marc DeOcampo	Chief Administrative Officer
Frederick County	Michael Hughes	Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer
City of Gaithersburg	Dennis Enslinger	Assistant City Manager
City of Greenbelt	Nicole Ard	City Manager
City of Hyattsville	Tracey Nicholson	City Administrator
City of Laurel	Christian Pulley	Acting Deputy City Administrator
Loudoun County	Valmarie Turner	Assistant County Administrator
City of Manassas	Elizabeth Via-Gossman	Assistant City Manager
City of Manassas Park	<i>Vacant</i>	
Montgomery County	Tiffany Ward <i>Committee Vice Chair</i>	Chief Equity Officer
Prince George's County	<i>Vacant</i>	
Prince William County	Maria Burgos	Equity and Inclusion Officer
City of Rockville	Melissa Wiak	Management Assistant
City of Takoma Park	Jessica Clarke	Deputy City Manager

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, NE
WASHINGTON, DC 20002**

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A COG BOARD OF DIRECTORS RACIAL EQUITY TRAINING TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) comprises 24 of the National Capital Region's local governments and their governing officials, plus area members of the Maryland and Virginia legislatures and the United States Senate and House of Representatives, and COG provides a focus for action on issues of regional concern; and

WHEREAS, the work of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments has been guided by the overarching goals of Prosperity, Accessibility, Livability, and Sustainability as espoused in COG's *Region Forward Vision* for the region; and

WHEREAS, equity is achieved when all people are fully able to participate in the region's economic viability, contribute to the region's readiness for the future, and connect to the region's assets and resources; and

WHEREAS, in July 2020 the COG Board of Directors adopted Resolution R26-2020 affirming that COG's work will be anti-racist, advance equity, and be woven into COG's *Region Forward Vision* to ensure a more prosperous, accessible, livable, sustainable, and equitable future for all area residents and throughout COG's analyses, operations, procurement, programs, and priorities; and

WHEREAS, in December 2020 COG established the Chief Equity Officers Committee as the hub for regional racial equity work of COG and a venue for chief equity officers of member COG jurisdictions to convene and collaborate; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Equity Officers Committee has identified developing a regional racial equity training for elected officials as a focus in 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Committee would like to receive input from and collaborate with board members to design a training(s) that meet the needs of local elected officials in the region.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT:

The Board authorizes the creation of a Racial Equity Training Task Force to provide input and direction to the Chief Equity Officers Committee and COG Staff to help develop a regional racial equity training(s) for member local government elected officials. The Task Force will be chaired by Vice Chair Kate Stewart and composed of COG Board members appointed by the Board Chair. The Task Force will sunset at the conclusion of the training development.

AGENDA ITEM #10

CONNECTED DMV GLOBAL PANDEMIC PREVENTION & BIODEFENSE CENTER

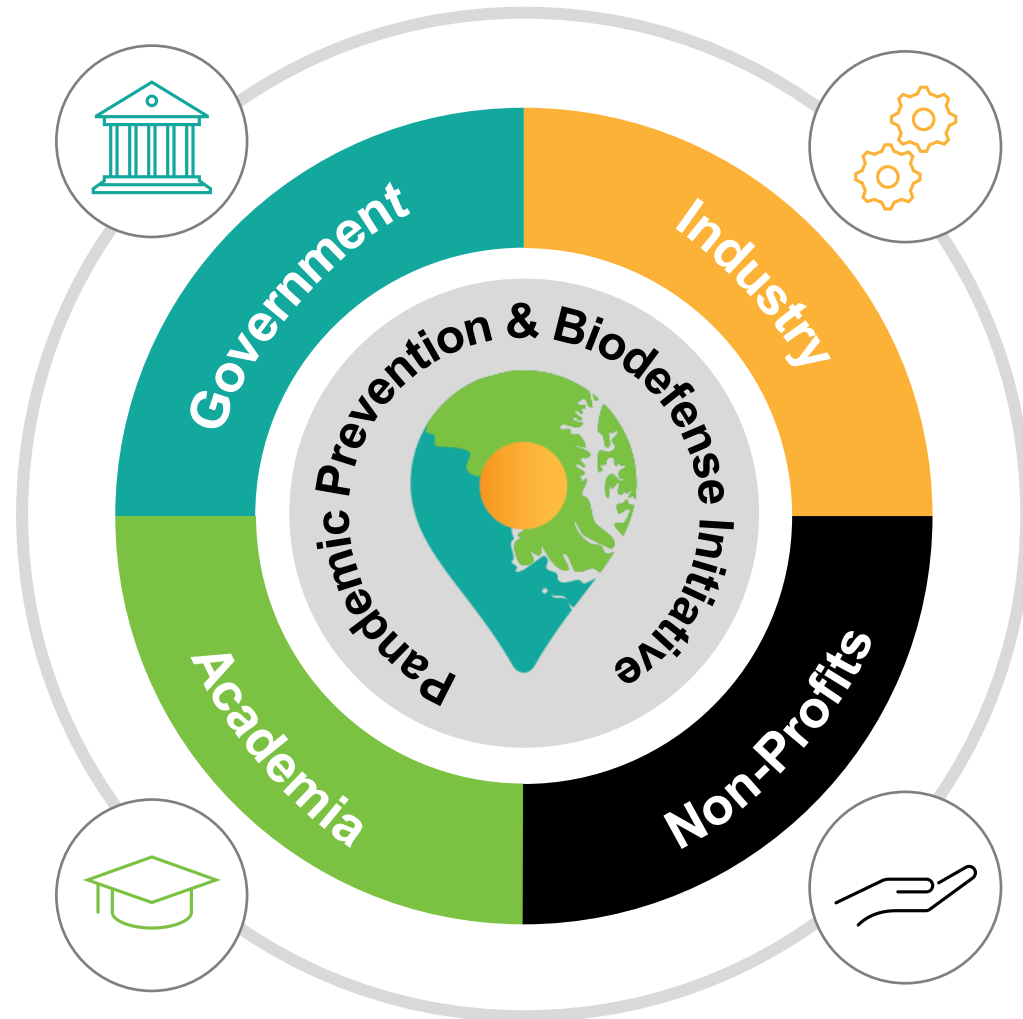


Global Pandemic Prevention and Biodefense Center (Pre-read Materials)

**Metropolitan Washington Council of
Governments**

April 14, 2021

Our region contains unmatched assets and capabilities for global pandemic prevention

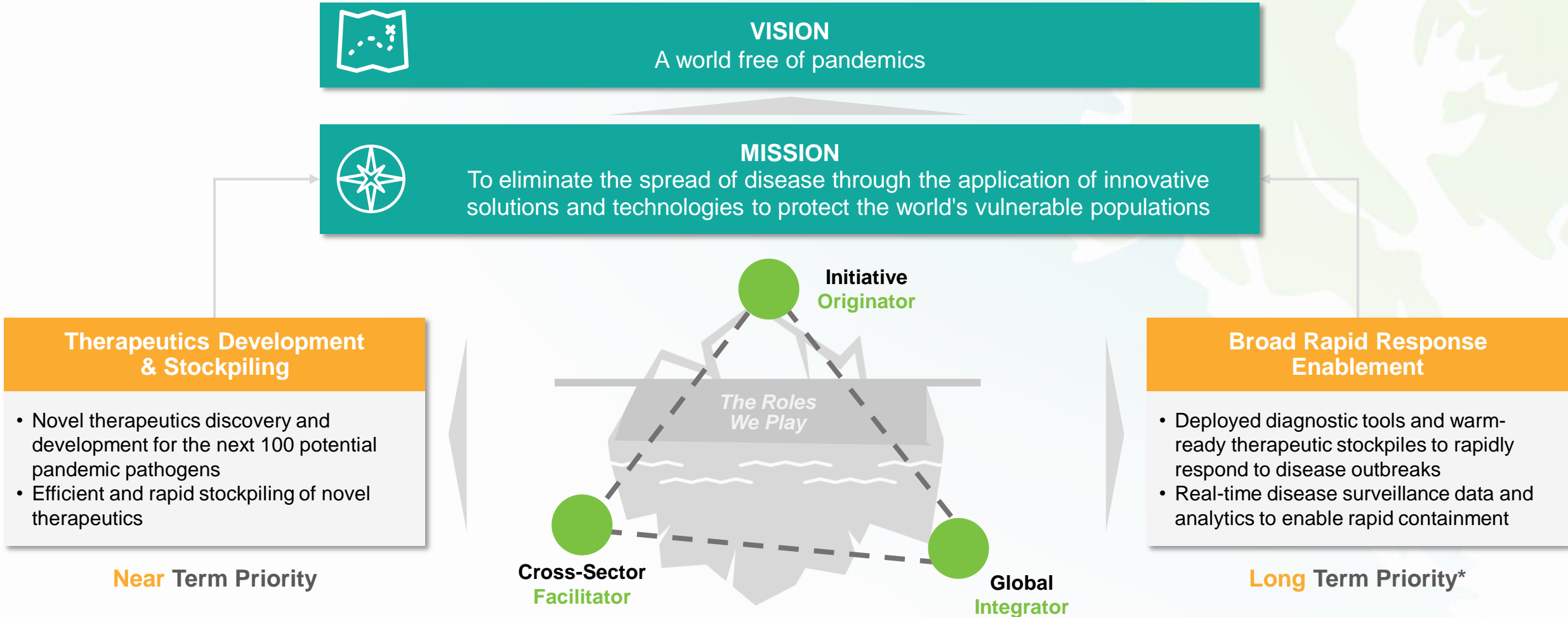


The Region:

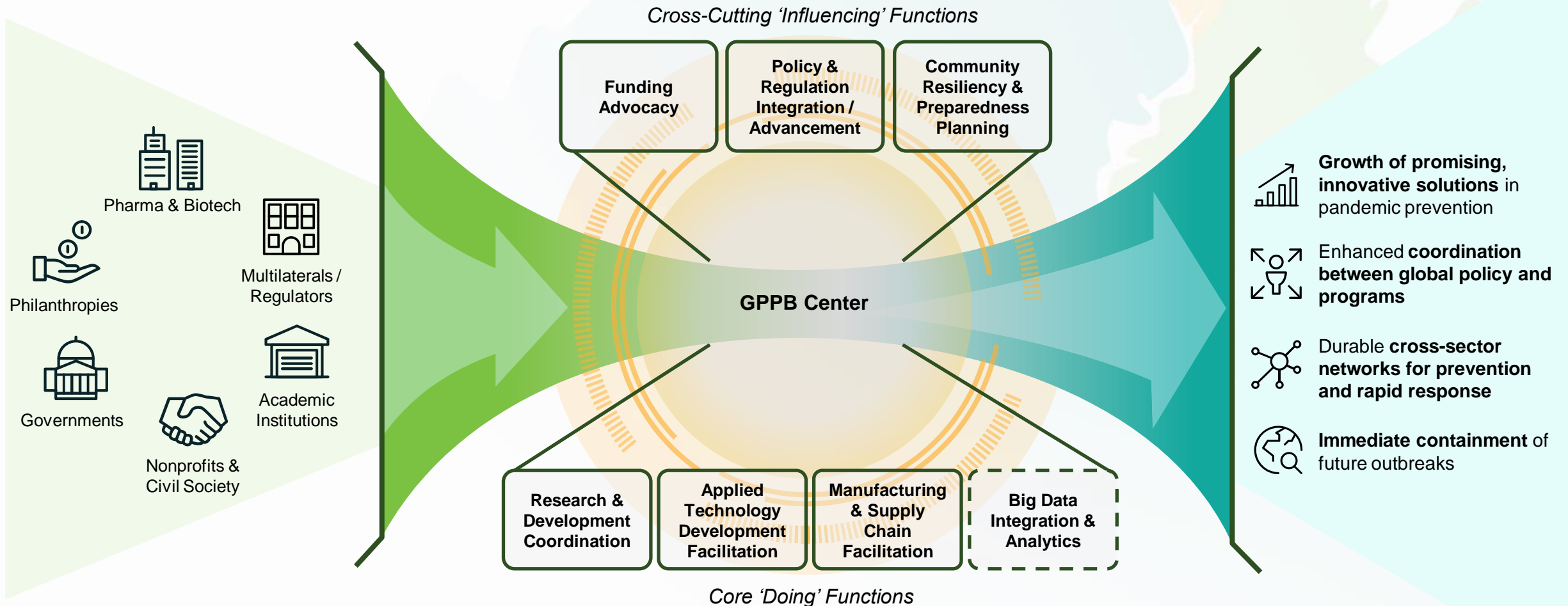
- Extensive ecosystem of government, industry, academia, and non-profits
- Home to more than 70 federal labs, 800 life sciences companies, the FDA, NIH/NIAID, ASPR/BARDA, DARPA, and other critical national biodefense assets
- Leading pharma and biotech industry companies and biohealth incubators
- World renowned academia and research institutions (e.g. University System of Maryland, Johns Hopkins, George Mason, George Washington)
- Global center of non-profits and philanthropy

- To help prevent future pandemics
 - Establish a global pandemic prevention center
 - Deliver initiatives, beginning with human monoclonal antibodies
 - Accelerate solutions and create a “warm ready” stockpile
 - Intermediate across industry, government, academia, and community
 - Quickly capture attention and resources while pandemics are a priority
 - Reinforce Greater Washington as a global center for pandemic preparedness

The Global Pandemic Prevention and Biodefense Center accelerates pandemic preparedness by coordinating and delivering innovative solutions across sectors to rapidly contain disease outbreaks



The cross-sector Global Pandemic Prevention and Biodefense Center fills a critical gap in end-to-end development of human monoclonal antibodies and other science and technology innovations



The Center will deliver AHEAD100 (Advanced Human Epidemic Antibody Defenses), an innovative program to develop and stockpile human monoclonal antibody (mAbs) for the top 100 pandemic-potential pathogens



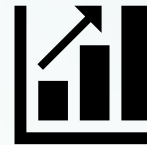
Monoclonal antibodies have emerged as most promising amongst therapeutics solutions due to their usability across all populations.



mAbs prevent and treat infection, providing an **effective strategy to contain outbreaks**, an essential component of rapid response.



Major philanthropic funders and governments have expressed interest in funding antibody research.

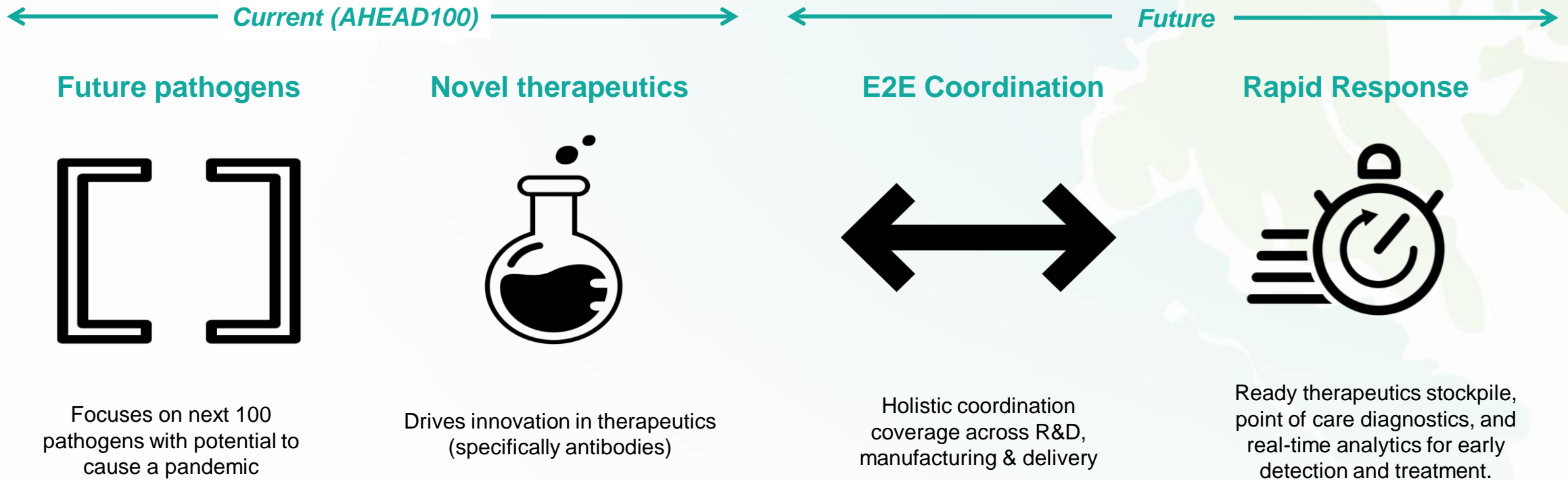


More than 100 mAbs have been developed since their inception in 1985 for various indications. They represent the largest market in pharma.



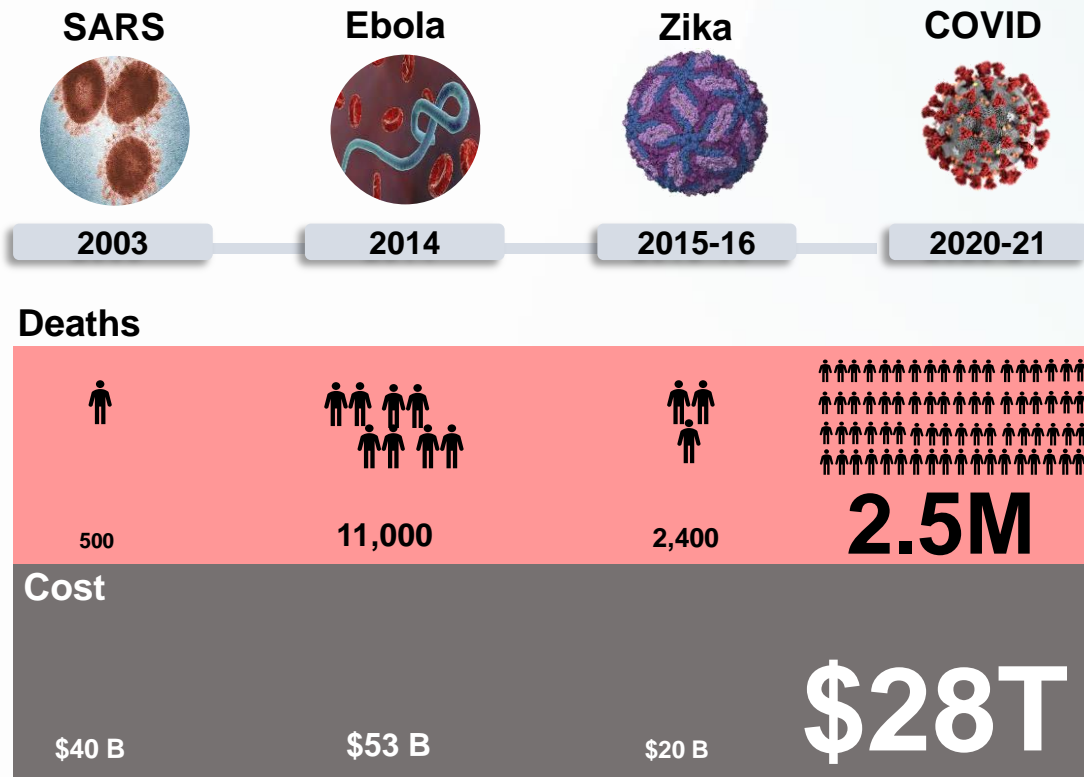
CDMV has established partnerships with leading stakeholders engaged in mAbs research and discovery.

The Center's current focus on mAbs R&D is unique; over time, the Center will also differentiate through its role as an end-to-end coordinator and rapid response facilitator

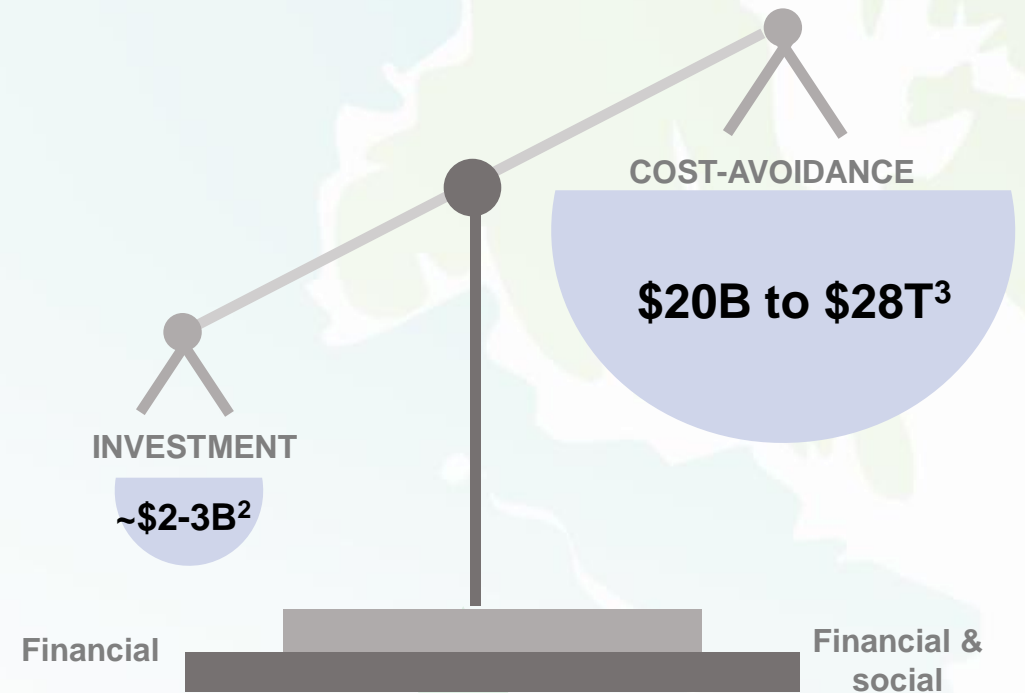


Investing \$2-3B in AHEAD100 allows the creation of a mAbs stockpile to prevent millions of infections/deaths and avert trillions of dollars in economic damage

OUTBREAK CASUALTIES AND COSTS¹

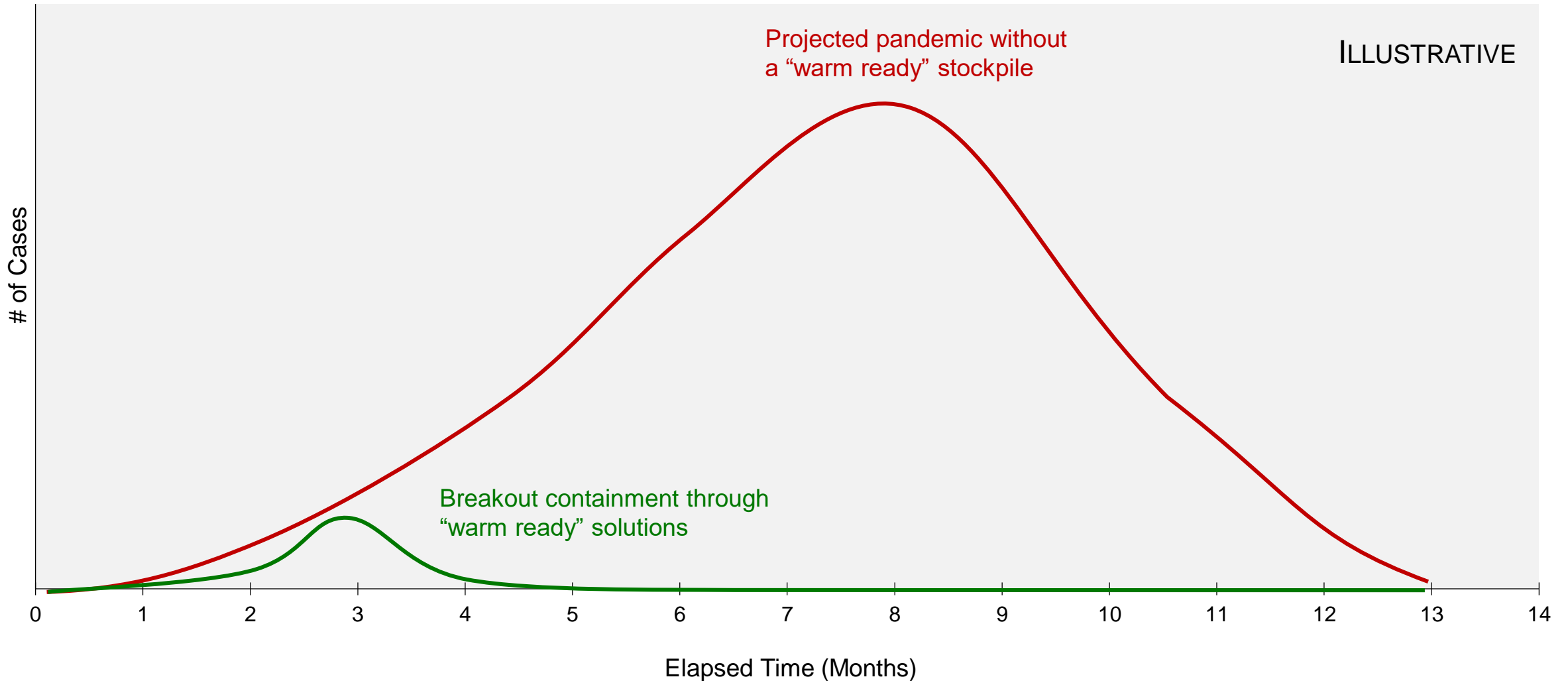


Source: Journal of Infectious Disease, IMF estimates



Notes: 1. Costs could include impact on health workers, long-term conditions suffered by outbreak survivors, and costs of treatment, infection control, screening and deployment of personnel, deaths from other diseases and other social costs due to loss of output. 2. Estimation factors in portfolio approach for mAb and accounts for cost of 100 mAbs across 16 families of pathogens with potential to cause pandemics for both Phase 1 and stockpile.

We can create the necessary countermeasures to contain pandemic-potential pathogens within 100 days of outbreak



AGENDA ITEM #11

OTHER BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM #12

ADJOURN