

MEMORANDUM

TO: COG Board of Directors
FROM: Chuck Bean, COG Executive Director
SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report – October 2019
DATE: October 2, 2019

POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) – At its September meeting, the TPB approved an amendment to the District of Columbia Transportation Improvement Program. The board also received briefings on preliminary findings from the State of the Commute survey, safety activities in Maryland, and an update on staff activities in support of the Aspirational Initiatives portion of the region's long-range transportation plan, Visualize 2045.

Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) – In September, CEEPC celebrated the region's designation as a Regional and Metro-Scale Climate Leader by the Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM) for Climate and Energy with representatives from the European Union's International Urban Cooperation (IUC) Program, Local Governments for Sustainability, and the National Association of Regional Councils. COG and its members will receive support and technical assistance from IUC and GCoM (*pictured*) as they work together on the region's 2030 Climate and Energy Action Plan.

Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC) – At its September meeting, the CBPC resolved to write a letter advocating for the U.S. Geological Survey to select the Potomac River Basin to compete nationally for its new "next generation" monitoring program, and to continue to foster COG's Agricultural Task Force work to support regional farming and food until a Regional Agricultural Commission can be established.



REGION RECOGNIZED FOR LEADING ON CLIMATE
Metropolitan Washington was chosen by the Global Covenant of Mayors as one of four regions in the U.S. leading the way on mitigating climate change.

[Read the news highlight](#)

OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Racial Equity Learning Cohort - COG, in partnership with the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE), launched the first-ever regional learning cohort of local government staff to advance racial equity. More than 100 managers and staff from 11 jurisdictions are participating.

Best Practices in Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety

– On September 27, the TPB’s Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee hosted an event for police officers, planners, and other members of the community to learn about how law enforcement helps bicycle and pedestrian safety. Presentations showed how important it is for enforcement to be a key element of safety programs along with engineering and education.

Regional Housing Initiative

– COG Executive Director Chuck Bean and Department of Community Planning and Services staff spoke about COG’s regional housing initiative and targets to the Prince William County Board, 2030 Group, National Capital Area Chapter of the American Planning Association, Apartment and Office Building Association, among other groups.

Interoperability Summit – COG Homeland Security and Public Safety Director Scott Boggs presented at the “Interoperability Summit: The Navy Yard Shooting Review Six Years Later” on policies that have been initiated since the shooting to enhance regional interoperability.

Coastal Flooding Open House – COG and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers held an open house on September 11 to provide information and seek input on a coastal storm risk management study for Northern Virginia. The study will assess the implementation of structural, non-structural, and nature-based coastal flood risk management solutions at different locations.

Cybersecurity of Elections – Elections Officials and Chief Information Security Officers met at COG on September 12 to discuss cybersecurity as it relates to the elections process, including threats and measures to mitigate them.

Car Free Days – Thousands of area residents participated in Car Free Days on September 21, 22, and 23 by carpooling, taking transit, bicycling, walking, teleworking, and more. The annual event is coordinated in the region by Commuter Connections, in partnership this year with the American Heart Association and American Lung Association, and encourages more environmentally- and health-friendly ways of traveling to work, school, errands, etc



STAFF FEATURE

COG Transportation Planner Jon Schermann makes an impact on the region’s transportation system, through his work on roadway safety and managing freight deliveries.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Region's Elected Officials Urge their Governments to Commit to Affordable-Housing Targets - COG Board Members are quoted about the regional housing targets adopted by officials at the September meeting.

[Washington Post story](#)

Most People Spend 43 Minutes Commuting, Plus 9 Other Facts From 'The State Of The Commute' - Commuter Connections Director Nicholas Ramfos and TPB Members are quoted about the findings of the *State of the Commute Survey Report*.

[WAMU article](#)

Study Will Take a Long, Hard Look at Threat of Flooding in Northern Virginia - COG Environmental Programs Director Steve Walz is quoted about the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and COG coastal storm risk management study.

[WTOP story](#)

How A One-Mile Road in Alexandria Became a Battleground for 'Road Diets' - COG Transportation Planning Director Kanti Srikanth is quoted about road diets, a planning concept that has been used to reduce lanes in order to slow down traffic to improve safety.

[WAMU article](#)



OFFICIALS SET REGIONAL HOUSING TARGETS
COG Housing Directors Committee Co-Chair Helen McIlvaine, Planning Directors Committee Co-Chair Andrew Trueblood, Executive Director Chuck Bean, Board Chair Robert White, and Board Vice Chair Derrick Davis held a media briefing on the regional housing targets adopted by area officials on September 11.

[Read about the targets](#)