



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** COG Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Chuck Bean, COG Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** Executive Director's Report – May 2020  
**DATE:** May 6, 2020

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### COVID-19 COORDINATION

Following the April 22 COG Board resolution directing local city and county managers to work together to develop a coordinated, safe, and scientifically informed strategy for reopening the region, COG has been supporting the Chief Administrative Officers (CAO) Committee on reopening coordination. The group has been reviewing District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia plans for gradually relaxing restrictions put in place to slow the spread of COVID-19 and identifying principles that align across the jurisdictions. Staff has also been compiling and sharing metrics related to a safe reopening with decision-makers.

### POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

**National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB)** – At its April webinar meeting, the TPB voted to send a letter to the region's congressional delegation regarding the financial stability and viability of the area transportation system. They also approved 15 projects for technical assistance through the Transportation Land-Use Connections program to help make communities across the region more walkable, livable, and transit accessible.

**Region Forward Coalition** – During its April webinar meeting, members received briefings on the impact of the pandemic on the economy, food security and supply chains, and housing. They were also briefed on the Greater Washington Community Foundation's COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund.



#### **TPB SELECTS 15 PROJECTS FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

**Through its Transportation Land-Use Connections (TLC) program, TPB will provide support to planning projects that promote mixed-use, walkable communities. This year had the largest number of projects selected in the program's history.**

[View the projects](#)

**Homeless Services Committee (HSC)** – Due to COVID-19, HSC hosts weekly meetings to discuss strategies for and concerns about responding to the crisis. The discussions inform peer jurisdictions of actions being taken or contemplated to protect people experiencing homelessness and other front-line workers within the homeless services system from infection.

## OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

**COVID-19 Forecasting** – On May 5, COG Executive Director Chuck Bean and Department of Homeland Security and Public Safety Managing Director Scott Boggs presented at a NARC webinar, discussing how COG has been using the IEM 7-day modeling forecasting system to inform communications around the pandemic.

**Regional Resources** – Through its website, social media, and coordination with area public information officers (PIOs), COG shared information on how food, water, and air quality are being affected by COVID-19 and offered tips for how residents can help from home while following #StayHomeDMV orders.

**Protect Your Pipes** – COG coordinated with local PIOs and water utilities to share regional messaging reminding residents to not flush wipes, paper towels, and napkins, only toilet paper. Every Wednesday, COG and its partners share this messaging on social media to remind residents how these actions protect residents' plumbing and the region's valuable water infrastructure.

**Connected and Autonomous Vehicles** – On May 5, the TPB Technical Committee hosted a webinar on Connected and Automated Vehicles (CAVs) for members and stakeholders, featuring a presentation by national expert Paul Lewis of the Eno Center for Transportation. A series of webinars is planned on this topic as the TPB considers how its future regional transportation plans may address CAVs.

**Census Coordination** - In partnership with local governments and non-profits, COG continues to share and promote information to encourage regional participation in the 2020 Census.

## MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

**Regional leaders say D.C. region must work together to safely reopen businesses**– COG Executive Director Chuck Bean discusses COG Board statement on commitment to coordination during and after the pandemic.

[WJLA story](#)



### REGIONAL COORDINATION

COG has been working diligently to connect and support area officials in their efforts to respond to COVID-19 by sharing resources, messaging, research, and more.

[Visit the resource page](#)

**Washington has its cleanest spring air in 25 years: How air quality has improved during the coronavirus crisis** – Jen Desimone, COG Principal Environmental Planner, discusses how COVID-19 has impacted air quality in the region and what efforts will help sustain such progress.

[The Washington Post story](#)