



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wednesday, January 13, 2021
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**
Derrick L. Davis, 2020 COG Board Chair
- 2. ELECTION OF 2021 COG BOARD OFFICERS**
Derrick L. Davis, 2020 COG Board Chair
- The board will consider approval of the 2021 COG Board officers.
Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution R1-2021.
- 12:05 P.M.** **3. ELECTION OF 2021 POLICY COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP**
2021 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; Human Services Policy Committee; and Region
Forward Coalition.
Recommended Action: Adopt Resolutions R2-2021.
- 12:10 P.M.** **4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**
2021 COG Board Chair
A) *2021 COG Board Meeting Schedule*
B) *COG/TPB Town Hall Series - Leaning In to 2021: More Equitable, More
Resilient - January 15th*
- 12:15 P.M.** **5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**
Chuck Bean, COG Executive Director
- 6. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**
2021 COG Board Chair
- 12:25 P.M.** **7. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 12, 2020**
2021 COG Board Chair
- Recommended Action: Approve minutes.**

8. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

2021 COG Board Chair

- A. Resolution R3-2021 – Resolution authorizing COG to procure and enter into a contract to provide the District of Columbia Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency with exercise design, coordination, conduct, and evaluation support for the upcoming 59th presidential inauguration
- B. Resolution R4-2021 – Resolution authorizing COG to procure and enter into a contract to hire a marketing and communications consultant(s) for COG’s Go Recycle campaign
- C. Resolution R5-2021 – Resolution endorsing board approval of the Title VI plan update
- D. Resolution R6-2021 – Resolution authorizing COG to receive a grant, procure and enter into a contract to support the Prince George’s County Climate Commission
- E. Resolution R7-2021 – Resolution authorizing COG to receive a grant, procure and enter into a contract to manage a community planning effort for the Department of Defense Military Installation Resilience Review Program
- F. Resolution R8-2021 – Resolution authorizing COG to procure and enter into a contract to receive and expend funds to support the Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program
- G. Resolution R9-2021 – Resolution authorizing the creation of a task force to study DC statehood

Recommended Action: Approve Resolutions R3-2021 – R9-2021.

12:30 P.M.

9. FY-2020 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

David Meyer, COG Audit Committee Chair

PBMares, LLP presented the FY-2020 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. The Audit Committee completed an RFP authorized by R4-2020, and recommends awarding CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP the contract to perform the FY-2021 audit.

Recommended Action: Receive briefing and adopt Resolution R10-2021.

12:35 P.M.

10. 2021 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Monica Beyrouiti Nuñez, COG Gov. Relations and Member Services Supervisor

Staff worked with COG’s policy committees and the Legislative Committee to draft the COG 2021 regional legislative platform. The board will be briefed on the 2021 legislative priorities for transportation, environment, housing, health and human services, and emergency preparedness.

Recommended Action: Receive briefing and adopt Resolution R11-2021.

12:50 P.M. 11. COVID-19: VACCINE DISTRIBUTION

*Dr. David Goodfriend, Loudoun County Health Department Director
(Updated January 11, 2021)*

The board will be briefed on the status of regional distribution of the COVID-19 vaccines.

Recommended Action: Receive briefing.

1:20 P.M. 12. REGIONAL APPROACH TO PREVENTING AND ENDING HOMELESSNESS

Brianne Nadeau, 2020 Human Services Policy Committee Chair

The board will be updated on the HSPC's collaborative response to prevent and end homelessness by developing an agreement for participating jurisdictions to implement various actions, including better data sharing and reporting across our region. Following the briefing the board will be asked to approve the regional compact to end homelessness.

Recommended Action: Receive briefing and adopt Resolution R12-2021.

1:40 P.M. 13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1:55 P.M. 14. OTHER BUSINESS

2:00 P.M. 15. ADJOURN

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 10, 2020.

AGENDA ITEM #2

ELECTION OF 2021 COG BOARD OFFICERS

Resolution R1-2021
January 13, 2021

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

RESOLUTION ELECTING THE 2021 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 2021 Nominating Committee recommends approval of the proposed slate of COG Board officers for 2021: Chair Robert C. White, Jr., Vice Chair Christian Dorsey, and Vice Chair Kate Stewart.

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 2021.

AGENDA ITEM #3

ELECTION OF 2021 POLICY COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
PROPOSED 2021 POLICY AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

NAME	JURISDICTION	LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITY
COG Board Policy Committees		
Laurie-Anne Sayles	City of Gaithersburg	Chair, Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources
Deni Taveres	Prince Georges County	Chair, Climate, Energy, and Environment
Andrea Bailey	Prince William County	Chair, Human Services
Libby Garvey	Arlington County	Chair, Region Forward Coalition
Budget and Finance Committee		
Robert White	District of Columbia	COG Board Chair
Christian Dorsey	Arlington County	COG Board Vice Chair
Kate Stewart	City of Takoma	COG Board Vice Chair
Charles Allen	District of Columbia	TPB Chair
Robert Day	City of College Park	MWAQC Chair
Muriel Bowser	District of Columbia	COG 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		
Robert White	District of Columbia	COG Board Chair
Christian Dorsey	Arlington County	COG Board Vice Chair
Kate Stewart	City of Takoma	COG Board Vice Chair
Muriel Bowser	District of Columbia	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
Kate Stewart	City of Takoma Park	Past COG Secretary-Treasurer
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

Resolution R2-2021
January 13, 2021

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

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2021 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 2021.

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 2021 leadership on the following committees:

- Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee
- Climate, Energy, and Environment 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

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
SCHEDULE OF POLICY COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR 2021**

COMMITTEES	Start Time	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
COG BOARD	Noon	13	10	10	14	12	9	23-24 Annual Retreat	No meeting	8	13	10	8 Annual Meeting
TPB	Noon	21	17	17	21	19	16	21	No meeting	15	20	17	15
MWAQC	Noon		24			26				22			15
CAOs	Noon	6	3	3	7	5	2	7	No meeting	1	6	3	1
CEEPC	10:00 AM	27		24		26		28		22		17	
CBPC	10:00 AM	15		19		21		16		17		19	
RFC	11:00 AM	22			23			23			22		
HSPC	Noon	8		12		14		9		10		12	

*Meeting dates are virtual and subject to change.

**Conference call, if needed.

January 6, 2021



TOWN HALL SERIES | SEPT 2020 - JAN 2021

Leaning In to 2021: More **Equitable**, More **Resilient**



Featuring:
Prof. Jim Johnson, UNC
Prof. Jeanne Milliken Bonds, UNC

We want to hear from you at the January 15 final event of our virtual town hall series on equity and resiliency! Register today and join other local leaders focused on helping our communities emerge stronger in 2021.

The [series](#) has included discussions about the current events and demographic trends disrupting the status quo in our region, and participants have explored equity, diversity, and inclusion as the keys to building more resilient communities.

Even if you missed the earlier town halls, January's session is an excellent opportunity to catch up on key takeaways and learn about new tools and strategies to help shape a better region.

15
JAN

Upcoming Town Hall: **Investing to Sustain Whole Community Health**

12:00 - 1:45 P.M.

This town hall will focus on impact investing and the diverse set of financial tools that can be leveraged to access and deploy capital to transform cities into resilient communities in the aftermath of the coronavirus pandemic. These tools will

include federal, state, local, philanthropic, and private sources of capital — traditional as well as new sources, that are emerging in response to the pandemic.

[REGISTER](#)

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Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20002



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 2021
DATE: January 6, 2021

POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) – In November and December, the board approved bike and pedestrian projects in the District of Columbia for funding through the Transportation Alternatives Set Aside program, set Transit Safety Targets for the region as part of the federally required Performance Based Planning and Programming, and approved the fourth set of roadway safety targets for the region.

Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC) – In November, CBPC reflected on its work in 2020 in a [new annual report](#) and video featuring Chair Jon Stehle. During its monthly meeting, the committee heard from state entities on their plans for managing winter salts more effectively to protect water quality and had an initial conversation on what jurisdictions are doing to address equity in their respective communities and what further actions would be helpful.

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) – In December, the committee discussed the impacts of COVID-19 on air quality and telework. This effort is one part of a larger effort COG is undertaking to understand and evaluate the effects of the pandemic on regional air quality, energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, traffic and other transportation, health, and the economy.

Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) – In November, CEEPC adopted the [Metropolitan Washington 2030 Climate and Energy Action Plan](#). The plan provides a blueprint for meeting the 2030 regional climate change goals adopted by the COG Board that call for a 50 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions below 2005 levels, enhancing regional resilience, and incorporating equity principles in climate actions to meet the goals. The plan follows global best practices in climate planning established by the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate Action (GCoM).



ANNUAL VIDEO

Local leaders reflect on the region's work together in 2020 to respond to COVID-19, advance equity, and plan for the future.

[Watch the video](#)

Human Services Policy Committee (HSPC) – In November, HSPC focused on developing an agreement to cooperate regionally to prevent and end homelessness, which will be shared with the COG Board in early 2021.

OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

COVID-19 Vaccine Coordination – Several COG committees have been focused on sharing information on COVID vaccination plans and helping ensure safe and organized distribution of the vaccines. In December, the COG Board Executive Committee sent a letter to federal partners on a vaccine distribution strategy that supports the metropolitan Washington region's needs.

COG/TPB Leaning In Town Hall Series – COG, in partnership with TPB, continues to host monthly virtual town halls, led by UNC professors Jim Johnson and Jeanne Milliken Bonds, exploring how equity, diversity, and inclusion can help build a more resilient region. The last town hall of the series will be on January 15, [register here](#).

COG Winter Weather Conference 2020 – In November, COG held the annual Winter Weather Conference virtually and brought together stakeholders to discuss the regional COG Winter Weather Coordination Plan. Participants emphasized that coordination amongst local, state, federal government entities, and other strategic partners is even more important this season due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Regional Housing Webinar – COG and several other organizations came together to [develop a playbook](#) authored by national expert Dr. Tiffany Manuel of The Case Made to help area leaders—across all sectors—communicate more effectively about housing. The playbook was officially released in November during a virtual housing webinar for government, business, philanthropic, and community leaders.

Brownfield Development Workshop – COG staff hosted a virtual workshop in November with members of the Planning Directors Technical Advisory and Built Environment & Energy Advisory Committees with about 35 participants learning how to fund and incentivize Brownfield projects in the region. The workshop included expert speakers from the EPA's Region 3, Maryland Department of Environmental Quality, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, District of Columbia Department of Energy & Environment, Maryland Department of Planning, and the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT).



NEW LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN
The TPB kicked off an update to Visualize 2045, the region's long-range transportation plan, emphasizing public involvement, equity, climate resiliency, and safety.

[View the plan](#)

Community Engagement Campaign (CEC) initiatives – The Community Engagement Campaign (CEC), a partnership between COG and the region’s water and wastewater utilities, developed several social media campaigns in November and December, providing tips for preventing pipes from freezing, proper disposal of fats, oils, and grease to avoid clogging pipes, and about the detrimental impacts of winter salts on water quality.

America Recycles Day 2020 – COG, the state coordinator for America Recycles Day 2020 for metropolitan Washington, offered regional prizes for residents who took the pledge to participate in the 24th annual national event. The goal is to build consumer demand for recycled products and to educate all Americans about the environmental and economic benefits of recycling.

Anacostia River Restoration survey – More than 500 residents of Montgomery County, Prince George’s County, and the District of Columbia responded to a survey aiming to better understand what is known about the Anacostia River and residents’ attitudes toward it. Results showed that area residents are supportive of efforts to improve its health and understand the role they play in making it healthy.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

D.C. says it is being shortchanged on coronavirus vaccines for health-care workers – COG Executive Director Chuck Bean discusses how changing the way in which COVID-19 vaccine allocations are distributed would enhance the safety of health care workers and patients.

[The Washington Post](#)

Visualize 2045 aims to ensure easier commutes for DC-area residents – COG Transportation Planner Stacy Cook discusses how the region’s long-range transportation plan, *Visualize 2045*, looks to the future to better plan for and provide regional transportation options.

[WTOP](#)

Months of pandemic teleworking have left some missing their commutes– COG Deputy Executive Director of Metropolitan Planning Kanti Srikanth and COG Planning Data and Research Program Director Tim Canan, discuss the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on commuting and how it influences current and future telework decisions as well as impacts the overall economy.

[The Washington Post](#)

AGENDA ITEM #6

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 12, 2020

BOARD MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES: See attached chart for attendance.

SPEAKERS:

Kate Stewart, COG Secretary Treasurer

Julie Mussog, COG Chief Financial Officer

Brianne Nadeau, Human Services Policy Committee Chair

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

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COG Board Chair Derrick Davis called the meeting to order at 12:00 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- A. An overview of the town hall series: Leaning into 2021: More Equitable, More Resilient
- B. COG Chief Equity Officers Committee brief
- C. First-year Board Member Insights

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

COG Executive Director Chuck Bean queued up COG Deputy Executive Director for Metropolitan Planning Kanti Srikanth to brief the board on the new 2030 greenhouse gas emissions goal and the multi-sector effort. Bean then queued COG Principal Health Planner Jenny Schitter to give the board an update on COVID-19 information from around the region including contact tracing efforts, collaboration amongst health professionals, and data exchange efforts. Bean closed with a brief on a new housing messaging playbook, developed by COG and Dr. Tiffany Manuel, and the retirement of COG Environmental Programs Director Steve Walz.

4. AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

There were no amendments to the agenda.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the October 14, 2020 board meeting were approved.

6. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Resolution R46-2020 - Resolution authorizing COG to receive a grant to purchase explosive ordinance disposal robotics equipment for Montgomery County Fire and Rescue and Metro Transit Police
- B. Resolution R47-2020 - Resolution authorizing COG to procure and enter into a contract to hire a Marketing and Communications consultant(s) for COG's Community Engagement Campaign
- C. Resolution R48-2020 - Resolution authorizing COG to receive a grant to fund the operation of a portion of COG's Department of Homeland Security and Public Safety (DHSPS) related to improving homeland security in the NCR
- D. Resolution R49-2020 - Resolution authorizing an amendment to the composition of COG Pension Plan Administrative Committee (PPAC)
- E. Resolution R50-2020 - Resolution authorizing cog to expend funds for monitoring and

maintenance of in stream trash trap

ACTION: Approved Resolutions R46-2020 – R50-2020.

7. FY2020 YEAR END FINANCIAL REPORT

COG Secretary Treasurer Kate Stewart and COG Chief Financial Officer Julie Mussog briefed the board on the Fiscal Year 2020 Year End Financial Report.

ACTION: Received briefing.

8. COG 2021 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

COG Board Vice Chair Christian Dorsey discussed with the board the 2021 legislative priorities and gathered input to provide to COG's Legislative Committee.

ACTION: Received briefing.

9. HUMAN SERVICES POLICY COMMITTEE AGREEMENT TO COOPERATE REGIONALLY TO PREVENT AND END HOMELESSNESS

COG Human Services and Policy Committee Chair Brianne Nadeau briefed the board on the HSPC's efforts to develop an agreement for participating jurisdictions to implement various actions, including better data sharing and reporting to help prevent and end homelessness across our region. The committee will present this agreement to the board for approval in early 2021.

ACTION: Received briefing.

10. COVID-19 VACCINE DISTRIBUTION

D.C. Department of Health Senior Deputy Director of Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Patrick Ashley briefed the board on the status of vaccine development, challenges, and the projected distribution process for the region.

ACTION: Received briefing.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

12. ADJOURN

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

November 12, 2020 Attendance

<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Y/N</u>	<u>Alternate</u>	<u>Y/N</u>
<i>District of Columbia</i>				
Executive	Hon. Muriel Bowser		Ms. Beverly Perry Mr. Wayne Turnage Ms. Lucinda Babers	Y
	Mr. Kevin Donahue		Eugene Kinlow	
Council	Hon. Phil Mendelson			
	<i>Hon. Robert White</i>	Y		
<i>Maryland</i>				
Bowie	Hon. Tim Adams	Y		
Charles County	Hon. Reuben Collins	Y	Thomasina Coates Gilbert Bowling	
City of Frederick	Hon. Michael O'Connor	Y		
Frederick County	Hon. Jan Gardner		Ms. Joy Schaefer	Y
College Park	Hon. Monroe Dennis	Y	Hon. Patrick Wojahn	
Gaithersburg	Hon. Robert Wu		Hon. Neil Harris	
Greenbelt	Hon. Colin Byrd	Y	Hon. Emmett Jordan	
Laurel	Hon. Craig Moe	Y	Bill Goddard	P
Montgomery County				
Executive	Hon. Marc Elrich		Mr. Richard Madaleno	
Council	Hon. Tom Hucker	Y		
	Hon. Nancy Navarro	Y		
Prince George's County				
Executive	Hon. Angela Alsobrooks		Mr. Major F. Riddick	
Council	<i>Hon. Derrick Leon Davis</i>	Y		
	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			
<i>Virginia</i>				
Alexandria	Hon. Justin Wilson	Y	Hon. Redella Pepper	
Arlington County	<i>Hon. Christian Dorsey</i>	Y		
City of Fairfax	Hon. David Meyer		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			
Loudoun County	Hon. Phyllis Randall	Y		
Manassas	Hon. Mark Wolfe			
Manassas Park	Hon. Hector Cendejas		Hon. Miriam Machado	
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 #7

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

AGENDA ITEM #8

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS
January 2021

A. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COG TO PROCURE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO PROVIDE THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY WITH EXERCISE DESIGN, COORDINATION, CONDUCT, AND EVALUATION SUPPORT FOR THE UPCOMING 59TH PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

The board will be asked to adopt Resolution R3-2021 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive and expend \$450,000 for the purpose to provide the District of Columbia Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency with support for the upcoming 59th Presidential Inauguration. 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 coordinate with other District agencies and stakeholders to continue improving upon the District's preparedness strategy and mitigate the potential impacts on all inaugural events. 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 R3-2021.

B. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COG TO PROCURE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO HIRE A MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSULTANT(S) FOR COG'S GO RECYCLE CAMPAIGN

The board will be asked to adopt Resolution R4-2021 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee to proceed with procurement for a contractor, or contractors, and enter into a contract or contracts to aid the COG Recycling Committee with its marketing and communications strategies, media placement, and materials development. The contract or contracts will be paid for with funds from the Regional Environmental Fund in the amount of \$42,000 per year for the next three years.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt Resolution R4-2021.

C. RESOLUTION ENDORSING BOARD APPROVAL OF THE TITLE VI PLAN UPDATE

The board will be asked to adopt Resolution R5-2021 updating COG's Title VI Plan, which outlines how COG and the TPB ensure nondiscrimination in all programs and activities. The program was prepared pursuant to the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and to comply with Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) grant recipient guidelines. COG's Title VI Plan must be updated periodically pursuant to these grant guidelines. COG's Executive Director and General Counsel recommend approval of this update including revised text, more recent Census data on low-income, minority and limited-English speaking populations, and a description of outreach efforts to these populations on transit-related issues.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt Resolution R5-2021.

D. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COG TO RECEIVE A GRANT, PROCURE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO SUPPORT THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY CLIMATE COMMISSION

The board will be asked to adopt Resolution R6-2021 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive and expend grant funds from Prince George's County in the amount of \$446,700. The resolution also authorizes the Executive Director, or his designee, to proceed with procurement for a contractor, or contractors, and enter into a contract to support the development of a climate action plan in support of the County's Climate Commission. The contract will involve consultant support to facilitate the Commission workgroup process, develop a draft and final climate action plan, and to develop a collaborative website. COG will be required to provide a match of \$13,300 which is available in the budget of the Department of Environmental Programs.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt Resolution R6-2021.

E. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COG TO RECEIVE A GRANT, PROCURE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO MANAGE A COMMUNITY PLANNING EFFORT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MILITARY INSTALLATION RESILIENCE REVIEW PROGRAM

The board will be asked to adopt Resolution R7-2021 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive and expend grant funds from the U.S. Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment in the amount of \$680,406. The resolution also authorizes the Executive Director, or his designee, to proceed with procurement for a contractor, or contractors, and enter into a contract with a consulting firm to support the planning and stakeholder engagement process, to conduct the vulnerability and risk assessment, and develop a draft and final report. The purpose of the program is to identify investments that can be made in the community that will support the resiliency of the military installations and the surrounding community. The military installations to be covered include Joint Base Anacostia Bolling, Naval Research Laboratory, Washington Navy Yard, and Ft. McNair in Washington, DC. COG will be required to provide a match of \$75,653 which is available in the budget of the Department of Environmental Programs.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt Resolution R7-2021.

F. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COG TO PROCURE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO RECEIVE AND EXPEND FUNDS TO SUPPORT THE REGIONAL CATASTROPHIC PREPAREDNESS GRANT PROGRAM

The board will be asked to adopt Resolution R8-2021 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive and expend \$1,138,790.00 for Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program support. 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 undertake tasks to support the development of a common operating picture and comprehensive solution for meeting food and water needs in the Washington Metropolitan Statistical Area following a catastrophic event. 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 R8-2021.

G. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CREATION OF A TASK FORCE TO STUDY DC STATEHOOD

The board will be asked to adopt Resolution R9-2021 authorizing the creation of a task force to study the effort to attain statehood for the District of Columbia. The task force will be chaired by past COG Board Chair Derrick L. Davis. Additional members from the board will be appointed by the task force Chair. The task force will study the current legislative initiative and report back to the board with findings and recommendations.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt Resolution R9-2021.

AGENDA ITEM #9

FY-2020 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Link to audit documents:

<https://www.mwcog.org/events/2021/01/13/cog-board-of-directors-cog-board/>

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

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE FY-2020 AUDIT, AUTHORIZING THE SELECTION THE INDEPENDENT
AUDIT FIRM'S CONTRACT TO PERFORM THE FY-2021 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-2020 audit report and unqualified (clean) opinion prepared by the independent audit firm PBMares, LLP; and

WHEREAS, on April 8, 2015, the Board of Directors approved Resolution R20-2015, requiring the Audit Committee to solicit informal quotes or formal proposals from at least three (3) qualified audit firms at least every five (5) years to assess competitive pricing of audit services,

WHEREAS, based on the RFP process authorized by R4-2020 Audit Committee recommends awarding CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP the contract for the FY-2021 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-2020 Audit prepared by PBMares, 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 CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP to conduct the annual fiscal year-end audit for FY-2021 and prepare the annual Form 990 not-for-profit tax return, at a cost not to exceed \$76,500.

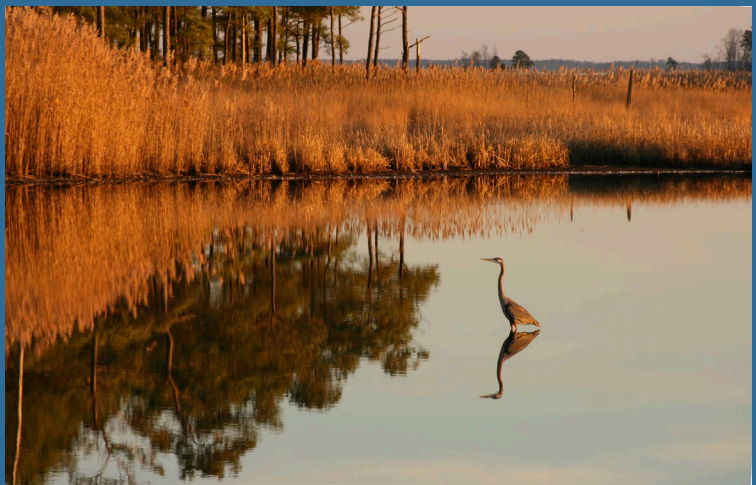
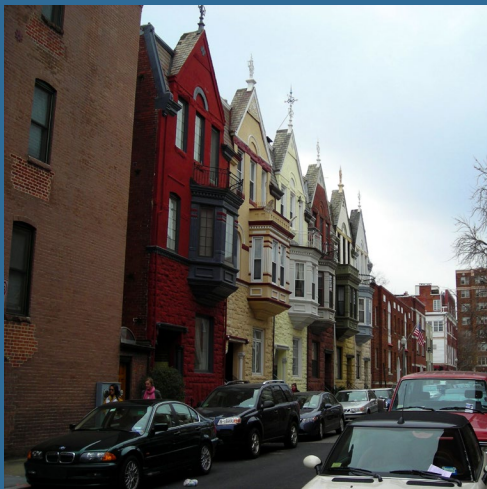
AGENDA ITEM #10

2021 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Supporting the region's COVID-19 recovery, transportation funding, housing, water quality, climate and energy innovation, air quality, human services, homeland security, infrastructure investment and local government input across all sectors

January 2021



Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Prepared by the COG Legislative Committee for the COG Board of Directors
January 2021

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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ADDITIONAL FEDERAL FUNDING TO SUPPORT LOCAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS WITH COVID-19 SHORTFALLS

Support federal funding of flexible long-term and emergency supplemental funding to support state and local governments on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic. The public health and economic crisis created by this pandemic underscores the need for continuing fiscal aid which accounts for the skyrocketing costs and declining revenues for state and local governments in our region. Flexible federal funding is necessary to fill immediate budgetary gaps caused by critical revenue losses for essential utilities, highways, public transportation, specifically for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), housing, and other revenue generating public authorities. State and local governments need robust and expedient relief to continue to provide essential services to their constituents.

TRANSPORTATION FUNDING, PLANNING, AND CONNECTIVITY

Support Reauthorization of the Federal Transportation Funding Bill While Fixing the Deficit in the Federal Transportation Trust Fund (TTF)

The current authorization for federal transportation spending—the FAST Act— is set to expire in 2020. The region strongly supports Congress reauthorizing this Bill with funding levels for all programs for the next six years. Since 2008 the TTF revenue has been insufficient to fund the congressionally authorized surface transportation program. These shortfalls have been closed in the current FAST Act with transfers from general fund and other short-term measures. Addressing this structural deficit and systemic imbalance of the TTF revenues has to be treated as a top priority to provide certainty of federal funding for the surface transportation program.

Support Additional, Reliable, and Recurring Federal Transportation Infrastructure Funding

The National Capital Region's transportation infrastructure serves not just the region, but also the nation's federal government and its international partners. The funding needed to maintain the National Capital Region's transit (bus and rail systems), railroad, and highway infrastructure in a state of good repair is chronically underfunded and must be enhanced. With continued aging, higher than anticipated usage, and increased frequencies of severe weather conditions, the cost to maintain transportation infrastructure in a state of good repair that provides a reliable, resilient system has increased. Providing additional recurring and reliable federal funding for the National Capital Region to maintain the multi-modal infrastructure and enhance operations has to be a priority.

Support Federal Funding for the Region's Metrorail System

The Metrorail system is the centerpiece of the metropolitan Washington region's 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 provide its share of both operating and capital funding for the Metrorail system that its employees and the region depend on. Specifically, support the reauthorization of the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act (PRIIA) beyond FY2019 to fund the federal government's annual appropriations for Metro's capital improvement budget at or greater than \$150 million a year.

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 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. 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 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.

WATER QUALITY PROTECTION

Support Investments in Water Infrastructure

Support sustained and expanded funding for state and federal water quality programs, including the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) funding, state revolving funds (SRFs), stormwater local assistance funds, and the Chesapeake Bay Program. Ensure that local water infrastructure investments to 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 Deployment of Clean Energy Innovation and Technology

Encourage and support investment in energy-sector innovation across sectors to increase energy efficiency and transition to clean energy sources. Support and protect regulatory and policy frameworks that foster continued development and expansion of clean energy solutions to preserve reductions in emissions due to the coronavirus pandemic and additional actions needed to meet the newly established 2030 regional greenhouse gas emission reduction goal. Foster continued business model innovation and encourage and expand the adoption of energy efficiency and clean, distributed energy generation technologies and infrastructure, and support for low and zero-emission vehicles and infrastructure.

Enhance Sustainable Secure Energy Access for All

Prioritize and protect funding for energy-sector infrastructure to improve affordability, resilience and reliability. Support policies and funding for energy improvements such as energy efficiency, cyber security, microgrids, district energy systems, and storage technology, especially when coupled with clean energy generation. Support community-based efforts and public-private partnerships to improve climate and energy resilience and equity at the local level.

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. Support policies and programs developed as a result of COVID that foster reduced emissions, such as expanded telework policies.

Expand Clean Energy Finance

Expand options for and improve access to clean energy finance at the state and local levels. Foster cost effective and efficient market frameworks and reasonable regulatory frameworks that support clean energy investment across all sectors and enhance investment certainty. Establish and enable key partnerships, institutions, agencies, plans, and programs to support sustainable clean energy incentives and lower the cost of doing business in the clean energy sector.

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.

Enhance Incentives and Financing Mechanisms for Green Infrastructure and Natural Resource Protection

Support legislation and funding opportunities that address urban heat island, flood control and management, water quality programs, and stormwater management in the region to preserve and enhance ecologically valuable green spaces in urban, suburban and rural areas. Support investment in nature-based, resilient green infrastructure network solutions to reduce risk from surge, riverine and overland storm, and sunny day flooding and extreme heat, enhance natural community resiliency, protect biodiversity and buffer the impacts of development. Support incentives and funding mechanisms that encourage landowners to protect their trees.

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.

HOUSING AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES

Support Efforts to 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 that provides a diverse range of housing units, including size and price point that is affordable for our region's residents. Encourage innovative regulatory reforms that result in the production of a greater variety of housing types and eliminate exclusionary zoning practices. Support expanding funding for renters, landlords, and moderate-income homeowners during the 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. Increasing the supply of supportive housing provides opportunities for 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 and to protect vulnerable residents from contracting COVID-19 during the pandemic. Support eviction moratoriums, coupled with financial rental assistance to tenants and landlords, to prevent a significant increase in people experiencing homelessness during a public health emergency.

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.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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 and other outpatient services; 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.

Increase Food Security and Promote Healthy Food Access

Amidst growing food insecurity across the region, lack of clarity on the timing of additional, needed federal relief for vulnerable families and individuals, and uncertainty about when the Childhood Nutrition Reauthorization Act may be taken up again: support federal, state and local initiatives to increase food and cash assistance to residents in need, increase participation in programs among eligible residents, and streamline program administration. Increase funding for the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP). Enhance and expand the Women Infants and Children (WIC) Program, federally funded school meal programs, and other programs that improve food access for vulnerable low-income individuals and families in the region. These actions should provide the opportunity for programs to source from regional farmers and food businesses.

Support Small and Medium-sized Farmers, Food Entrepreneurs, and Restaurants

Support strengthening programs that advance regional food systems development, on-farm conservation, connections between farmers and consumers of all income levels, especially programs that provide incentives to help low-income residents access healthy local food. Support renewed relief for restaurants and food businesses, and efforts to address long-standing food system inequities faced by Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) farmers and food business owners.

HOMELAND SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response

Support funding for public health emergency response 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 preparedness and response activities. 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. Prioritize and consider local first responders and essential workers in the development of national distribution plans for PPE.

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 R11-2021
January 13, 2021

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

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE COG 2021 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 2021 Legislative Priorities have been reviewed by the individual policy committees and the 2021 Legislative Committee; and

WHEREAS, the COG Board has received and reviewed the draft 2021 Legislative Priorities; and

WHEREAS, the draft 2021 Legislative Priorities address 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 2021 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 #11

COVID-19: VACCINE DISTRIBUTION

AGENDA ITEM #12

REGIONAL APPROACH TO PREVENTING AND ENDING HOMELESSNESS

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

**RESOLUTION ENDORSING EXPANSION OF REGIONAL COORDINATION EFFORTS TO PREVENT AND
END HOMELESSNESS**

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, in 2000, COG's Homeless Services Planning and Coordinating Committee conducted the first annual regional Point-in-Time count of persons experiencing homelessness, prior to HUD requiring an annual count, in order to measure progress towards ending homelessness; and

WHEREAS, COG's Homeless Services Planning and Coordinating Committee comes together regularly to facilitate cooperation and regional conversations on solutions to homelessness; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker, Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett, and District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser came together to sign a Regional Compact to End Homelessness in their respective jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, at the 2016 COG Leadership Retreat, participants were briefed on this regional compact and discussed potential regional coordinating actions to end homelessness; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, COG facilitated the creation of a data sharing agreement among the District of Columbia, Montgomery County and Prince George's County; and

WHEREAS, the Human Services Policy Committee and Homeless Services Planning and Coordinating Committee seek to expand and build upon these concrete steps to improve housing outcomes across Continuums of Care to more effectively end a person's housing crisis; 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 both prevent and end the experience of homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the Human Services Policy Committee seeks to highlight promising opportunities developed within our communities to improve health and housing outcomes for all residents of the metropolitan Washington region.

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

The Human Services Policy Committee (HSPC) has a goal to work together collaboratively to prevent and end the experience of homelessness in the metropolitan Washington region. To achieve this goal, the HSPC has adopted a regional vision and mission as follows below:

VISION: To create a cross-jurisdictional, client-centered approach to ending the experience of homelessness by identifying and breaking down barriers to get people the resources they need.

MISSION: By openly sharing and analyzing data across jurisdictions and coordinating cases, we can identify gaps in both emergency shelter and housing and effectively advocate for resources to bring an end to homelessness in the metropolitan Washington region.

To achieve this regional vision, the COG Board of Directors supports the HSPC recommendation that all COG member jurisdictions consider implementing the following actions to the greatest extent possible:

1. **Data Sharing:** Create a data sharing system, using as an example, the existing data sharing agreement among Prince George's County, Montgomery County, and the District of Columbia, to include all COG jurisdictions. To the extent permissible, this data sharing agreement would allow jurisdictions to share Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data and by-name lists across the region.
2. **Regular Reporting:** Develop a regional protocol to ensure consistent reporting of key metrics to demonstrate the true regional need for housing resources. This may include the development of a regional dashboard to share information on issues such as shelter bed utilization rates and tracking client turn away's at shelters across Continuums of Care, as needed.
3. **Regional By-Name Tracking and Case Coordination:** Develop a regional protocol to identify residents who may be on multiple coordinated entry by-name priority lists for permanent housing to most efficiently resolve a person's experience of homelessness. This may include building on existing regional coordination for the veteran subpopulation (including having points of contact and a process to connect people with needed supportive services) to create a cross-jurisdictional protocol for coordinating cases for all other persons experiencing homelessness.
4. **Residency Requirements:** Align residency requirements across the COG region to ensure that people are better able to have their housing needs met.
5. **Racial Equity:** With the assistance of outside consultants, prepare a region-wide homeless systems audit to ensure that efforts to prevent and end homelessness are grounded in racial equity and existing structural inequities are not compounded within the current systems of care.

AGENDA ITEM #13

EXECUTIVE SESSION

AGENDA ITEM #14

OTHER BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM #15

ADJOURN