



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wednesday, January 12, 2022
12:00 - 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., 2021 COG Board Chair
- 2. ELECTION OF 2022 COG BOARD OFFICERS**
Robert C. White, Jr., 2021 COG Board Chair
The board will consider approval of the 2022 COG Board officers.
Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution R1-2022.
- 12:10 P.M.** **3. ELECTION OF 2022 POLICY COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP**
Christian Dorsey, 2022 COG Board Chair
The board will vote on the proposed policy committee leadership for the: Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee; Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee; Food & Agriculture Regional Member Policy Committee, Human Services Policy Committee; and Region Forward Coalition.
Recommended Action: Adopt Resolutions R2-2022.
- 12:15 P.M.** **4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**
Christian Dorsey, 2022 COG Board Chair
A) 2022 COG Board Meeting Dates
B) 2022 COG Boards and Policy Committees Meeting Dates
C) Regional Racial Equity Learning Series for Elected Officials
- 12:20 P.M.** **5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**
Chuck Bean, COG Executive Director
- 6. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**
Christian Dorsey, 2022 COG Board Chair
- 12:25 P.M.** **7. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 10, 2021**
Christian Dorsey, 2022 COG Board Chair
Recommended Action: Approve minutes.

8. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Christian Dorsey, 2022 COG Board Chair

- A. Resolution R50-2021 – Resolution ratifying Executive Committee approval for COG to receive a grant, procure and enter into a contract to support development of the Charles County Climate Plan
- B. Resolution R3-2022 - Resolution authorizing COG to receive and expend grant funds for the Street Smart pedestrian and bicycle safety education campaign
- C. Resolution R4-2022 - Resolution authorizing COG to receive funds, procure and enter into a contract to purchase a deployable radio trunking system
- D. Resolution R5-2022 - Resolution authorizing COG to receive funds, procure and enter into a contract to upgrade the ROCC communications infrastructure
- E. Resolution R6-2022 - Resolution authorizing COG to receive grant funds, procure and enter into a contract to support development of the City of Falls Church Climate Plan

Recommended Action: Ratify Resolution R50-2021 and approve Resolutions R3-2022 – Resolution R6-2022.

12:30 P.M.

9. FY2021 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

David Meyer, COG Audit Committee Chair

The auditor presented the FY-2021 audit report to the Audit Committee, issuing an unmodified or “clean” opinion of COG’s financial statements. The Audit Committee reviewed the audit report and recommends approval.

Recommended Action: Receive briefing and adopt Resolution R7-2022.

12:35 P.M.

10. METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON PLANNING FRAMEWORK FOR 2030: ADVANCING HOUSING, CLIMATE, TRANSPORTATION, AND EQUITY GOALS

Christian Dorsey, 2022 COG Board Chair

The board will be briefed on and discuss COG’s proposed planning framework for 2030 and discuss plans to operationalize the priorities in the 2030 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Goal, Equity Emphasis Areas (EEAs), 2030 Housing Targets, and High-Capacity Transit Station Areas (HCTs).

Recommended Action: Receive briefing.

12:55 P.M.

11. H2 TWIN CITIES INITIATIVE

Chuck Bean, COG Executive Director

The board will be briefed on an opportunity to partner with Connected DMV and the Paris Region to participate in the H2 Twin Cities Hydrogen Initiative.

Recommended Action: Receive briefing and adopt Resolution R8-2022.

1:05 P.M.

12. 2022 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Christian Dorsey, 2022 COG Board Chair

The board will be briefed on the draft 2022 legislative priorities for transportation, environment, housing, health and human services, and emergency preparedness proposed by the COG Legislative Committee.

Recommended Action: Receive briefing and adopt Resolution R9-2022.

- 1:20 P.M. 13. LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY ON WMATA BOARD ALTERNATES**
Phil Mendelson, District of Columbia Council Chairman
The board will discuss approval of a letter supporting the amendment of current state laws limiting the role of WMATA Board of Director Alternates.
Recommended Action: Receive briefing and adopt Resolution R10-2022.
- 1:30 P.M. 14. REGIONAL EFFORTS TO ADDRESS MENTAL HEALTH STIGMA**
Andrea Bailey, 2021 Human Services Policy Committee Chair
The board will consider Resolution R11-2022, proposed by the Human Services Policy Committee to cooperate regionally to address mental health stigma.
Recommended Action: Receive briefing and adopt Resolution R11-2022.
- 1:40 P.M. 15. EXECUTIVE SESSION**
- 1:55 P.M. 16. OTHER BUSINESS**
- 2:00 P.M. 17. ADJOURN**
The next meeting is scheduled to take place virtually on Wednesday, February 9, 2022.

AGENDA ITEM #2

ELECTION OF 2022 COG BOARD OFFICERS

Resolution R1-2022
January 12, 2022

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

RESOLUTION ELECTING THE 2022 COG BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is comprised of the 24 jurisdictions of the metropolitan Washington region's local governments and their governing officials, plus area members of the Maryland and Virginia legislatures and the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, and COG provides a focus for action on issues of regional concern; and

WHEREAS, the COG By-laws state that the board shall annually elect a chair and one or two vice-chairs at the first meeting following the annual meeting of the general membership; and

WHEREAS, the 2022 Nominating Committee recommends approval of the proposed slate of COG Board officers for 2022: Chair Christian Dorsey, Vice Chair Kate Stewart and Vice Chair Charles Allen.

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

The board elects the proposed slate of COG Board Officers to serve as the Executive Committee to the COG Board of Directors in 2022.

AGENDA ITEM #3

ELECTION OF 2022 POLICY COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
PROPOSED 2022 POLICY AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

NAME	JURISDICTION	LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITY
COG Board Policy Committees		
Amy Jackson	City of Alexandria	Chair, Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources
Koran Saines	Loudoun County	Chair, Climate, Energy, and Environment
Mary Cheh	District of Columbia	Chair, Food & Agriculture Regional Member
Calvin Hawkins	Prince George's County	Chair, Human Services
Brianne Nadeau	District of Columbia	Chair, Region Forward Coalition
Budget and Finance Committee		
Christian Dorsey	Arlington County	COG Board Chair
Kate Stewart	City of Takoma	COG Board Vice Chair
Charles Allen	District of Columbia	COG Board Vice Chair
Pam Sebesky	City of Manassas	TPB Chair
Takis Karantonis	Arlington County	MWAQC Chair
Nancy Navarro	Montgomery County	COG President
Ann Wheeler	Prince William County	COG Vice President
Robert White	District of Columbia	COG Vice President
Rodney Lusk	Fairfax County	COG Secretary-Treasurer
Audit Committee		
David Meyer	City of Fairfax	COG Board Member
Emmett Jordan	City of Greenbelt	COG Board Member
Brian Feldman	State of Maryland	COG Board Member
Patrick Wojahn	City of College Park	COG Board Member
Employee Compensation and Benefits Review Committee		
Christian Dorsey	Arlington County	COG Board Chair
Kate Stewart	City of Takoma	COG Board Vice Chair
Charles Allen	District of Columbia	COG Board Vice Chair
Nancy Navarro	Montgomery County	COG President
Rodney Lusk	Fairfax County	COG Secretary-Treasurer
Phil Mendelson	District of Columbia	Past COG Board Chair
Pension Plan Administrative Committee		
Chuck Bean, Chair	COG	COG Executive Director
Rodney Lusk	Fairfax County	COG Secretary-Treasurer
Penny Gross	Fairfax County	Past COG Secretary-Treasurer
Denise Mitchell	City of College Park	COG Board Member
Imelda Roberts	COG	COG OHRM
Julie Mussog	COG	COG CFO
Jon Schermann	COG	Employee Representative
Phong Trieu	COG	Employee Representative
Robert Griffiths	COG	Past Employee Representative

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

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2022 COG BOARD POLICY AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE
LEADERSHIP**

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is comprised of the 24 jurisdictions of the metropolitan Washington region's local governments and their governing officials, plus area members of the Maryland and Virginia legislatures and the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, and COG provides a focus for action on issues of regional concern; and

WHEREAS, the COG Board of Directors approves the leadership for the individual policy committees, and the administrative committees, and various other positions that report to the Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, the COG Board is being asked to approve the attached proposed slate to serve in 2022.

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

The board approves the attached proposed slate of individuals to serve as the 2022 policy committee leadership and administrative committee membership on the following committees:

Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee
Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee
Food and Agriculture Regional Member Policy Committee
Human Services Policy Committee
Region Forward Coalition
Audit Committee
Budget and Finance Committee
Employee Compensation and Benefits Review Committee
Pension Plan Administrative Committee

AGENDA ITEM #4

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

COG Board of Directors 2022 Meeting Dates

The COG Board meets the second Wednesday of the month from 12:00 – 2:00 P.M.

- January 12 (virtual)
- February 9 (virtual)
- March 9 (in-person)
- April 13 (virtual)
- May 11 (in-person)
- June 8 (virtual)
- July 29-30 – COG Leadership Retreat (in-person)
- August – No meeting
- September 14 (TBD)
- October 12 (TBD)
- November 9 (TBD)
- December 14 – COG Membership & Awards Meeting (in-person)

In-person Meeting Location
777 N. Capitol Street NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
SCHEDULE OF POLICY COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR 2022**

COMMITTEES	Start Time	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
COG BOARD	Noon	12	9	9	13	11	8	29-30 Annual Retreat	No meeting	14	12	9	14 Annual Meeting
TPB	Noon	19	16	16	20	18	15	20	No meeting	21	19	16	21
MWAQC	Noon		23			25				28			7
CAOs	Noon	5	1	2	6	4	1	6	No meeting	7	5	1	7
CEEPC	10:00 AM	26		23		25		27		28		16	
CBPC	10:00 AM	21		18		20		22		16		18	
FARM			11		8		10	15	12		14		9
RFC	11:00 AM	28			29			22			28		
HSPC	Noon	14		11		13		8		9		TBD	
EPC	TBD												

*Meeting dates are subject to change.

AGENDA ITEM #5

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



MEMORANDUM

TO: COG Board of Directors
FROM: Chuck Bean, COG Executive Director
SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report – January 2022
DATE: January 5, 2022

POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) – In November, the TPB approved 21 local projects for funding through the Federal Transit Administration's Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program and discussed regional activities around Connected and Automated Vehicles (CAVs). At its December meeting, the board awarded five local projects funding through its Regional Roadway Safety Program and approved a letter to DC Mayor and MD/VA Governors calling for reciprocal agreement on automated traffic citations.

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) – In December, MWAQC was briefed on air quality planning related to the 2015 ozone standard. Guest speakers from Virginia Clean Cities and the District Department of Energy and Environment discussed their transportation electrification projects in the region, including the Mid-Atlantic EV Partnership and DC Electrification Road Map initiative.

Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) – In November, CEEPC discussed the challenges and opportunities around residential energy efficiency. Fairfax County also shared lessons learned and results of its recently approved Community Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP), an effort supported by COG through technical assistance.

Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC) – At its November meeting, CBPC was briefed on trends in regional stormwater fees and taxes and received a presentation on the Water Resources Technical Committee's (WRTC) draft *Recommended Stream Restoration Best Practices Report* for stormwater practitioners. Members were also briefed on Bay Program updates and reviewed the 2021 COG Legislative Priorities for water to discuss whether any adjustments were needed in preparation for 2022 legislation.



2021 ANNUAL VIDEO

COG Board members talk about two new planning principles that will help the region create transit-oriented communities that are accessible and affordable to all residents across metropolitan Washington.

[Watch the video](#)

Human Services Policy Committee (HSPC) – During its November meeting, HSPC received an overview of the 2021 outcomes of the year and a draft resolution on addressing mental health stigma, to be adopted by the COG Board of Directors in early 2022. The committee was also briefed on the initial findings from the 2020 Census.

Food and Agriculture Regional Member Policy Committee (FARM) – In November, FARM hosted a special session on Land Access for Farmers Identifying as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. At its December meeting, FARM learned about food security-related legislation at the D.C. Council and proposed legislation for the Maryland and Virginia General Assemblies in 2022.

OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

COG presentations – In November, COG Department of Community Planning and Services Director Paul DesJardin participated as a panelist at the National Capital Area Chapter of the American Planning Association’s annual meeting. Housing Program Manager Hilary Chapman hosted the NARC Regional Housing Initiatives Peer-to-Peer Workshop on November 30, focused on communicating the needs for affordable housing.

Street Smart Fall Campaign – On November 4, Street Smart launched a pedestrian and bicycle safety campaign in Prince George’s County featuring the stories of families and victims impacted by traffic accidents. The campaign combined education and enforcement and offered safety tips to drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists through a combination of transit ads, media outreach, digital engagement, video testimonials, and on-the-ground outreach.

Vehicle Emissions Exhibit – Clean Air Partners closed out 2021 with an interactive campaign focused on vehicle emissions. The car emissions exhibit included a vehicle encased in a clear plastic bubble accompanied by a large screen inviting participants to engage with the exhibit via a contactless interactive quiz composed of questions on driving behaviors and their impact on emissions and air quality. The two-day exhibit was hosted at Manassas Mall on December 29 and the Mall of Columbia on December 30.

COG Winter Weather Conference 2021 – On November 10, COG’s Department of Homeland Security and Public Safety hosted the annual Winter Weather Conference to support regional coordination for the 2021-2022 winter season. Over 165 partners attended the virtual Conference, representing



PODCAST: FEEDING OUR REGION

Metropolitan Washington is one of the wealthiest regions in the nation, but about one out of ten households isn’t sure where its next meal is coming from. This episode of *Think Regionally* is all about food insecurity—what it is, why it is happening, and some ways area officials, organizations, and farmers are working to address it.

[Listen to the episode or read the transcript](#)

many local, state, and federal government agencies and transportation sector organizations in the National Capital Region (NCR). During the conference, COG provided an overview of the revised COG Winter Weather Plan, and the National Weather Service provided an outlook for the season.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

D.C.-area organizations expected to receive about \$6.6 million in grants to improve mobility options for seniors, the disabled – COG Transportation Planner Lynn Winchell-Mendy discusses the next steps for projects awarded funding through COG’s Enhanced Mobility Program.

[The Washington Post](#)

'Most dangerous times of the year for pedestrians and bicyclists' | Officials urge caution on roadways as daylight saving time ends – Features COG Street Smart campaign, urging drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists to practice roadway safety.

[WUSA 9](#)

Despite low ridership, supporters say Transitway is a wise investment in the future – COG Transportation Engineer Eric Randall and Transportation Planner Stacy Cook discuss transportation infrastructure, traffic trends, future investment opportunities in metropolitan Washington.

[ARL Now](#)



CHUCK BEAN HIGHLIGHTS PLANNING EFFORTS
In an opinion for the *Washington Business Journal*, COG's Executive Director discussed strategies to address the region's housing challenges, including through new planning principles and the Housing Affordability Planning Program (HAPP) to support more affordably-priced housing near transit.

[Read the op-ed](#)

AGENDA ITEM #6

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

AGENDA ITEM #7

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

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

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

BOARD MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES: See attached chart for attendance.

SPEAKERS:

Rodney Lusk, COG Secretary Treasurer
Julie Mussog, COG Chief Financial Officer
Matt Erskine, Connected DMV Chief Strategy Officer
Stu Solomon, Connected DMV President & CEO
Paul DesJardin, COG Director of Community Planning and Services
Greg Goodwin, COG Senior Regional Planner
Andrea Bailey, Human Services Policy Committee Chair
Jeff King, COG Climate, Energy and Air Program Director

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COG Board Chair Robert C. White, Jr. called the meeting to order at 12:01 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- A. 2021 Annual Membership and Awards Meeting
- B. 2022 Board Meeting Dates
- C. Mark Jinks and Chris Martino Recognition

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

COG Executive Director Chuck Bean provided a brief update on COG committee leadership changes and upcoming meeting dates. Bean also provided an overview of the planning principles and work currently in action and the plan to connect these strategies and objectives to create a unified planning framework.

4. AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

There were no amendments to the agenda.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the October 13, 2021 board meeting were approved.

6. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Resolution R49-2021 – Resolution acknowledging receipt of the COG 2021 contract list

ACTION: Approved Resolution R49-2021.

7. FY2021 YEAR END FINANCIAL REPORT

COG Secretary Treasurer Rodney Lusk and COG Chief Financial Officer Julie Mussog briefed the board on the Fiscal Year 2021 Year End Financial Report.

ACTION: Received briefing.

8. CONNECTED DMV REGIONAL EQUITY AND GROWTH PLAYBOOK

Connected DMV President & CEO Stu Solomon and Chief Strategy Officer Matt Erskine briefed the

board on COG's new partnership with Connected DMV, the Consortium of Universities, and Federal City Council on the development of a DMV Regional Equity and Growth Playbook.

ACTION: Received briefing.

9. 2020 CENSUS REPORT ON THE REGION

COG Director of Community Planning and Services Paul DesJardin and Senior Regional Planner Greg Goodwin provided the board with a general overview of how the region has changed in the past decade based on the first set of 2020 Census redistricting data released to date.

ACTION: Received briefing.

10. REGIONAL EFFORTS TO ADDRESS MENTAL HEALTH STIGMA

COG Human Services Policy Committee (HSPC) Chair Andrea Bailey briefed the board on HSPC's efforts to address mental health stigma throughout the region.

ACTION: Received briefing.

11. TRANSPORTATION ELECTRIFICATION OPPORTUNITIES

COG Climate, Energy, and Air Program Director Jeff King updated the board on COG's efforts and opportunities for regional collaboration on transition to electric vehicles in the region.

ACTION: Received briefing.

12. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

13. ADJOURN

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 1:48 P.M.

November 10, 2021 Attendance

Jurisdiction	Member	Y/N	Alternate	Y/N
District of Columbia				
Executive	Hon. Muriel Bowser		Ms. Beverly Perry Mr. Wayne Turnage Ms. Lucinda Babers	Y
	Mr. Kevin Donahue		Eugene Kinlow	
Council	Hon. Phil Mendelson	Y		
	Hon. Robert White			
Maryland				
Bowie	Hon. Tim Adams	Y		
Charles County	Hon. Reuben Collins	Y	Thomasina Coates Gilbert Bowling	P
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	
Greenbelt	Hon. Colin Byrd		Hon. Emmett Jordan	Y
Laurel	Hon. Craig Moe	Y	Hon. Michael Leszcz	
Montgomery County				
Executive	Hon. Marc Elrich		Mr. Richard Madaleno Ms. Fariba Kassiri	Y
Council	Hon. Tom Hucker			
	Hon. Nancy Navarro			
Prince George's County				
Executive	Hon. Angela Alsobrooks		Ms. Tara Jackson	Y
Council	Hon. Derrick Leon Davis			
	Hon. Sydney Harrison			
Rockville	Hon. Bridget Donnell Newton	Y		
Takoma Park	Hon. Kate Stewart	Y	Hon. Cindy Dyballa Hon. Peter Kovar	
Maryland General Assembly	Hon. Brian Feldman			
Virginia				
Alexandria	Hon. Justin Wilson	Y	Hon. Redella Pepper	
Arlington County	Hon. Christian Dorsey	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			
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 #8

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS
January 2022

A. RESOLUTION RATIFYING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPROVAL FOR COG TO RECEIVE A GRANT, PROCURE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHARLES COUNTY CLIMATE PLAN

The board will be asked to ratify executive committee approval on December 1, 2021 to adopt Resolution R50-2021 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive and expend grant funds from Charles County in the amount of \$124,250 to develop a climate action plans for the county. The resolution also authorizes the Executive Director, or his designee, to proceed with procurement of a contractor(s), under contract 19-038-039 to support the development of the climate action plans. COG will be required to provide matching funds of \$12,425 which are available in the budget of the Department of Environmental Programs.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Ratify Resolution R50-2021.

B. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COG TO RECEIVE AND EXPEND GRANT FUNDS FOR THE STREET SMART PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE SAFETY EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

The board will be asked to adopt Resolution R3-2022 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive and expend grant funds from WMATA, the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia in the amount of \$820,000 for the regional "Street Smart" pedestrian and bicycle safety education campaign. This region-wide public safety campaign educates drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists about safe use of roadways in the District of Columbia, suburban Maryland, and Northern Virginia. Funding for this effort will be provided through grants from WMATA, the District Department of Transportation, the Maryland Highway Safety Office, and the Virginia Highway Safety Office. No COG matching funds are required.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt Resolution R3-2022.

C. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COG TO RECEIVE FUNDS, PROCURE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO PURCHASE A DEPLOYABLE RADIO TRUNKING SYSTEM

The board will be asked to adopt Resolution R4-2022 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive and expend \$1,417,500 for a deployable, expandable, Land Mobile Radio (LMR) trunked radio system as part of the NCRCIG Radio Cache standard equipment. As the Secretariat for the Urban Area Security Initiative for the National Capital Region, COG has been requested by the District of Columbia Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency to procure a contractor(s) and enter into a contract to design, purchase, and install the physical deployable trunking system and to train NCRCIG personnel on the deployment of the system. The system will be available to support planned and unplanned events within the NCR. Funding for this effort will be provided through a subgrant from the State Administrative Agent (SAA) for the National Capital Region. No COG matching funds are required.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt Resolution R4-2022.

D. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COG TO RECEIVE FUNDS, PROCURE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO UPGRADE THE ROCC COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE

The board will be asked to adopt Resolution R5-2022 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive and expend \$396,900 for an interconnected, interoperable public safety radio system for WMATA Rail Operations Control Center (ROCC) and backup ROCC Rail Fire Liaison Officer (RFL). As the Secretariat for the Urban Area Security Initiative for the National Capital Region, COG has been requested by the District of Columbia Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency to procure a contractor(s) and enter into a contract to replace the current fire liaison radios with an interconnected system that serves both the primary and alternate ROCC. The system will provide the vital link before the RLF and all WMATA serving jurisdictions. The equipment will be purchased, licensed, installed, and tested by Motorola Solution, Inc. Funding for this effort will be provided through a subgrant from the State Administrative Agent (SAA) for the National Capital Region. No COG matching funds are required.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt Resolution R5-2022.

E. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COG TO RECEIVE GRANT FUNDS, PROCURE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY OF FALLS CHURCH CLIMATE PLAN

The board will be asked to adopt Resolution R6-2022 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive and expend grant funds from the City of Falls Church in the amount of \$125,000 to support development of the city's climate plan. The resolution also authorizes the Executive Director, or his designee, to proceed with procurement for a contractor(s), under contract 19-038-039 to support the development of the City's climate action plan. COG will be required to provide a match of \$12,500 which is available in the budget of the Department of Environmental Programs.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt Resolution R6-2022.

AGENDA ITEM #9

FY-2021 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Link to audit documents:

**[https://www.mwcog.org/events/2022/1/12
/cog-board-of-directors1/](https://www.mwcog.org/events/2022/1/12/cog-board-of-directors1/)**



Board of Directors of the
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) for the year ended June 30, 2021, and have issued our report thereon dated December 29, 2021. We have previously communicated to you information about our responsibilities under auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, *Government Auditing Standards*, and Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance), as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

Significant audit findings

Qualitative aspects of accounting practices

Accounting policies

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by MWCOG are described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

There were no new changes in accounting principle for the year ended June 30, 2021.

We noted no transactions entered into by the entity during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Accounting estimates

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimate affecting the financial statements was:

- Management uses actuaries to estimate the pension liability in accordance with appropriate government accounting standards. At June 30, 2021 and 2020, the total estimated liabilities were \$61.0 million and \$60.6 million, respectively. The net pension assets are \$9.8 million and \$6.8 million. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the pension liability in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Financial statement disclosures

Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. There were no particularly sensitive financial statement disclosures.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

Difficulties encountered in performing the audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

Uncorrected misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management did not identify and we did not notify them of any uncorrected financial statement misstatements.

Corrected misstatements

Management did not identify and we did not notify them of any financial statement misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures.

Disagreements with management

For purposes of this letter, a disagreement with management is a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditors' report. No such disagreements arose during our audit.

Management representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated December 29, 2021.

Management consultations with other independent accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the entity's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditors' opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants. We were informed by management that there were no consultations with other accountants.

Significant issues discussed with management prior to engagement

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to engagement as the entity's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our engagement.

Significant findings or issues that were discussed, or the subject of correspondence, with management

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year. We noted no significant findings or issues arising from the audit that were discussed, or the subject of correspondence, with management.

Fraud or suspected fraud

We noted no instances of fraud or suspected fraud involving group management, component management, employees who have significant roles in group-wide controls, or others in which a material misstatement of the group financial statements has or may have resulted from fraud.

Other information in documents containing audited financial statements

With respect to the required supplementary information (RSI) accompanying the financial statements, we made certain inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the RSI, including whether the RSI has been measured and presented in accordance with prescribed guidelines, whether the methods of measurement and preparation have been changed from the prior period and the reasons for any such changes, and whether there were any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the RSI. We compared the RSI for consistency with management's responses to the foregoing inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge obtained during the audit of the basic financial statements. Because these limited procedures do not provide sufficient evidence, we did not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

With respect to the schedule of expenditures of federal awards (SEFA) accompanying the financial statements, on which we were engaged to report in relation to the financial statements as a whole, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form, content, and methods of preparing the SEFA to determine that the SEFA complies with the requirements of the Uniform Guidance, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period or the reasons for such changes, and the SEFA is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We compared and reconciled the SEFA to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves. We have issued our report thereon dated December 29, 2021.

Our auditors' opinion, the audited financial statements, and the notes to financial statements should only be used in their entirety. Inclusion of the audited financial statements in a document you prepare, such as an annual report, should be done only with our prior approval and review of the document.

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government and management of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.



CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Baltimore, Maryland
December 29, 2021

December 29, 2021

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP
1966 Greenspring Drive, Suite 300
Timonium, MD 21093

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements of Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG), which comprise the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information as of June 30, 2021, and the respective changes in financial position for the period then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements, for the purpose of expressing opinions on whether the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP).

Certain representations in this letter are described as being limited to matters that are material. Items are considered material, regardless of size, if they involve an omission or misstatement of accounting information that, in light of surrounding circumstances, makes it probable that the judgment of a reasonable person relying on the information would be changed or influenced by the omission or misstatement.

We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, as of December 29, 2021, the following representations made to you during your audits.

Financial Statements

1. We have fulfilled our responsibilities, as set out in the terms of the contract dated February 12, 2021, for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP. The financial statements include all properly classified funds and other financial information of the primary government and all component units required by generally accepted accounting principles to be included in the financial reporting entity.
2. We acknowledge and have fulfilled our responsibility for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
3. We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud.
4. We have identified all accounting estimates that could be material to the financial statements, including the key factors and significant assumptions used in making those estimates, and we believe the estimates (including those measured at fair value) and the significant assumptions used in making those accounting estimates are reasonable.

5. Significant estimates have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of U.S. GAAP. Significant estimates are estimates at the financial statement date that could change materially within the next year.
6. Related party relationships and transactions, including, but not limited to, revenues, expenditures/expenses, loans, transfers, leasing arrangements, and guarantees, and amounts receivable from or payable to related parties have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of U.S. GAAP.
7. All events occurring subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which U.S. GAAP requires adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.
8. We have not identified or been notified of any uncorrected financial statement misstatements.
9. We are not aware of any pending or threatened litigation, claims, or assessments or unasserted claims or assessments that are required to be accrued or disclosed in the financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP, or which would affect federal award programs, and we have not consulted a lawyer concerning litigation, claims, or assessments.
10. Guarantees, whether written or oral, under which the entity is contingently liable, if any, have been properly recorded or disclosed in accordance with U.S. GAAP.
11. Arrangements with financial institutions involving repurchase, reverse repurchase, or securities lending agreements, compensating balances, or other arrangements involving restrictions on cash balances and line-of-credit or similar arrangements, have been properly recorded or disclosed in the financial statements.
12. The fact that the amount of “uncollateralized” deposits or “uninsured, unregistered securities held by the counterparty, or by its trust department or agent but not in the entity’s name” during the period significantly exceeded the amounts in those categories as of the financial statement date was properly disclosed in the financial statements.
13. Receivables recorded in the financial statements represent valid claims against debtors for transactions arising on or before the financial statement date and have been reduced to their estimated net realizable value.
14. We believe that the actuarial assumptions and methods used to measure pension liabilities and costs for financial accounting purposes are appropriate in the circumstances.

Information Provided

1. We have provided you with:
 - a. Access to all information, of which we are aware, that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements such as records, documentation, and other matters.

- b. Additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit.
 - c. Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
 - d. Complete minutes of the meetings of the governing board and related committees, or summaries of actions of recent meetings for which minutes have not yet been prepared.
 - e. All communications from regulatory agencies, grantors, lenders, and other funding sources concerning noncompliance with, or deficiencies in, financial reporting practices.
 - f. All communications from regulatory agencies, grantors, lenders, and other funding sources concerning noncompliance with the provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements.
 - g. Access to all audit or relevant monitoring reports, if any, received from funding sources.
2. All material transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements and the schedule of expenditures of federal awards.
3. We have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.
4. We have no knowledge of any fraud or suspected fraud that affects the entity and involves:
 - a. Management;
 - b. Employees who have significant roles in internal control; or
 - c. Others when the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.
5. We have no knowledge of any allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the entity's financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, grantors, regulators, or others.
6. We have no knowledge of any instances of noncompliance or suspected noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, or waste or abuse whose effects should be considered when preparing financial statements.
7. We are not aware of any pending or threatened litigation, claims, or assessments, or unasserted claims or assessments, that are required to be accrued or disclosed in the financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP, or which would affect federal award programs, and we have not consulted a lawyer concerning litigation, claims, or assessments.

8. There are no other material liabilities or gain or loss contingencies that are required to be accrued or disclosed in accordance with U.S. GAAP.
9. We have disclosed to you the identity of the entity's related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware.
10. We have a process to track the status of audit findings and recommendations.
11. We have identified to you any previous audits, attestation engagements, and other studies related to the audit objectives and whether related recommendations have been implemented.
12. We are responsible for compliance with the laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts and grant agreements applicable to MWCOG, including tax or debt limits and debt contracts; and we have identified and disclosed to you all laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts and grant agreements that we believe have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts or other financial data significant to the audit objectives, including legal and contractual provisions for reporting specific activities in separate funds.
13. There are no violations or possible violations laws and regulations, provisions of contracts and grant agreements, tax or debt limits, and any related debt covenants whose effects should be considered for disclosure in the financial statements, or as a basis for recording a loss contingency, or for reporting on noncompliance.
14. The entity has complied with all aspects of contractual or grant agreements that would have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of noncompliance.
15. The financial statements include all component units as well as joint ventures with an equity interest, and properly disclose all other joint ventures, jointly governed organizations, and other related organizations.
16. The financial statements properly classify all funds and activities.
17. Components of net position (net investment in capital assets; restricted; and unrestricted) and equity amounts are properly classified and, if applicable, approved.
18. Investments are properly valued.
19. Provisions for uncollectible receivables have been properly identified and recorded.
20. Expenses have been appropriately classified in or allocated to functions and programs in the statement of activities, and allocations have been made on a reasonable basis.
21. Revenues are appropriately classified in the statement of activities within program revenues, general revenues.
22. Deposits and investment securities are properly classified as to risk and are properly valued and disclosed.

23. Capital assets are properly capitalized, reported, and, if applicable, depreciated.
24. We have appropriately disclosed the entity's policy regarding whether to first apply restricted or unrestricted resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position is available and have determined that net position is properly recognized under the policy.
25. We acknowledge our responsibility for the required supplementary information (RSI). The RSI is measured and presented within prescribed guidelines and the methods of measurement and presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period. We have disclosed to you any significant assumptions and interpretations underlying the measurement and presentation of the RSI.
26. We acknowledge our responsibility for presenting the combining financial statements and schedule of expenditures of federal awards (the supplementary information) in accordance with U.S. GAAP, and we believe the supplementary information, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with U.S. GAAP. The methods of measurement and presentation of the supplementary information have not changed from those used in the prior period, and we have disclosed to you any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement and presentation of the supplementary information. If the supplementary information is not presented with the audited financial statements, we will make the audited financial statements readily available to the intended users of the supplementary information no later than the date we issue the supplementary information and the auditors' report thereon.
27. As part of your audit, you prepared the draft financial statements and related notes and schedule of expenditures of federal awards. We have designated an individual who possesses suitable skill, knowledge, and/or experience to understand and oversee your services; have made all management judgments and decisions; and have assumed all management responsibilities. We have evaluated the adequacy and results of the service. We have reviewed, approved, and accepted responsibility for those financial statements and related notes and schedule of expenditures of federal awards. We have also ensured that the entity's data and records are complete and received sufficient information to oversee the service.
28. In regards to the preparation of the financial statements services performed by you, we have:
 - a. Made all management judgments and decisions and assumed all management responsibilities.
 - b. Designated an individual who possesses suitable skill, knowledge, and/or experience to understand and oversee the services.
 - c. Evaluated the adequacy and results of the services performed.
 - d. Accepted responsibility for the results of the services.

- e. Ensured that the entity's data and records are complete and received sufficient information to oversee the services.

29. With respect to federal award programs:

- a. We are responsible for understanding and complying with, and have complied with the requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance) including requirements relating to preparation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards.
- b. We acknowledge our responsibility for presenting the schedule of expenditures of federal awards (SEFA) and related notes in accordance with the requirements of the Uniform Guidance, and we believe the SEFA, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with the Uniform Guidance. The methods of measurement and presentation of the SEFA have not changed from those used in the prior period and we have disclosed to you any significant assumptions and interpretations underlying the measurement and presentation of the SEFA.
- c. We have identified and disclosed to you all of our government programs and related activities subject to the Uniform Guidance compliance audit, and included in the SEFA expenditures made during the audit period for all awards provided by federal agencies in the form of federal awards, federal cost-reimbursement contracts, loans, loan guarantees, property (including donated surplus property), cooperative agreements, interest subsidies, insurance, food commodities, direct appropriations, and other direct assistance.
- d. We are responsible for understanding and complying with, and have complied with, the requirements of federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards related to each of our federal programs and have identified and disclosed to you the requirements of federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards that are considered to have a direct and material effect on each major program.
- e. We are responsible for establishing and maintaining, and have established and maintained, effective internal control over compliance for federal programs that provides reasonable assurance that we are managing our federal awards in compliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards that could have a material effect on our federal programs. We believe the internal control system is adequate and is functioning as intended.
- f. We have made available to you all federal awards (including amendments, if any) and any other correspondence with federal agencies or pass-through entities relevant to federal programs and related activities.
- g. We have received no requests from a federal agency to audit one or more specific programs as a major program.

- h. We have complied with the direct and material compliance requirements (except for noncompliance disclosed to you), including when applicable, those set forth in the *OMB Compliance Supplement*, relating to federal awards and have identified and disclosed to you all amounts questioned and all known noncompliance with the direct and material compliance requirements of federal awards.
- i. We have disclosed to you any communications from federal awarding agencies and pass-through entities concerning possible noncompliance with the direct and material compliance requirements, including communications received from the end of the period covered by the compliance audit to the date of the auditors' report.
- j. We have disclosed to you the findings received and related corrective actions taken for previous audits, attestation engagements, and internal or external monitoring that directly relate to the objectives of the compliance audit, including findings received and corrective actions taken from the end of the period covered by the compliance audit to the date of the auditors' report.
- k. Amounts claimed or used for matching were determined in accordance with relevant guidelines in OMB's Uniform Guidance (2 CFR part 200, subpart E)
- l. We have disclosed to you our interpretation of compliance requirements that may have varying interpretations.
- m. We have made available to you all documentation related to compliance with the direct and material compliance requirements, including information related to federal program financial reports and claims for advances and reimbursements.
- n. We have disclosed to you the nature of any subsequent events that provide additional evidence about conditions that existed at the end of the reporting period affecting noncompliance during the reporting period.
- o. There are no known instances of noncompliance with direct and material compliance requirements that occurred subsequent to the period covered by the auditors' report.
- p. We have disclosed to you whether any changes in internal control over compliance or other factors that might significantly affect internal control, including any corrective action we have taken regarding significant deficiencies and/or material weaknesses in internal control over compliance, have occurred subsequent to the period covered by the auditors' report.
- q. Federal program financial reports and claims for advances and reimbursements are supported by the books and records from which the basic financial statements have been prepared.

- r. The copies of federal program financial reports provided to you are true copies of the reports submitted, or electronically transmitted, to the respective federal agency or pass-through entity, as applicable.
- s. We have monitored subrecipients, as necessary, to determine that they have expended subawards in compliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the subaward and have met the other pass-through entity requirements of the Uniform Guidance.
- t. We have issued management decisions for audit findings that relate to federal awards made to subrecipients and such management decisions have been issued within six months of acceptance of the audit report by the Federal Audit Clearinghouse. Additionally, we have followed-up ensuring that the subrecipient has taken timely and appropriate action on all deficiencies detected through audits, on-site reviews, and other means that pertain to the federal award provided to the subrecipient.
- u. We have considered the results of subrecipient audits and have made any necessary adjustments to our books and records.
- v. We have charged costs to federal awards in accordance with applicable cost principles.
- w. We are responsible for and have accurately prepared the summary schedule of prior audit findings to include all findings required to be included by the Uniform Guidance, and we have provided you with all information on the status of the follow-up on prior audit findings by federal awarding agencies and pass-through entities, including all management decisions.
- x. We are responsible for and have ensured the reporting package does not contain protected personally identifiable information.
- y. We are responsible for and have accurately prepared the auditee section of the Data Collection Form as required by the Uniform Guidance.
- z. We are responsible for taking corrective action on each audit finding of the compliance audit and have developed a corrective action plan that meets the requirements of the Uniform Guidance.
- aa. We have disclosed to you all contracts or other agreements with service organizations, and we have disclosed to you all communications from the service organizations relating to noncompliance at the service organizations.

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP
December 29, 2021

Sincerely,


Chuck Bean (Dec 29, 2021 17:37 EST)

Chuck Bean
Executive Director


Julie Mussog (Dec 29, 2021 16:50 EST)

Julie Mussog
Chief Financial Officer

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 NORTH Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002-4239**

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE FY-2021 AUDIT, AUTHORIZING THE EXTENSION OF THE INDEPENDENT
AUDIT FIRM'S CONTRACT TO PERFORM THE FY-2022 AUDIT**

WHEREAS, in accordance with COG's procedures and in compliance with requirements established by the Federal Government for recipients of grants and other financial assistance programs, COG engages an independent certified public accounting firm to conduct an annual fiscal year-end audit; and

WHEREAS, the Audit Committee recommends acceptance of the FY-2021 audit report and unqualified (clean) opinion prepared by the independent audit firm CLA, LLP; and

WHEREAS, based on the annual performance assessment, the Audit Committee recommends extension of the audit firm's contract for the FY-2022 audit.

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

1. The Board hereby accepts the FY-2021 Audit prepared by CLA, LLP, as presented by the Audit Committee.
2. The Executive Director, or his designee, at the direction of the Audit Committee, is hereby authorized to engage CLA, LLP to conduct the annual fiscal year-end audit for FY-2022 and prepare the annual Form 990 not-for-profit tax return, at a cost not to exceed \$66,600.

AGENDA ITEM #10

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON PLANNING FRAMEWORK FOR 2030: ADVANCING HOUSING, CLIMATE, TRANSPORTATION, AND EQUITY GOALS

Metropolitan Washington Planning Framework – 2022 Workplan

From 2019-2021, the COG Board of Directors has endorsed four planning priorities, which taken together form a framework to address several of the region’s key, interrelated challenges and advance COG’s *Region Forward Vision* for a more prosperous, accessible, livable, and sustainable future. In 2022, the board will focus on “operationalizing” this framework and identifying ways for COG to support and boost its members’ efforts turn these goals into action. The following four planning priorities make up the framework for 2030.

Equity Emphasis Areas (EEAs)

Regional planning concept to guide future growth and investment decisions. Approximately 350 locations with high concentrations of traditionally underserved communities.

High-Capacity Transit Station Areas (HCTs)

Regional planning concept to guide future growth and investment decisions. 225 locations around Metrorail, commuter rail, light rail, bus rapid transit, and streetcar stations that are in place or will be by 2030.

2030 Housing Targets

Regional planning targets to address the region’s housing needs, improve transportation, and support economic growth. Targets call for at least 320,000 more units by 2030, with at least 75 percent in Activity Centers and High-Capacity Transit Stations Areas and at least 75 percent affordable to low and middle-income households.

2030 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction Goal

Regional planning target to address climate change at the regional level. Target calls for a 50 percent reduction in GHG emissions below baseline levels—or 2005 emission levels. Its associated climate and energy action plan outlines various multi-disciplinary solutions.

2022 Framework Workplan

In the first half of 2022, four COG Board meetings will be dedicated to individual elements of the framework—providing an opportunity to learn about and discuss actions being taken at the local and regional levels. COG staff will also develop a brochure, website, and presentations to provide consolidated messaging and resources related to the framework. ([sample presentation attached](#))

Housing Focus

Housing Targets recap/update; Regional Housing Equity Plan; Multifamily Rental Housing Construction Indicators Report

Climate Focus

Regional Climate Action Plan update

High-Capacity Transit Station Areas Focus

Topics TBD

Equity Emphasis Areas Focus


Topics TBD

A REGION UNITED: GOALS & ACTIONS FOR 2030

Metropolitan Washington Planning Framework to Advance Equity, Transportation, Housing, and Climate Goals

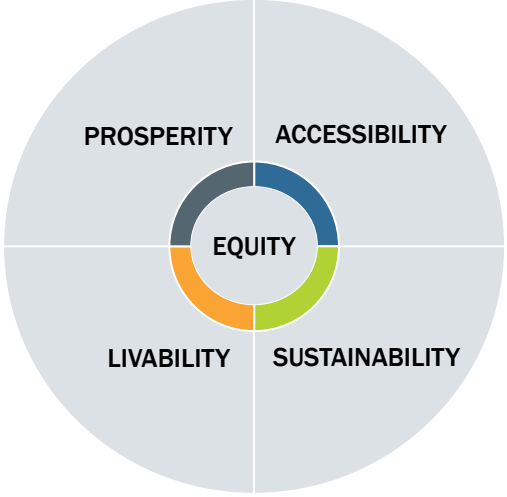
Chuck Bean
COG Executive Director

National Capital Planning Commission
January 6, 2022



1


Region Forward Vision



PROSPERITY ACCESSIBILITY

LIVABILITY SUSTAINABILITY

EQUITY



Metropolitan Washington Planning Framework for 2030 | 2

2

COG Board Planning Priorities

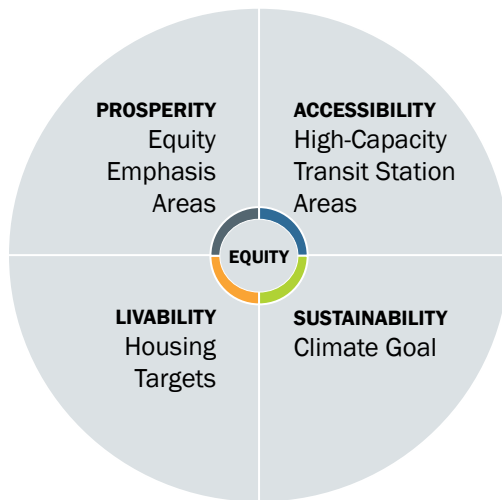
- If the challenges are interrelated, so are the solutions.
 - Housing Targets (2019)
 - Climate Goal (2020)
 - High-Capacity Transit Station Areas (2021)
 - Equity Emphasis Areas (2021)



New Carrollton rendering (WMATA)

3

Framework for 2030

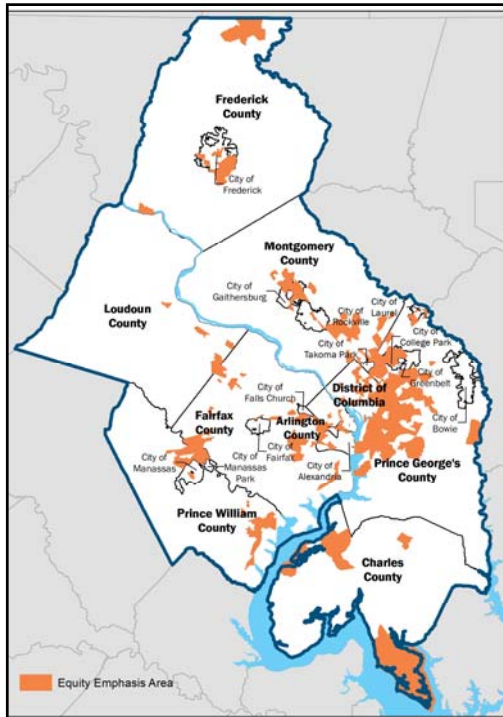


- **Affirming equity** – prioritizing underserved residents, weaving equity into vision.
- **Advancing cross-cutting goals** - demonstrating co-benefits, maximizing positive impacts.
- **Accelerating action** – providing a wide array of planning resources.

4

Advancing Shared Prosperity

5



Elevate 350 Equity Emphasis Areas (EEAs)

Areas with high concentrations of underserved residents.
mwco.org/equityemphasisareas

6

EEAs Located Regionwide

- Nearly 30 percent of the region's population resides within EEAs.
- EEAs are present throughout the region:
 - 28 percent in DC
 - 47 percent in MD
 - 25 percent in VA

Equity Emphasis Areas per Jurisdiction					
TPB Planning Area Jurisdiction	Number of EEAs	Total Population		Population within EEAs	
		#	%	#	%
District of Columbia	97	692,625	12.4%	373,236	24.0%
Charles County	5	159,428	2.9%	17,979	1.2%
Frederick County	9	251,422	4.5%	40,271	2.6%
Montgomery County	49	1,043,530	18.7%	259,093	16.6%
Prince George's County	103	908,670	16.3%	413,340	26.5%
Maryland Subtotal	166	2,363,050	42.3%	730,683	46.9%
City of Alexandria	9	157,613	2.8%	45,274	2.9%
Arlington County	12	233,460	4.2%	47,013	3.0%
Fairfax County	43	1,145,857	20.5%	215,246	13.8%
City of Fairfax	0	23,531	0.4%	0	0.0%
City of Falls Church	0	14,128	0.3%	0	0.0%
Loudoun County	5	395,134	7.1%	27,437	1.8%
City of Manassas	1	41,174	0.7%	7,609	0.5%
City of Manassas Park	1	16,986	0.3%	7,291	0.5%
Prince William County	17	467,886	8.4%	103,940	6.7%
Fauquier Co. UZA portion	0	35,928	0.6%	0	0.0%
Virginia Subtotal	88	2,531,697	45.3%	453,810	29.1%
Total	351	5,587,372	100.0%	1,557,729	100.0%



7

Cross-cutting: Opportunities for Broader Application of EEAs

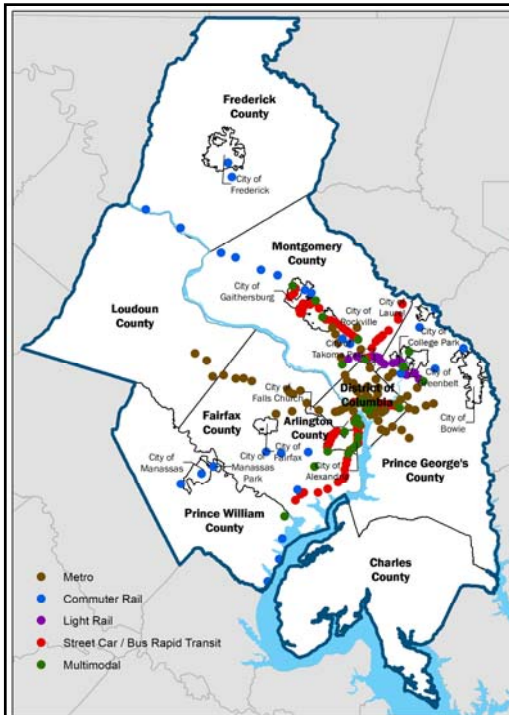
- EEAs can be used broadly in many local/regional planning activities:
 - Housing
 - Community Planning
 - Health
 - Public Safety
 - Transportation
 - Education
 - Economic Opportunities
 - Others!
- Examine the identified need in any planning activity – such as housing, transportation, health, climate change – includes EEAs and magnitude of need within EEAs.
- Customize solutions, as needed, to address the specific considerations within EEAs.



8

Advancing Accessibility

9



Optimize 225 High-Capacity Transit Station Areas (HCTs)

Locations around Metrorail, Commuter Rail, Light Rail, Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), and Streetcar.

mwkog.org/highcapacitytransit

10

High-Capacity Transit Station Areas (HCTs)

- Comprise just 10 percent—or 350 square miles—of the region's land area.
- Between now and 2030, HCTs will be the focus for:
 - 42 percent of the region's new household growth.
 - 55 percent of new job growth.
- A focus of our regional housing targets.
- Critical in our effort to build successful transit-oriented communities.



11

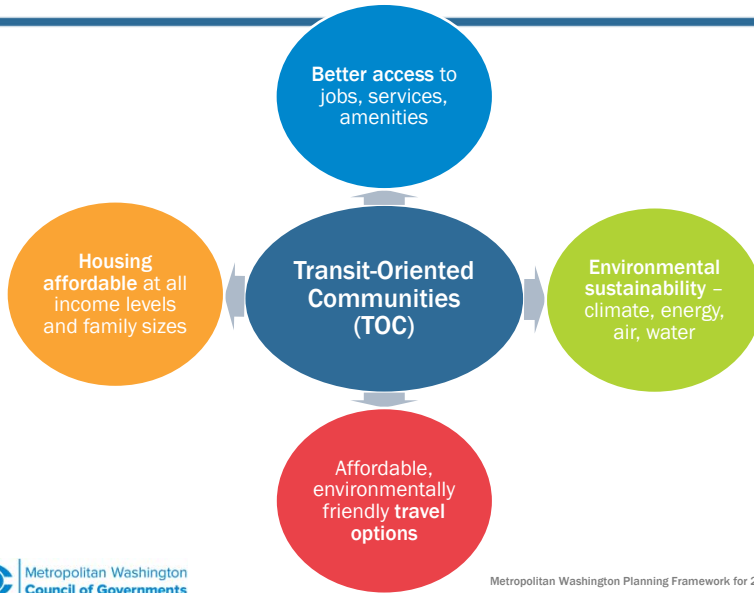
HCTs by Jurisdiction/Mode

JURISDICTION	TOTAL	Commuter Rail	Light Rail	Metro Rail	Multi System	Streetcar / BRT
City of Alexandria	21	0	0	1	4	16
Arlington County	19	0	0	8	4	7
City of College Park	5	0	3	0	2	0
District of Columbia	55	0	0	34	6	15
Fairfax County	28	4	0	11	2	11
Frederick County	3	3	0	0	0	0
City of Frederick	1	1	0	0	0	0
City of Gaithersburg	6	1	0	0	1	4
City of Greenbelt	1	0	0	0	1	0
City of Laurel	1	1	0	0	0	0
Loudoun County	3	0	0	3	0	0
City of Manassas	1	1	0	0	0	0
City of Manassas Park	1	1	0	0	0	0
Montgomery County	47	7	8	5	4	23
Prince George's County	23	4	6	12	1	0
Prince William County	5	4	0	0	1	0
City of Rockville	6	0	0	1	1	4
Regional Total	255	27	17	75	26	80

**The Greenbelt and Van Dorn HCTs are located on jurisdictional boundaries. Greenbelt is in the cities of Greenbelt and College Park, and Van Dorn is in the City of Alexandria and Fairfax County. These stations appear in their respective jurisdictional totals but are not double counted in the regional totals. (updated October 7, 2021)

12

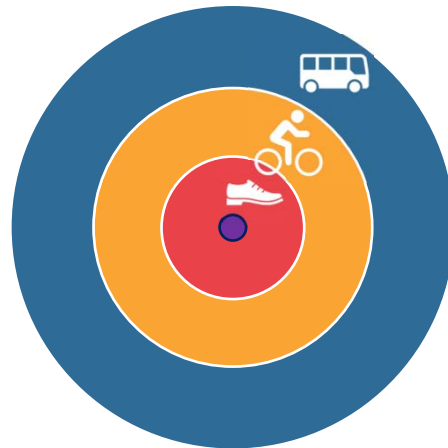
Transit-Oriented Communities



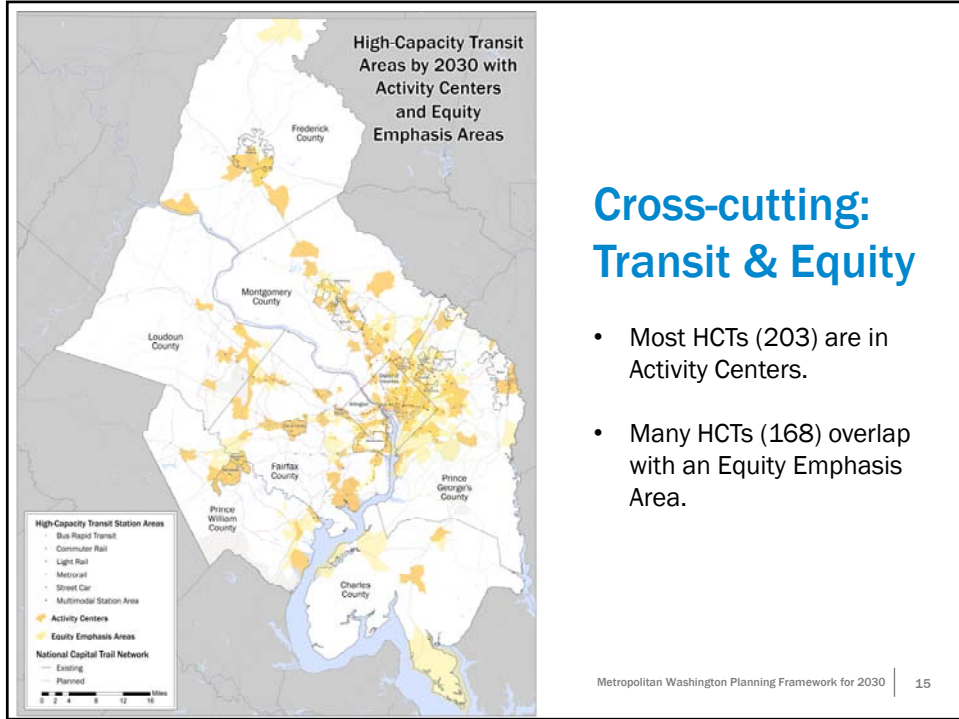
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Optimizing HCTs

- Enhance land use around stations:
 - Housing, offices, and shopping.
- Improve access to stations and nearby amenities:
 - Pedestrian and bicycle projects.
 - Bikeshare, e-scooter.
 - Microtransit services.



14




Cross-cutting: Transit & Equity

- Most HCTs (203) are in Activity Centers.
- Many HCTs (168) overlap with an Equity Emphasis Area.

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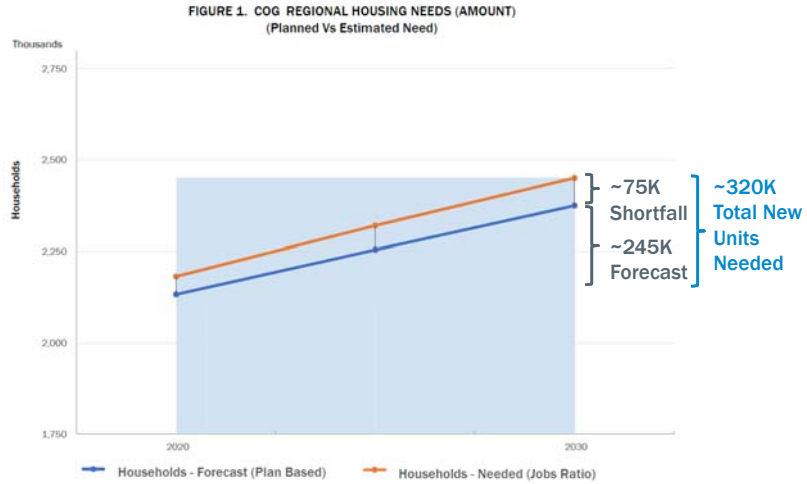
Advancing Livability

 Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

Metropolitan Washington Planning Framework for 2030 | 16

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Housing Needs, 2020-2030



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Regional Housing Targets: 2020-2030

- Regional Target 1: AMOUNT**
 At least 320,000 housing units should be added in the region between 2020 and 2030. This is an additional 75,000 units beyond the units already forecast for this period.
- Regional Target 2: ACCESSIBILITY**
 At least 75% of all new housing should be in Activity Centers or near high-capacity transit.
- Regional Target 3: AFFORDABILITY**
 At least 75% of new housing should be affordable to low- and middle-income households.

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Cross-cutting: Housing, Transit, Equity

Regional Target 1:

AMOUNT

At least 320,000 housing units should be added in the region between 2020 and 2030. This is an additional 75,000 units beyond the units already forecast for this period.

Regional Target 2:

ACCESSIBILITY

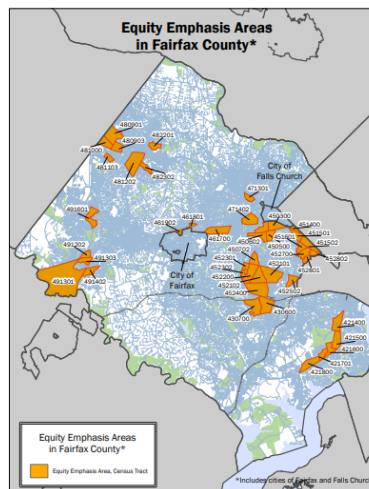
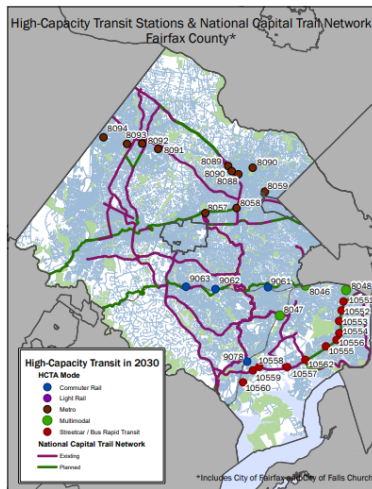
At least 75% of all new housing should be in Activity Centers or near high-capacity transit.

Regional Target 3:

AFFORDABILITY

At least 75% of new housing should be affordable to low- and middle-income households.

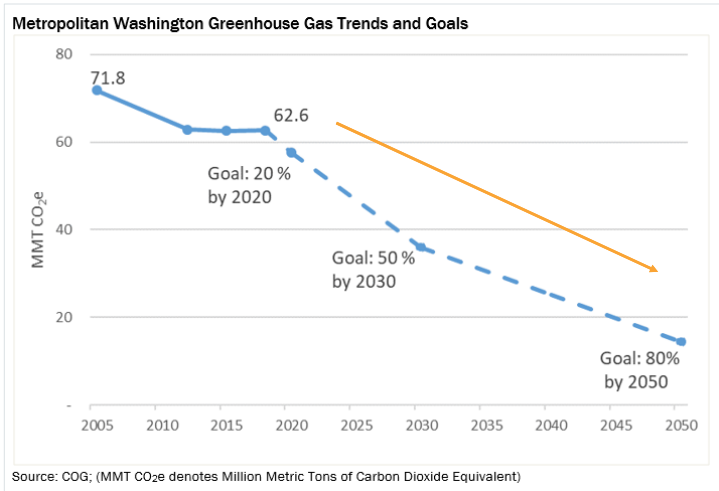
Cross-cutting: Housing, Transit, Equity



Advancing Sustainability

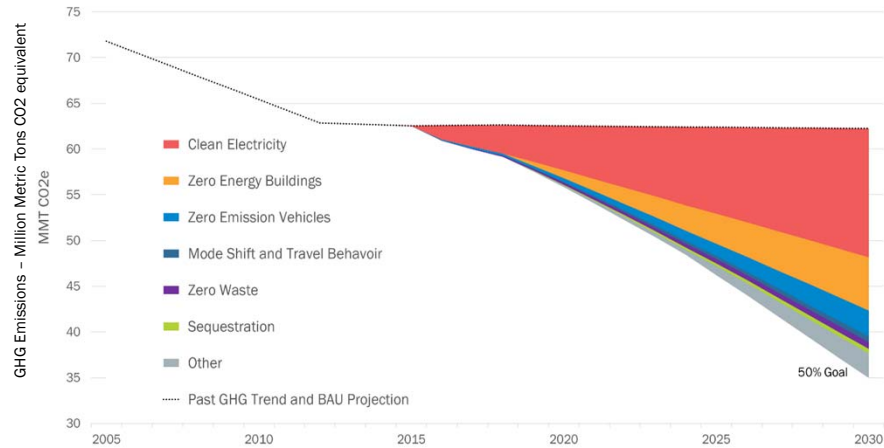
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Regional Climate Goals – 2020-2030



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GHG Emission Reduction Strategies

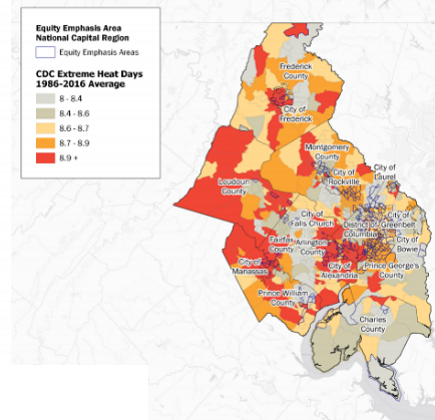


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Cross-cutting: Climate, Equity, Transit, and Housing

- 2030 Climate and Energy Action Plan identified equity-focused actions the region must take in pursuit of its climate goals.
 - Specifically, prioritizing sustainable energy access for all residents.
- Increased transit use and fewer solo drivers.
- More housing options that use less energy.

Figure 10: Extreme Heat Days and Equity Emphasis Areas



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Accelerating Action




Metropolitan Washington Planning Framework for 2030 | 25

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Accelerating Action

- Programs
 - Racial equity professional development
 - Housing Affordability Planning Program
 - Transit Within Reach; Transportation Land-Use Connections (TLC) Program
 - Climate/energy planning; Zero emission vehicles coordination
- Plans
 - Climate and Energy Action Plan
 - Housing Equity Plan
 - Visualize 2045 Aspirational Initiatives



Metropolitan Washington Planning Framework for 2030 | 26

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Advancing Racial Equity

- Resolution R26-2020: the COG Board affirmed that our work will be anti-racist, will advance equity, and weave equity throughout our work.
- Chief Equity Officers Committee.
- Regional Learning Cohort.
- Internal organizational staff training.



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Housing Affordability Planning Program

- Made possible with \$500,000 from Amazon Housing Equity Fund.
- \$75,000 grants to local governments and non-profit developers engaged in affordably-priced housing near transit.
 - Toward design work, feasibility studies, and zoning analyses to help jumpstart developments.



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Climate/Energy Action Planning

- COG helping members governments, agencies develop climate and energy action plans.
 - Government operations planning.
 - Community-wide planning.



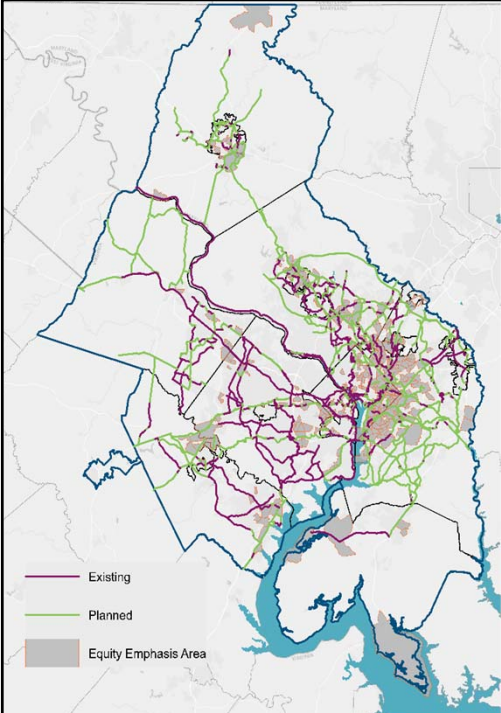
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Planning for Zero Emission Vehicles

- COG coordinated local/regional electric vehicle fleet planning. (Developing EV plans, policies.)
- Zero emission bus fleet support. (Sharing grant opportunities, lessons learned among members.)
- EV charger deployment.



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National Capital Trail Network (NCTN)


- Long-distance, off-street trails accessible for people of all ages and abilities and suitable for both transportation and recreation.
- 180 of 225 HCTs are within half a mile.
- 55% of the network is unbuilt.

Metropolitan Washington Planning Framework for 2030 | 31


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Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill

- Region to receive about \$20B/5 years.
 - \$3B (DC), \$7.6B (MD) and \$9.7B (VA)
- Additional \$30B available - competitive grant programs that our members individually, or collectively thru COG/TPB, can pursue.
- Alignment with COG framework - climate and equity goals.



VRE at Potomac River (Leandro Neumann Ciuffo/Wikimedia Commons)

 Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

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AGENDA ITEM #11

H2 TWIN CITIES INITIATIVE



H2 Twin Cities

Connecting communities around the world to deploy clean hydrogen solutions

H2 Twin Cities are self-assembled, international community partnerships that share ideas, mentor and learn from each other, build a community of hydrogen best practices, and strengthen global commitment to environmental justice, social equity, and clean energy jobs.

Background

Today there are limited regions in the world where hydrogen and fuel cell technologies are being deployed at scale. As clusters of hydrogen production and end-use applications at scale start to develop worldwide, sharing best practices and lessons learned can speed up technology deployment and adoption.

Supporting partnerships between cities across different continents can help build strong ties and a community of practice for leaders and implementers from cities, industry, government, and a broad group of stakeholders.

H2 Twin Cities can:

- Share lessons learned and best practices to accelerate demonstration and deployment of hydrogen technologies across applications
- Increase visibility for communities already deploying hydrogen projects
- Increase deployments and commitments for hydrogen and fuel cell project adoption
- Increase engagement of disadvantaged communities, the public, and stakeholders.

H2 Twin Cities is an initiative under the [Clean Energy Ministerial](#) (CEM) with support from multiple CEM country members and will collaborate with other global hydrogen partnerships like the International Partnership for Hydrogen and Fuel Cells in the Economy, Mission Innovation, and more.

Eligibility

- Communities who are already front-runners in hydrogen deployments
- Cities committed to meeting climate goals and interested in hydrogen and fuel cell technologies.

Types of Partnerships

- **Sibling Cities:** Pairings of cities from different countries that are already at the forefront of deploying hydrogen and fuel cell technologies with extensive experience and success in end-use acceptance, building infrastructure, and community awareness.
- **Mentor-Mentee Cities:** Pairings of cities from different countries that are at *significantly different levels* of hydrogen implementation. The Mentor city would share lessons learned and best practices with the Mentee city, which is committed to future deployment of hydrogen technologies.

Example Activities

- Stimulate regional clusters and getting to scale by developing reciprocal educational, municipal, business, professional and technical exchanges and projects for communities, city officials, and relevant deployment-focused stakeholders to creatively learn, work, and solve problems together.
- Create and share business cases for different applications and end uses (e.g., bus fleets, hospitals, trucks, industrial use) through videos or online tours.
- Share best practices in streamlined permitting and community/end-user acceptance such as through tutorials and webinars.



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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COG TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION, RECEIVE AND EXPEND FUNDS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE H2 TWIN CITIES INITIATIVE AND PARTNER WITH THE PARIS REGION

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

WHEREAS, area jurisdictions have a shared vision, *Region Forward*, for a more prosperous, accessible, livable, and sustainable future which calls for a significant decrease in greenhouse gas emissions, with substantial reductions from the built environment and transportation sector; and

WHEREAS, in October 2020 the COG Board adopted Resolution R45-2020, endorsing the regional climate mitigation and resiliency goals including a goal of 50 percent greenhouse gas emission reductions below 2005 levels by 2030 and to make significant progress to be a Climate resilient Region by 2030; and

WHEREAS, COG and its 24 member jurisdictions are actively engaged in developing and implementing climate action plans that integrate efforts across sectors such as energy, the built environment, and transportation; and

WHEREAS, H2 Twin Cities is an initiative of the Clean Energy Ministerial, a multi-nation effort designed to encourage global partnerships and enhance collaboration, coordination, and information exchange between cities in different countries to accelerate hydrogen deployments and user acceptance; and

WHEREAS, Connected DMV and its National Capital Hydrogen Center are explicitly focused on developing initiatives that accelerate the energy transition and adoption of clean, hydrogen-based solutions whose environmental, financial, and social benefits accrue to Metropolitan Washington area communities; and

WHEREAS, COG, along with Connected DMV as its strategic partner, intends to partner with Région Île-de-France (Paris Region) in an application to participate in the H2 Twin Cities Initiative to explore and better understand the opportunities to accelerate the clean energy transition and development of hydrogen eco-systems; and

WHEREAS, COG will work to build relationships and other partnerships and participate in the exploratory activities associated with sustainability, energy, jurisdictional engagement, and planning with a focus on sharing ideas on building best practices and strengthening commitment to environmental justice, social equity in exploring clean hydrogen energy to support the clean energy-based systems needed for the region to thrive.

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

1. COG's Executive Director is authorized to proceed with intentions to partner with the Paris Region to submit an application to the H2 Twin Cities Initiative, and if selected, receive funds to participate in the five-year program focused on sharing ideas on building best practices and strengthening commitment to environmental justice, social equity in exploring clean hydrogen energy to support the clean energy-based systems needed for the region to thrive.
2. COG's Executive Director is authorized to collaborate with Connected DMV and its National Capital Hydrogen Center to develop and submit an application for the H2 Twin Cities initiative.
3. COG's Executive Director or designee shall make periodic reports to COG's Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee and the COG Board about the application and, if approved, the learning exchange and potential applications in the metropolitan Washington region.

AGENDA ITEM #12

2022 Legislative Priorities

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Supporting the region's transportation funding, housing, water quality, climate and energy innovation, air quality, human services, public health preparedness, homeland security, food security, infrastructure investment and local government input across all sectors

January 2022

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Adopted by the COG Board of Directors on January 12, 2022

ABOUT COG

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (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.

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Photo Credits: Police Officer (Angela N./Flickr); Chesapeake Bay (iStock); Metro (Evelyn Proimos/Flickr); Housing (BeyondDC/Flickr)

ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

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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The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) operates its programs without regard to race, color, and national origin and fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations prohibiting discrimination in all programs and activities. For more information, to file a Title VI related complaint, or to obtain information in another language, visit www.mwcog.org/nondiscrimination or call (202) 962-3300.

El Consejo de Gobiernos del Área Metropolitana de Washington (COG) opera sus programas sin tener en cuenta la raza, el color, y el origen nacional y cumple con el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964 y los estatutos y reglamentos relacionados que prohíben la discriminación en todos los programas y actividades. Para más información, presentar una queja relacionada con el Título VI, u obtener información en otro idioma, visite www.mwcog.org/nondiscrimination o llame al (202) 962-3300.

TRANSPORTATION FUNDING, PLANNING, AND CONNECTIVITY

Support Fixing the Deficit in the Federal Transportation Trust Fund (TTF)

Since 2008, the TTF revenue has been insufficient to fund the congressionally authorized surface transportation program. These shortfalls have been closed with transfers from general fund and other short-term measures, including the recently enacted reauthorization for federal transportation spending through the Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act (IIJA). Support addressing this structural deficit and systemic imbalance of the TTF revenues as a top priority to provide certainty of federal funding for the surface transportation program and ensure that any fix to the TTF revenue structure preserves the additional funding for transportation infrastructure included in the 2021 IIJA.

Support Federal Funding for the Region's Metrorail System

The Metrorail system is the centerpiece of metropolitan Washington transportation system and supports the backbone of its economy. Almost half of all federal employees use the Metrorail and bus system to commute to work. The federal government should act to permanently provide its share of both operating and capital funding for the Metrorail system that its employees and the region depend on. Specifically, support making the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act (PRIIA) funding permanent to fund the federal government's annual appropriations for Metro's capital improvement budget and designate additional federal operating funds to enable Metro to implement fare relief programs on its rail and bus services to address inequities experienced by the traditionally underserved transit dependent population.

Support Funding for Next Generation Transportation Systems

The need for a more efficient and safer means of transportation is imperative to help achieve the nation's safety, energy-efficiency, and environmental goals. Electric and Hydrogen fuel vehicles and semi and fully autonomous vehicles are critical elements of delivering safe, efficient, and environmentally sustainable mobility. The private sector has made significant investments to advance the use of vehicles using alternative modes of energy and technology assisted vehicle operations. Significant public sector investments are needed to prepare transportation infrastructure to be able to utilize and support the new technology to build the next generation of transportation systems where travel is more efficient and safe. Support the continuation of federal funding for building electric vehicle infrastructure, beyond the term of the Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act.

Support Traffic Incident Management Improvements

Support state and federal policy changes to improve regional traffic incident management by updating regional agreements to increase the consistency of traffic incident management laws. Specifically, support legal and policy changes to designate transportation incident responders as emergency responders, allowing the use of flashing lights and sirens to get to incident scenes across state lines more quickly. Encourage federal, state, and local governments to negotiate an agreement for funding and deployment of roadway service patrols on federal parkways and other critical major roads not currently benefiting from such patrols.

Support the Visualize 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan

The region has identified a set of strategies to help improve mobility, accessibility while also contributing to improving regional air quality and help reduce greenhouse gases. These aspirational initiatives endorsed by the region's Transportation Planning Board as part of *Visualize 2045*: Bring jobs and housing closer together; Expand bus rapid transit and transit ways; Move more people on Metrorail; Provide more telecommuting and other options for telecommuting; Expand express highway network with bus rapid transit and carpools exempt from tolls; Improve walk and bike access to transit; and Complete the National Capital Trail. Support actions at the state and federal level to fund projects and programs and support enactment of policies that help advance the potential improvements of these initiatives.

Support the repeal of current participation limitations on WMATA Board of Directors Alternates

Support the repeal of VA Code § 33.2-1526.1(L) which currently results in a reduction of funding if WMATA Alternate Directors participate in board or committee meetings when directors are present. Subsequent to amendment of this statute, support the amendment of WMATA Bylaws Article II.11 and Article III.3.a, and otherwise as necessary, to allow Alternate Directors to participate in all board and committee meetings irrespective of the presence of the alternate's respective Director. The current limitations on Alternate Directors restricts their ability to access the necessary information and knowledge to effectively serve in their roles as WMATA Board Alternate Directors.

WATER QUALITY PROTECTION

Support Investments in Water Infrastructure

Support sustained and expanded funding for EPA's water quality programs, including the Chesapeake Bay Program and the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) and for state programs including grants for local governments and water utilities, state revolving funds (SRFs), and stormwater local assistance funds. Ensure that local water infrastructure investments meet water quality permit load allocations and handle future population and economic growth are protected. Invest in workforce training and development to ensure the availability of skilled workers to fill water sector jobs.

Support Climate and Flood Resiliency Initiatives

Support funding to address robust climate change analysis, adaptation and resiliency planning, flood control and management, drought management, and development and coordinated implementation of local best practices.

Ensure Stormwater Regulatory Feasibility

Support actions that provide for a feasible pace for future MS4 stormwater permits and reasonable reporting requirements.

Ensure Local Government Input

Ensure that local governments and wastewater and drinking water utilities are given opportunities to provide timely and meaningful input on legislation and management decisions affecting the Chesapeake Bay and local water quality.

Support Affordability and Regulatory Flexibility

Support cost-effective scheduling and financing of water quality programs, including streamlining permits, flexibility to achieve nutrient and sediment reduction across wastewater, stormwater, and other sectors, affordability of water, and full funding for agricultural conservation programs.

Support Water Supply Security

Support water quality security and resiliency through research, planning, and programs and drinking water source protection policies and programs to ensure a resilient, reliable and clean drinking water supply for the region.

CLIMATE AND ENERGY INNOVATION & AIR QUALITY PROTECTION

Support Policies to Meet the Region's Climate Goals

Expand funding, programs, and legislation at federal, state, and local levels to help meet the region's medium- and long-term climate change goals. Ensure that local governments are recognized and given opportunities to provide timely and meaningful input on climate and clean energy programs.

Ensure Sustainable Secure Energy Access for All

Advocate for state and federal actions to enhance access to secure, affordable clean energy. Prioritize and protect funding for energy-sector infrastructure to improve affordability, resilience and reliability. Support policies, funding, and incentives for energy efficiency improvements such as microgrids, district energy systems, and clean energy storage technology. Emphasize the need for deployment and workforce development in low-income, energy-burdened, and vulnerable communities to ensure an equitable climate future for all.

Support Aggressive State Renewable Portfolio Standards

State Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) are the most successful method of increasing the amount of renewable electricity generated within a grid system and drives greater deployment of renewable energy projects. Protect existing and advocate for more aggressive state RPS and the innovative policies and programs, business models, and funding opportunities that support meeting the RPS, such as supporting a strong REC market, solar carve-outs in RPS policies, offshore wind, Community Choice Aggregation, and community solar opportunities for energy-burdened households.

Expand Clean Energy Innovation, Technology and Finance

Encourage and support investment in energy-sector innovation across sectors to increase energy efficiency and transition to clean energy sources. Expand options for and improve access to clean energy finance at the state and local levels such as green banks. Foster cost effective and efficient market frameworks, reasonable regulatory frameworks, business model innovation incentives and partnerships that expand the adoption of energy efficient and zero energy building codes, building benchmarking, clean energy technologies and infrastructure, and zero-emission vehicles.

Support the Transportation Climate Initiative in designing and taking actions to reduce Greenhouse gases

The region and its member jurisdictions are committed to addressing the adverse impacts of climate change including reducing amount of harmful greenhouse gases (GHG) in our atmosphere. Transportation sector, including air, rail and roadway, is a major contributor of greenhouse gases. Transportation strategies with the potential to reduce the amount of these harmful gases are most successful and effective when implemented across multiple localities, regions, and states. The Transportation Climate Initiative (TCI) is a regional collaboration of 12 Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states and the District of Columbia working to develop implementable programs in the areas of Sustainable Communities, Freight Efficiency, Information and Communication Technology and regional policies such as the Cap and Invest program. The Governors of Maryland and Virginia and the Mayor of the District of Columbia are encouraged to continue their proactive participation in the

TCI to help to reduce GHG emissions in the transportation sector. The legislatures at the federal, state and local levels must make every effort to support implementing the programs as a priority.

Enhance Incentives and Financing Mechanisms for Resilient Infrastructure

Support legislation, incentives, financing, and funding mechanisms to support deployment of grey and green infrastructure resilient to extreme heat, flooding, and other climate hazards. Priority resilient infrastructure initiatives include the establishment of resilience hubs in climate vulnerable communities, improve the resilience of critical infrastructure (transportation, communication, energy and water system assets), equitably address urban heat island, enhance green infrastructure networks, provide for tree planting and preservation on privately owned lands, and implement measures to reduce flood risk in climate vulnerable communities.

Support Policies that Preserve and Protect Regional Air Quality and Public Health

Support strong policies, regulations, and funding necessary to preserve improvements in air quality and strengthen the region's ability to meet current and future air quality standards that are protective of public health and welfare. Expand efforts to increase and speed adoption of low-emitting technology solutions.

HOUSING AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES

Support Efforts to Equitably Increase the Supply of Housing and Promote Housing Affordability

Support legislation and programs (such as expansion of the nine percent Low Income Housing Tax Credit allocation and increased HOME funding) to preserve and increase the supply of housing and housing choices to address the full spectrum of needs in our region. Ensure that a sufficient supply of housing is preserved and created as outlined in COG's 2030 Regional Housing Initiative targets, that provides a diverse range of housing units, including size and price points that are affordable for our residents in the region's identified Activity Centers. Encourage innovative regulatory reforms that result in the production of a greater variety of housing types and eliminate exclusionary zoning practices. Support legislation, policies, and practices that increase access to opportunity, reverse segregation, and create inclusive communities in concert with efforts to increase supply overall. Support expanded funding for renters, landlords, and moderate-income homeowners caused by hardships of the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic recession to keep people stably housed and prevent an eviction and foreclosure crisis.

Support Efforts to End the Experience of Homelessness

Work with federal, state, and local Continuums of Care throughout the region to ensure that the experience of homelessness is rare, brief, and nonrecurring through implementation of a racial equity - informed "Housing First" approach. Support increasing the supply of supportive housing with wrap-around services that promote housing stability and independent living. Voice the need for additional HUD funding for Housing Choice Vouchers to meet the need for permanent housing options as well as robust state and federal resources for local governments to provide necessary supports, such as case management, housing counseling and navigator services to protect vulnerable residents. Support continued financial rental assistance to tenants and landlords to prevent a significant increase in people experiencing homelessness as federal and local eviction moratoriums end.

Support Alignment of Workforce Development and Job Creation

Support federal legislation to focus on workforce development and job creation at the local level, and efforts to develop industry standard credentialing and skills programs for sectors experiencing job growth in the region. Support legislation and programs that fund local job development, career and technical education, and overall, more closely align education and job creation.

Support Local Governments and Activity Centers

Work with local governments to support sound land use planning which focuses on employer retention and new job growth in the region's mixed-use Activity Centers.

FOOD SECURITY, HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Strengthen Programs that Support Childhood Nutrition and Well-Being

Build on lessons learned during COVID-19 through the upcoming Childhood Nutrition Reauthorization Act, and other federal, state, and local legislative efforts, to work to make access to school meals free for all students. Extend programs such as Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) and the Summer Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP). Enhance and expand the Women Infants and Children (WIC) Program. Support other policies which reduce childhood poverty and food insecurity. Strengthen farm-to-school programs and investments to connect the region's farmers with schools and childcare facilities. Support policies to provide healthier food and drink options on restaurants' children menus.

Improve Food Security and Healthy Food Access

Support federal, state and local initiatives to increase food and cash assistance to residents in need, including children, college students, adults and seniors. Increase participation in federal benefit programs, streamline program administration and support and evaluate innovative initiatives to serve residents not eligible for federal programs. Make permanent funding increases to SNAP to address food inflation and participants' nutritional needs. Support policies and investments that address disparities in rates of food insecurity in people of color, including Black and Hispanic/Latino households. Increase investments in programs that improve access to local and regional healthy food, including access at food banks and pantries, farmers markets and CSAs, food hubs, grocery, and in food as medicine programs. Recognize the hunting and fishing rights of indigenous people.

Support Small Farmers and Food System Resilience

Address issues such as Heirs Property which contributes to land loss among low-income people. Support local government efforts to increase farmland preservation, protect agricultural soils, and support programs that facilitate land transition to the next generation of small farmers. Center the unique experiences of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) in legislative proposals, and policy and program development to facilitate greater access to land ownership, capital, and markets. Invest in regional food system infrastructure and capacity to increase resilience.

Support Local Food Entrepreneurs, Businesses, and Workforce Development

Strengthen programs that support entrepreneurialism, workforce development, and living wages in the regional food economy. Invest in local business development and ownership and target those investments to help address long-standing food system inequities faced by communities of color. Create career pipelines for food and agriculture workers and improve the health and safety of work environments.

Support Efforts to Combat Substance Use Disorders

Work with local, state, and federal partners to increase resources to combat substance use disorders, including opioids, throughout the region which may include: improving access to treatment and recovery services, promoting prevention education, reducing the stigma of drug disorders, supporting research on pain management, and ensuring awareness of overdose-reversing drugs.

Increase Availability of and Access to Mental Health Services

Work with local, state, and federal partners to increase access to and availability of mental health services throughout the region to include psychiatric hospital beds, counseling, telehealth, and other outpatient services; support culturally competent providers from diverse backgrounds; develop communication strategies to combat mental health stigma and promote mental wellness throughout communities; continued expansion of crisis intervention, mental health courts, and diversion programs, where treatment is indicated rather than incarceration, especially for at-risk youth; and re-entry programs to reduce recidivism rates of mental health consumers.

HOMELAND SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Public Health Response

Support funding for public health to prevent, prepare for, and respond to public health emergencies and pandemics, such as the COVID-19 crisis. Leverage new and existing funding mechanisms that would provide resources to carry out public health surveillance, reporting, infection control, vaccine distribution, laboratory testing, mass care, planning and exercises, communications and other public health activities. Invest in an adequate workforce capacity and capability to support public health infrastructure. Enact and support the development of more secure supply chain networks, with a focus on vulnerable populations, as it relates to personal protective equipment (PPE) and other life safety equipment used in the response of pandemics.

Support Cybersecurity Preparedness Initiatives

Support cybersecurity programs and initiatives that advance and improve cyber preparedness and response to current and emerging threats. Work with local and state partners to develop resiliency against future cybersecurity attacks and other virtual threats targeted at our citizens and the information technology infrastructure of our communities.

Support Regional Emergency Preparedness

Continue to support emergency response preparedness programs that advance and improve response preparedness to existing and emerging threats. Work with local and state partners to maximize the region's share of federal grant funds and use these funds to promote value added outcomes that continue to increase capacity, capability, and developed standards for regional response in the National Capital Region.

Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Funding

The National Capital Region (NCR) receives UASI funding for efforts to address the multi-discipline planning, organization, equipment, training, and exercise needs of high-threat, high-density urban areas, and to assist in building and sustaining capabilities to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from threats or acts of terrorism using the whole community approach. As funding allocations are assessed, policy makers should recognize the complexity of challenges in the NCR that directly impact Federal government operations and security and support an increase in UASI funding to our region to effectively address the unique nexus of U.S. Federal, state, local, and international operations.

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Resolution R9-2022
January 12, 2022

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

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE COG 2022 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

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

WHEREAS, the draft 2022 Legislative Priorities have been reviewed by the individual policy committees and the 2022 Legislative Committee; and

WHEREAS, the COG Board has received and reviewed the draft 2022 Legislative Priorities; and

WHEREAS, the draft 2022 Legislative Priorities addresses the main issues the COG Board of Directors wants to communicate to state and federal officials as important concerns during the upcoming legislative session; and

WHEREAS, in order to communicate the annual priorities in a consistent manner staff developed Guidelines for Legislative and Regulatory Advocacy to ensure that all advocacy efforts are under the direction of the COG Board of Directors.

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

The board adopts the 2022 Legislative Priorities and directs its Executive Director, or his designee, to distribute the priorities to the appropriate state and federal officials representing areas of the COG member jurisdictions.

AGENDA ITEM #13

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY ON WMATA BOARD ALTERNATES



January 12, 2022

The Honorable Todd Gilbert
Speaker, Virginia House of Delegates
900 E. Main St,
Richmond, VA 23219

The Honorable
Majority Leader, Virginia Senate
Address 1
Richmond, VA XXXXX

Re: Repeal of current participation limitations on WMATA Board of Directors Alternates (VA Code § 33.2-1526.1(L))

Dear:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), we are writing to **strongly urge the repeal of VA Code § 33.2-1526.1(L) which currently results in a reduction of funding if WMATA Alternate Directors participate in board or committee meetings when directors are present.** As the association of local governments in metropolitan Washington, the operation of a safe and effective Metro system is a top priority. We commend the Commonwealth's unprecedented commitment to provide annual dedicated funding to support the transit system throughout Northern Virginia and the metropolitan Washington region, which aligns with our 2022 Legislative Priorities.

The legislation passed in 2018 by the Commonwealth of Virginia, VA Code § 33.2-1526.1(L) currently results in a reduction of funding if WMATA Alternate Directors participate in board or committee meetings when directors are present. The COG Board of Directors believes the current limitations on Alternate Directors restricts their ability to access the necessary information and knowledge to effectively serve in their roles as WMATA Board Alternate Directors.

In order to re-instate the ability of WMATA Board Alternate Directors to operate effectively, the board urges the Commonwealth of Virginia to repeal VA Code § 33.2-1526.1(L). Subsequent to amendment of this statute, the board urges the amendment of WMATA Bylaws Article II.11 and Article III.3.a, and otherwise as necessary, to allow Alternate Directors to participate in all board and committee meetings irrespective of the presence of the alternate's respective Director.

Your collaboration is essential to the continued leadership our region needs to keep Metro safe and our economy thriving. We appreciate your support on this matter. If you have any questions, please contact COG Executive Director Chuck Bean at cbean@mwkog.org or (202)962-3260.

Sincerely,

Christian Dorsey
Chair, Board of Directors
Arlington County

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

Charles Allen
Vice Chair, Board of Directors
District of Columbia

Cc: Metropolitan Washington Area Transit Authority Board of Directors

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

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE REPEAL OF CURRENT PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS ON WMATA
BOARD OF DIRECTORS ALTERNATES**

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

WHEREAS, the Metrorail system is the most significant regional transportation system and plays a critical role in meeting the National Capital Region's socio-economic and mobility needs and has served this need for the past 40 years; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, the region's local governments and states worked together to pass unprecedented legislation in the District of Columbia, the State of Maryland, and the Commonwealth of Virginia to establish dedicated funding for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA). Collectively committing an additional \$500 million a year to fund essential capital improvements to the Metro system; and

WHEREAS, the legislation passed by the Commonwealth of Virginia, VA Code § 33.2-1526.1(L) currently results in a reduction of funding if WMATA Alternate Directors participate in board or committee meetings when directors are present; and

WHEREAS, the COG Board of Directors believes the current limitations on Alternate Directors restricts their ability to access the necessary information and knowledge to effectively serve in their roles as WMATA Board Alternate Directors; and

WHEREAS, as stated in the COG 2022 Legislative Priorities, the COG Board supports the repeal of VA Code § 33.2-1526.1(L) and amendment of WMATA Bylaws Article II.11 and Article III.3.a, and otherwise as necessary, to allow Alternate Directors to participate in all board and committee meetings irrespective of the presence of the alternate's respective Director.

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

The board urges the Commonwealth of Virginia to repeal VA Code § 33.2-1526.1(L) which currently results in a reduction of funding if WMATA Alternate Directors participate in board or committee meetings when directors are present. Subsequent to amendment of this statute, the board urges the amendment of WMATA Bylaws Article II.11 and Article III.3.a, and otherwise as necessary, to allow Alternate Directors to participate in all board and committee meetings irrespective of the presence of the alternate's respective Director. The board directs the Executive Director, or his designee, to send a letter to leadership of the Virginia legislature and appropriate committees stating COG's position.

AGENDA ITEM #14

REGIONAL EFFORTS TO ADDRESS MENTAL HEALTH STIGMA

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

RESOLUTION TO COOPERATE REGIONALLY TO ADDRESS MENTAL HEALTH STIGMA

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

WHEREAS, area jurisdictions have a shared vision, *Region Forward*, for a more prosperous, accessible, livable, and sustainable future; and

WHEREAS, the Human Services Policy Committee provides policy recommendations on health, housing, homelessness, and other critical human service needs to the COG Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic recession has heightened the need to maximize limited local government resources effectively across the region to end mental health stigma; and

WHEREAS, efforts within local jurisdictions can reduce the stigma surrounding mental health to enhance mental wellness among residents; and

WHEREAS, the Human Services Policy Committee recommends the COG Board encourages member jurisdictions to expand and build upon current efforts to address the stigma surrounding mental health by achieving greater awareness around mental health issues, improving access to mental and behavioral health care, and more equitably meeting the needs of our constituents who suffer with mental and behavioral health issues; and

WHEREAS, the Board supports the Human Services Policy Committee's continued effort to combat mental health stigma and to highlight promising opportunities developed within our communities to improve mental and behavioral health outcomes for all residents of the metropolitan Washington region; and

WHEREAS, substance abuse and addictive disorders are recognized mental health disabilities that were exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, and are often stigmatized.

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

The COG Board of Directors directs the Human Services Policy Committee to work together collaboratively to combat mental health/substance dependence disorders in the metropolitan Washington region. To achieve this regional vision, the Board recommends all COG member jurisdictions consider implementing the following actions to the greatest extent possible:

- 1) Enhance Awareness: Develop communication strategies to combat the stigmas on mental health/substance dependence disorders and to promote mental wellness throughout communities.

- 2) Access to Care: Consider performing a needs assessment to identify barriers to mental health wellness and substance dependence treatment in order to destigmatize these recognized medical conditions and promote greater community awareness that mental health is health and close service gaps.
- 3) Racial Equity: Support and increase culturally competent providers from diverse backgrounds, various ages and throughout the COG region.

AGENDA ITEM #15

EXECUTIVE SESSION

AGENDA ITEM #16

OTHER BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM #17

ADJOURN