



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wednesday, September 11, 2024
12:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.
Walter A. Scheiber Board Room

Virtual participation available for members upon request
Public livestream on website

AGENDA

- 12:00 P.M.**
- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
Charles Allen, COG Board Chair
 - 2. CHAIR'S REPORT**
Charles Allen, COG Board Chair
 - A. COG Membership & Awards Reception – December 11th 4:00–6:00PM**
- 12:05 P.M.**
- 3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**
Clark Mercer, COG Executive Director
- 12:10 P.M.**
- 4. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**
Charles Allen, COG Board Chair
 - 5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM JUNE 12, 2024**
Charles Allen, COG Board Chair

Recommended Action: Approve minutes.
 - 6. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**
Charles Allen, COG Board Chair
 - A. Resolution R16-2024 – Resolution authorizing COG to procure and enter into a contract to assess COG's Department of Human Resources
 - B. Resolution R17-2024 – Resolution authorizing COG to receive a grant, procure and enter into a contract to deploy Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations across Metropolitan Washington
 - C. Resolution R18-2024 – Resolution authorizing COG to procure and enter into a contract to purchase preparedness planning, program management, administrative and training exercise services
 - D. Resolution R19-2024 – Resolution authorizing COG to enter into a feasibility cost share agreement to conduct a feasibility study of a secondary drinking water source for the Metropolitan Washington region

Reasonable accommodations are provided upon request, including alternative formats of meeting materials.
Visit www.mwco.org/accommodations or call (202) 962-3300 or (202) 962-3213 (TDD).

Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution R16-2024 – R19-2024.

- 12:15 P.M. 7. 2024 CLIMATE AND ENERGY LEADERSHIP AWARDS**
Jolene Ivey, Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee Chair
Julie Kimmel, COG Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee Vice Chair
- This awards program recognizes local governments, educational institutions, and non-governmental organizations for their efforts to achieve local and regional climate and energy goals.
- Recommended Action: Receive briefing.**
- 12:30 P.M. 8. ELECTION PREPAREDNESS: REGIONAL COORDINATION**
Boris Brajkovic, Montgomery County Election Director
Sarah Graham, District of Columbia Director of Communications
Gretchen Reinemeyer, Arlington County Director of Elections
- The board will be briefed on local preparations and coordination in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia to prepare for the November 2024 elections.
- Recommended Action: Receive briefing and discuss.**
- 1:15 P.M. 9. ELECTION PREPAREDNESS: THREATS AND FEDERAL COORDINATION**
Matthew Drummond, Federal Bureau of Investigation – Washington Field Office
Special Agent
- The board will be briefed on foreign malign influence threats to U.S. elections, how entities in the federal government work together against potential threats, and how local government leaders can help spread the word about potential threats in advance of elections. *Note: this agenda item will take place in an executive session and will be closed to the public.*
- Recommended Action: Receive briefing and discuss.**
- 1:55 P.M 10. OTHER BUSINESS**
- 2:00 P.M. 11. ADJOURN**
The next COG Board meeting will take place virtually on Wednesday, October 9th from 12:00 – 2:00 P.M.

AGENDA ITEM #2

CHAIR'S REPORT

AGENDA ITEM #3

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



MEMORANDUM

TO: COG Board of Directors
FROM: Clark Mercer, COG Executive Director
SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report – September 2024
DATE: September 4, 2024

POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) – In June, the TPB approved an amended Air Quality Conformity analysis scope of work and project inputs for *Visualize 2050*, the National Capital Region Transportation Plan, which is the next step in the planning process. The board voted to conduct two alternative scenarios in the analysis—one with the I-495 Southside Express Lanes project and one without the project. The TPB also approved the region's first comprehensive Transportation Resilience Improvement Plan (TRIP). In July, the TPB approved funding for a total of 12 projects that support walkability and safety under two programs: the Maryland Carbon Reduction Program and Transportation Alternatives Program.

Chesapeake Bay & Water Resources Policy Committee – At its July meeting, the committee discussed the Chesapeake Bay Program's Beyond 2025 Steering Committee recommendation that the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement be amended and the structure of the partnership be streamlined and simplified. Members provided feedback on the recommendation and the draft report.

Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee – At its July meeting, ICF provided an overview of the approach, schedule, and deliverables for the region's Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP). Members also received a briefing from experts on climate impacts, the cost of inaction, and ways to close the investment gap for resilience and climate adaptation. The committee also received a



Potomac Conference on Public Safety

On July 9, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) joined the Greater Washington Board of Trade, the Greater Washington Partnership, and the Consortium of Universities of the Metropolitan Washington Area at Catholic University to reconvene the Potomac Conference for the first time in over a decade—providing a forum for a diverse group of area leaders to collaborate on major regional topics. This year's conference focused on partnering on public safety initiatives and counteracting the impact of crime on the region's residents and businesses.

[Learn more](#)

presentation on the TPB's transportation resilience planning efforts.

Food & Agriculture Regional Member (FARM) Policy Committee – At its August meeting, speakers from FRESHFARM and The Capital Market discussed ways local governments can support farmers markets. Capital Area Food Bank's (CAFB) CEO presented on the organization's work in FY24 and new Lorton, VA facility. Several viewpoints were shared from COG member jurisdictions which echoed the sustained, high level of need for emergency food assistance.

Human Services Policy Committee – At its July meeting, nationally-recognized leaders from the Housing Narrative Lab and Community Solutions provided members with effective communications and messaging strategies to use in their communities regarding solutions to preventing and ending homelessness. The discussion focused on how local governments can respond in the immediate aftermath of the Supreme Court decision, *The City of Grants Pass, Oregon v. Johnson*, which ruled the city is not prohibited from enforcing criminal punishments against people experiencing homelessness for camping outside. The timely content provided members with a forum to discuss local challenges and solutions.

Region Forward Coalition – At its July meeting on livability, RFC members were briefed by the Greater Washington Community Foundation about the regional findings from the Voices DMV Survey as well as Livability 22202, a community organization in Arlington County. In addition, Arlington County's Communications Office led a workshop on how local governments respond to and define livability at the local level, providing participants with strategies for effective communication.

OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Transportation planning – On August 2, the TPB hosted a Regional Curbside Management Forum featuring presentations, a panel, and open discussion about trends and evolving practices for addressing the high level of demand for curb space by personal vehicles, ride hail companies, transit, cyclists, and freight delivery companies.

Air Quality – Clean Air Partners held a gas lawn tool exchange initiative, which encouraged residents to replace their gas powered lawn tools (lawn mowers, leaf blowers, and grass trimmers) with more eco-friendly electric versions. As part of the campaign, a series of events at Baltimore-Washington area Ace hardware stores were held to educate people on how to fight hidden backyard pollution hazards. During August's Ozone Action Month, Clean Air Partners encouraged Baltimore-Washington commuters to protect their communities by making small changes in their transportation usage. Two events were held in the region, Arlington and Charles Counties, that included exhibits to show how driving habits contribute to poor air quality.



Car Free Day

COG's Commuter Connections program hosts Car Free Day in the Washington, DC region to bring awareness to the benefits of travel options such as transit, bicycling and walking, and also telework for people who can work from home.

[Take the pledge/spread the word](#)

Housing – On June 26, COG received a PRO Housing grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), totaling over \$3.5 million, to improve access to affordable housing in metropolitan Washington. COG applied for funding through the program on behalf of nine local jurisdictions: The District of Columbia; and in Virginia, the City of Alexandria, Arlington County, Fairfax County, Loudoun County, and Prince William County; and in Maryland, Montgomery County, Prince George’s County, and the City of Gaithersburg.



Public Safety – This summer, the COG Metrotech Subcommittee leveraged Urban Area Security Initiative grant funding to host a series of advanced training sessions designed to equip bomb squad technicians with hands-on skills in a collaborative regional environment. The sessions focused on proficiency in responding to diverse threats using real-world scenarios. In August, on behalf of regional stakeholders, COG hosted the Securing the Cities Semiannual National Stakeholder Meeting to provide a forum to discuss national program updates and share best practices related to its preventative radiological nuclear detection mission.

COG’s Transportation Operations Programs Director Daniel Sheehan attended APTA’s Sustainability and Operations conference on August 20 to present about the Ride for the Region transit challenge, which uses gamification to incentivize transit ridership.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Drought watch – On July 29, COG declared a regional Drought Watch, receiving coverage from 20+ media outlets, including the Washington Post, FOX 5, WTOP, WUSA 9, and DC News Now.

[DC News Now – quotes COG Water Resources Director Steve Bieber](#)

[WTOP – quotes COG Principal Water Resources Planner Lisa Ragain](#)

Air Quality – This summer, COG’s forecasts of unhealthy air days have received coverage from MoCo360, WTOP, NBC 4, WUSA 9, MyMCM, Inside NoVa, 7 News, ARLnow, and ALXnow. In addition, COG’s Clean Air Partners received coverage from FOX 5 and WUSA 9 about Ozone Action Month.

[WUSA9 - story on region’s air quality trends, references COG data](#)

Housing Press Conference – Event on COG PRO Housing grant covered by ALXnow, Reuters, and Alexandria Gazette Packet.

[ALXnow](#)



A recent Washington Post editorial focused on DMVMoves, the COG/WMATA joint initiative to create a unified vision and sustainable funding model for the region’s transit network.

Potomac Conference – Event received coverage from WTOP and Washington Business Journal.

[WTOP](#)

Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program – The TPB Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program awardees in Maryland received coverage from the Frederick News-Post, PGCTV, and WFMD.

[The Frederick News-Post](#)

Opinion | How to save the D.C. Metro once and for all

Metro needs a stable source of funding. It's time to spell out what that is.

By the Editorial Board

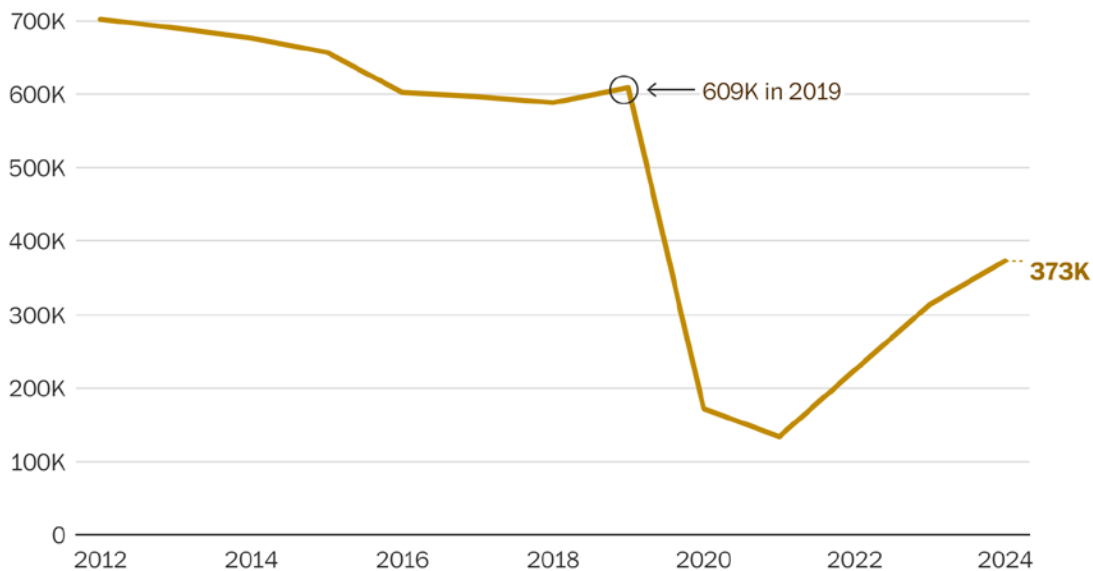
September 2, 2024 at 6:15 a.m. EDT

Another year, another Metro funding crisis averted — barely. The D.C. region managed to plug a [\\$750 million funding hole](#) for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority so bus and rail service would keep running this fiscal year, which began in July. Getting to this point was painful. [Fares are going up](#), even though Maryland, Virginia and the District in February committed an extra \$480 million to plug the gap. Another crisis looms if the key players don't give more money by July to make up for the end of pandemic relief aid.

Metro began its rail service [in 1976](#), and though the system is showing its age, users still regard it as clean and accessible. This year, [77 percent of riders](#) said they consider the system “excellent” or “good,” the highest in a decade but still lower than in 2005. Weekday Metrorail ridership has been averaging nearly 373,000 per day so far this year, nearly triple the rate of 2021, the worst pandemic year. Still, that's only about [60 percent of 2019 levels](#). More concerning still, fares cover [just 17 percent](#) of Metro's operating expenses, down from 36 percent in 2019.

Metrorail ridership is only about 60 percent of 2019 levels

Average weekday swiped station entries



2024 data is through Aug. 13.

Source: [WMATA ridership data](#)

With ridership on a new, lower trajectory, the system's finances are unsustainable. Metro needs to rightsize and restructure accordingly while avoiding a death spiral, in which service cuts deter riders

and fewer riders trigger more cuts. If Metro achieves systemic restructuring, it could get access to a [stable funding source](#) for its daily operations in return. At present, however, Metro uniquely lacks one: Most big cities dedicate a tax — [often a sales tax](#) — to finance public transit. WMATA, by contrast, has to ask Virginia, Maryland and D.C. for operating funds every year.

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and WMATA recently convened a task force, [DMVMoves](#), to come up with a solution. The goal is to have a plan for how transit will need to shift and expand in the D.C. area in the decades to come and a concrete proposal to fund it. A draft is expected by year's end and a final plan by spring. Crucially, the planning goes beyond Metro to take into account the region's 12 local bus systems, three commuter bus systems, two commuter rail systems and one streetcar service.

Yet the task force's initial meeting, [on June 10](#), did not address the issue of a stable funding source. That debate needs to happen soon. An early estimate suggests WMATA needs roughly \$1 billion more in additional revenue per year. That's on top of the [\\$2.8 billion](#) state and local governments already provide. If the DMVMoves process doesn't yield results, a more dramatic intervention, analogous to the supervised bailout of General Motors in 2009, or even of the District itself in the mid-1990s, could become unavoidable.

The task force will almost certainly consider a sales tax. One study found 39 out of 46 major metro areas [fund public transit with sales taxes](#) — ranging from 0.4 percent to 2 percent. In 2017, a Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments study said a 1 percent levy [could generate \\$650 million](#) per year. Other options include a property tax increase, congestion pricing for auto traffic, a gas tax hike or fees to develop property near Metro stations.

Sales taxes have their drawbacks. They are regressive; their revenue yield tends to ebb and flow with the business cycle. In some places such as Los Angeles, rates have [crept up over time](#), suggesting that a dedicated revenue stream like this fails to incentivize transit agencies to spend wisely. But there are also advantages. Visitors from out of town would pay sales taxes. Though voters recoil from tax increases, they generally find sales taxes more palatable than others. If a sales tax were approved, D.C., Maryland and Virginia would all have to agree to any new increases, which would almost certainly prevent Metro from treating it as a cash cow.

We aren't ready to endorse a sales tax unless and until we see the details. But the D.C. area needs a strong transit system — rail and bus — and it's past time to end the constant funding crises that prevent long-term planning. Money isn't the system's only issue, of course. At the June 10 meeting, task force members rightly bemoaned a lack of coordination on scheduling and payment systems among the region's varied transit authorities. These would seem to be the low-hanging fruit of structural reform and should happen even before a new funding source materializes.

That isn't essential to stabilizing Metro, though. Determining how it can best serve the region's needs, based on a stable and appropriate budget, is.

AGENDA ITEM #4

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

AGENDA ITEM #5

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

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

MINUTES
COG Board of Directors Meeting
June 12, 2024

BOARD MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES: See attached chart for attendance.

SPEAKERS:

Julie Mussog, COG Chief Financial Officer
Triina Van, Arlington County Homeless Services Coordinator
Hilary Chapman, COG Housing Program Manager
Kanti Srikanth, COG Deputy Executive Director for Metropolitan Planning

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COG Board Vice Chair Rodney Lusk called the meeting to order at 12:10 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. CHAIR'S REPORT

A. COG Leadership Retreat – July 19-20

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

COG Executive Director Clark Mercer briefed the board on the following:

- Annual Bike to Work Day with the Washington Area Bicyclist Association was a great success. There were 14,000 registrants who biked to more than 100 pit stops throughout the region.
- Latest podcast of *Think Regionally* features water quality experts discussing investments in water quality in our region to ensure water meets safety standards.
- On May 4, COG's Department of Homeland Security and Public Safety organized the 32nd Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony and Honor Guard Competition at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.
- On July 9, COG, the Greater Washington Board of Trade, Greater Washington Partnership, and the Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area will relaunch the Potomac Conference to revitalize a long-standing public-private partnership addressing the most significant challenges and opportunities for our region.
- COG Institute for Regional Excellence is now open until July 1. This is a year-long program, in partnership with George Washington University, has certified nearly 500 local government employees as public managers.
- Apply for the Housing Affordability Planning Program (HAPP), which is a small, flexible grant to area governments and non-profit developers engaged in the planning, approval, or development of housing near transit stations.

4. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Vice Chair Lusk recommended adjusting the order of the agenda items to postpone items requiring a vote until a quorum of board members was reached.

7. 2024 FOSTER PARENT APPRECIATION

The board recognized the 2024 foster parents of the year and viewed a video highlighting each family's fostering journey.

Action: Received briefing and discussed.

9. HOMELESSNESS IN METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON: RESULTS AND ANALYSIS FROM THE ANNUAL POINT-IN-TIME COUNT OF PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

The board was briefed by Arlington County Homeless Services Coordinator Triina Van and COG Housing Program Manager Hilary Chapman on the results of the Point-in-Time Count, an annual enumeration of persons experiencing homelessness in the metropolitan Washington region.

Action: Received briefing and discussed.

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM APRIL 10 AND MAY 1, 2024

The minutes from the April 10 and May 1, 2024 board meetings were approved.

6. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

A. Resolution R15-2024: Resolution approving updates to COG’s Title VI Plan and Program

Action: The board adopted Resolution R15-2024.

8. FISCAL YEAR 2025 WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET

The board was briefed by COG Executive Director Clark Mercer, and COG Chief Financial Officer Julie Mussog on the proposed FY2025 (July 2, 2024 to June 30, 2025) Work Program and Budget, which was reviewed and recommended for approval by the Budget and Finance Committee.

Action: The board adopted Resolution R16-2024.

10. DMVMOVES UPDATE

The board received an update on the DMVMoves initiative from COG Executive Director Clark Mercer, and COG Deputy Executive Director for Metropolitan Planning Kanti Srikanth.

Action: Received briefing and discussed.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

12. ADJORN

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 P.M.

**COG Board of Directors
June 12, 2024 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	V
	Mr. Kevin Donahue		Mr. Tomas Talamante	
Council	Hon. Phil Mendelson		Hon. Brianne Nadeau	
	Hon. Charles Allen			
<i>Maryland</i>				
City of Bowie	Hon. Tim Adams		Hon. Dufour Woolfley	
Charles County	Hon. Reuben Collins	Y	Hon. Thomasina Coates	
City of Frederick	Hon. Michael O'Connor		Hon. Kelly Russell	
Frederick County	Hon. Jessica Fitzwater	V	Ms. Victoria Venable	
City of College Park	Hon. Denise Mitchell		Hon. Fazlul Kabir	
City of Gaithersburg	Hon. Robert Wu	V	Hon. Neil Harris	
City of Greenbelt	Hon. Emmett Jordan		Hon. Kristen Weaver	
City of Laurel	Hon. Keith Sydnor	V	Hon. James Kole	
Montgomery County - Exec	Hon. Marc Elrich		Mr. Richard Madaleno Ms. Fariba Kassiri Mr. Earl Stoddard	V
Montgomery County - Council	Hon. Evan Glass			
Montgomery County - Council	Hon. Kate Stewart	Y		
Prince George's County - Exec	Hon. Angela Alsobrooks		Ms. Tara Jackson	V
Prince George's County - Council	Hon. Tom Dernoga	Y	Hon. Wanika Fisher	
Prince George's County - Council	Hon. Ingrid Watson	Y	Hon. Krystal Oriadha	
City of Rockville	Hon. Monique Ashton	Y		
City of Takoma Park	Hon. Talisha Searcy			
Maryland General Assembly	Hon. Brian Feldman			
<i>Virginia</i>				
City of Alexandria	Hon. Justin Wilson	Y	Hon. Kirk McPike	
Arlington County	Hon. Libby Garvey	Y		
City of Fairfax	Hon. Catherine Read	Y	Hon. Tom Ross	
Fairfax County	Hon. Rodney Lusk	Y	Hon. Daniel Storck	
Fairfax County	Hon. Jeff McKay		Hon. Andres Jimenez	
Fairfax County	Hon. James Walkinshaw	Y	Hon. Walter Alcorn	
City of Falls Church	Hon. Caroline Lian	V	Hon. David Snyder	
Loudoun County	Hon. Laura TeKrony	V		
Loudoun County	Hon. Phyllis Randall	Y	Hon. Koran Saines	
City of Manassas	Hon. Mark Wolfe	Y	Hon. Sonia Vasquez Luna	
City of Manassas Park	Hon. Darryl Moore			
Prince William County	Hon. Deshundra Jefferson	Y	Hon. Kenny A. Boddye	
Prince William County	Hon. Andrea Bailey	Y	Hon. Tom Gordy	
Virginia General Assembly	Hon. Mark Sickles	Y		

Y = present V = virtual

Total: 23

AGENDA ITEM #6

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS
September 2024

A. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COG TO PROCURE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO ASSESS COG'S DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

The board will be asked to adopt Resolution R16-2024 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to expend \$50,000 for consulting services to assess COG's Department of Human Resources. Funds for this expenditure are available in the budget of the Department of Human Resources.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt Resolution R16-2024.

B. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COG TO RECEIVE A GRANT, PROCURE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO DEPLOY ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) CHARGING STATIONS ACROSS METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON

The board will be asked to adopt Resolution R17-2024 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive and expend grant funds from the Federal Highway Administration in the amount of \$3,900,701. The resolution also authorizes the Executive Director, or his designee, to enter into a contract(s) to deploy EV infrastructure across the metropolitan Washington region. EV infrastructure sites have been identified in the Cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, and Manassas and the Counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Frederick, and Prince George's. This project will also include equitable engagement in disadvantaged communities and support EV workforce development in the region. COG will be required to provide a match of \$48,055 which is available in the budget of the Department of Environmental Programs Regional Environmental Fund.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt Resolution R17-2024.

C. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COG TO PROCURE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO PURCHASE PREPAREDNESS PLANNING, PROGRAM MANAGEMENT, ADMINISTRATIVE AND TRAINING EXERCISE SERVICES

The board will be asked to adopt Resolution R18-2024 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive and expend \$400,000 for the purchase of training exercise services in support of preparing the District of Columbia for the 2024 General Election, Election Certification, and the 60th 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 procure a highly qualified vendor to support key preparedness, planning, training, and exercise activities for the upcoming election activities. The vendor will be responsible for leading the preparedness efforts for the District, as well as curating and delivering operational guides, after action reports, and improvement plans. 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 R18-2024.

D. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COG TO ENTER INTO A FEASIBILITY COST SHARE AGREEMENT TO CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY STUDY OF A SECONDARY DRINKING WATER SOURCE FOR THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON REGION

The board will be asked to adopt Resolution R19-2024 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to enter into a Feasibility Cost Share Agreement (FCSA) with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to conduct a feasibility study for water supply, including the identification of a secondary water source and additional water storage capability for the metropolitan Washington area for water resources development purposes as authorized in Public Law 117-263, Division H, Section 8201(a)(14). The resolution also authorizes the Executive Director, or his designee, to enter into a contract(s) to help conduct the feasibility study. The study costs are projected to be \$3,000,000, with the Federal Government's share of such costs projected to be \$1,500,000 and the Non-Federal Sponsor's share of such costs projected to be \$1,500,000, which includes creditable in-kind contributions projected to be \$750,000, and the amount of funds required to meet its cost share projected to be \$750,000. The non-federal partners providing in-kind contributions and funding include COG, Fairfax Water, WSSC Water, the Washington Aqueduct, DC Water, Arlington County, and the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin. COG will provide a match of \$300,000 spread over three fiscal years, which is available in the budget of the Department of Environmental Programs.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt Resolution R19-2024.

AGENDA ITEM #7

2024 CLIMATE AND ENERGY LEADERSHIP AWARDS



2024 Climate and Energy Leadership Awards

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' (COG) Climate and Energy Leadership Awards recognizes organizations that develop climate stewardship projects and programs that engage and serve the region's underserved communities. The awards program highlights a broad range of climate solutions for their unique engagement practices as well as their results, creativity, and replicability. COG presents the 2024 Climate and Energy Leadership Awards to the City of Bowie's Food Waste Diversion Program, DC Department of Energy and Environment's Building Energy Performance Standards Program, Prince William County Public Schools' Environmental Literacy Program and DC Green Bank's A-Peace Sustainable Affordable Housing Project.

Small Government Sector Award: City of Bowie's Food Waste Diversion

The City of Bowie expanded their existing food waste curbside program to include all City residents. In addition to helping to meet the City's climate mitigation goal, the new food waste drop-off site supports Bowie residents' continued engagement in climate-friendly activities.

Since the new food waste drop-off site was launched in January 2024, the climate impacts include:

- 3 tons of food waste diverted from the County landfill.
- 297 gallons of gasoline offset by diverting food scraps from the County landfill.
- 6,547 miles offset.

Bowie Staff also implemented "Food Waste Friday", an effort that has further engaged the community, particularly elder residents who prefer the drop-off site to the curbside program.

Large Government Sector Award: DC Department of Energy and Environment's Building Energy Performance Standards

Roughly seventy-five percent of the greenhouse emissions in DC are from buildings. Recognizing the importance of reducing energy use to address climate change in buildings, DC's Clean Energy DC Omnibus Amendment Act of 2018 was signed into law, outlining a framework that required half of all large existing buildings in DC to use at least 20 percent less energy over 5 years. This minimum energy efficiency requirements for existing buildings, called the Building Energy Performance Standards (BEPS), had never been required anywhere in the U.S. before then.

After signage of the landmark bill, the DC Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) quickly engaged the building community and hosted stakeholder workshops to help better understand barriers to implementing energy conservation efforts in existing buildings. To directly support the affordable housing sector, DOEE hired a full-time staff member to liaise with the community, resulting in specific accommodations to help affordable housing buildings meet the goals. DOEE also partnered with a local non-profit to address reporting challenges noted within faith-based institutions.

DOEE also successfully lobbied for federal pandemic relief funds to stand up its Affordable Housing Retrofit Accelerator (AHRA) and invest millions in deep energy retrofits for affordable housing properties. In its first two years, the AHRA program provided energy audits to 60 housing properties, representing nearly 8,000 households, and funded over \$8 million of energy-saving upgrades. The audits and energy upgrades helped the District's affordable housing stock to be better positioned to meet BEPS's performance requirements. Additionally, the AHRA program is projected to save over



5.24 million kWh (kilowatt hours) of energy per year. In total, DC's BEPS program is projected to reduce 10-12 percent of the total greenhouse gas emissions, a significant step towards meeting DC's long-term goal of net zero carbon by 2045.

Educational Institution Sector Award: Prince William County Public Schools' Environmental Literacy Program

The Prince William County Public Schools (PWCS) Division has 98 schools, 90,000 students, and 13,000 employees, making it the second largest public-school division in the Commonwealth of Virginia and maintains over 12 million square feet of facilities. To meet the Prince William County School Board's Sustainability Initiative passed in June 2020, the PWCS Environmental Literacy Plan was created to support teachers create climate- and sustainability-related cross-curricular learning tools for students. The program integrates place-based experiential learning that aligns with state-mandated content and standards.

PWCS environmental professional development has 228 teachers across 80 schools and is grant funded at no cost to schools. PWCS is a minority-majority school division and is the most diverse county in Virginia and the tenth most diverse in the United States. PWCS has targeted Title I Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEs) training for it teaches and engages underserved communities by providing pathways to environmental literacy through place-based experiential learning experiences. Division-wide initiatives expanded student participation in environmental literacy. For the school year 2023-24, 72 schools participated in the annual Energy Challenge by conducting energy audits at their school, reducing waste, and adopting sustainable behaviors. PWCS's Solarbration event resulted in 168 middle school students learning about solar energy. In its first month of operation, Beville Middle School's solar panel array helped the school lower its electricity bill by 64 percent and its greenhouse gas emissions by 20 metric tons. In October 2023 PWCS hosted its inaugural, "The EcoHero Show" for 5,200 third grade students and 1,800 adult teachers and chaperones. That event had a long-lasting impact on students, as teachers noticed students discussing energy savings for weeks after the event.

The PWCS Environmental Literacy Plan and program is replicable for other school districts. The plan is available online, and PWCS has shared its model with other school districts and organizations. PWCS has also trained community members in environmental literacy so that they can be resources for schools. Grant opportunities exist to help divisions with limited capacity and resources develop environmental literacy plans and programs.

Non-governmental Organization Sector Award: District of Columbia Green Bank's A-Peace Sustainable Affordable Housing

The DC Green Bank collaborated with Ayesha Hudson, a DC native, to help realize her vision of building sustainable, resident-centered affordable housing in the District. Through this partnership, Ms. Hudson's business, A-Peace, LLC, has developed two properties in Wards 7 and 8 to deliver 13 units of energy-efficient, solar-powered affordable housing in her community. By prioritizing investments that promote sustainability, increase affordable housing, and advance equity, DC Green Bank helps the District meet its climate goals and ensures the clean economy intentionally includes communities historically excluded from economic progress.

DC Green Bank worked directly with Ms. Hudson for two years to help her qualify for financing as an emerging developer. Through an investment of \$3 million by the DC Green Bank, private equity grant



Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

funding and the additional qualified financing, this funded the new construction of a sustainable affordable housing development in Ward 8 and an energy efficiency and renewable energy retrofit of an existing affordable housing property in Ward 7. Both buildings will have all-electric heating and cooling systems and Energy Star appliances that will help save residents money on their utility bills. The project also included two photovoltaic systems totaling 49 kW, capable of producing more than 65,000 kWh of energy annually – avoiding the equivalent carbon emissions of 120,000 miles driven by car.

AGENDA ITEM #8

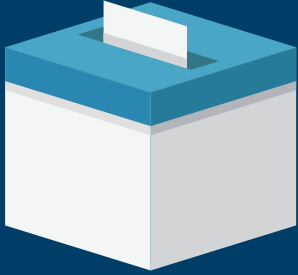
**ELECTION PREPAREDNESS:
REGIONAL COORDINATION**

AGENDA ITEM #9

ELECTION PREPAREDNESS: THREATS AND FEDERAL COORDINATION

Security Resources

for the Election Infrastructure Subsector



The **Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)** and the **Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)** have developed a summary of some of the resources available across the federal government for state, local, territorial, and tribal (SLTT) election officials and their private sector partners to assist in responding to threats to personnel and guidance on assessing and mitigating risks to their physical assets.

While many of these resources are not explicitly election security focused, the Election Infrastructure Subsector may find them useful in the course of their work. Since the lines between physical security and cybersecurity are increasingly blurred, select cybersecurity-focused resources have also been included in this document. All of the resources cited here are available at no-cost to the user and can be found on the websites listed below.

Threats to Election Officials and Infrastructure

In response to increased threats of violence against election workers following the 2020 U.S. election cycle, the FBI and CISA prioritized efforts to address these threats. The FBI and CISA take all threats of violence seriously, including those targeting election workers for their critical role in safeguarding the electoral process for all voters. The Department of Justice (DOJ) established the Threat to Election Workers Task Force to vigorously investigate and prosecute these threats. If you are the victim of a threat as an election worker, please take the following steps:

- If there is imminent threat to life, call 911
- To report threats, contact the **Election Crimes Coordinator** at your local FBI office (www.fbi.gov/contact-us/field-offices); submit a tip online at tips.fbi.gov; or call 1-800-CALL-FBI (225-5324), Prompt 1, then Prompt 3. Contacting the Election Crimes Coordinator at your local FBI office is the best way to report election threats
- Finally, contact your CISA regional office for physical security risk guidance tailored to your jurisdiction and facilities. CISA Protective Security Advisors (PSA) can perform assessments, such as the Security Assessment and First Entry (SAFE) tool, that highlight vulnerabilities with your physical election infrastructure, including election offices, ballot processing locations, storage areas, voting centers, and other election facilities. Find your local PSA here: www.cisa.gov/cisa-regions

Protecting Physical Security: Guidance Documents and Other Resources

- **CISA Physical Security Preparedness at Voting Locations and Election Facilities** provides actionable steps for election officials to improve the physical security posture and enhance resilience of election operations in their jurisdiction: www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/physical-security-of-voting-location-election-facilities_v2_508.pdf
- **CISA Last Mile products** are customizable tools that election officials can use to improve their infrastructure security. Examples of these products include Election Security Planning Snapshot, Election Emergency Response Guides, Election Safeguards, and other templates. For more information and to request a customized Last Mile product, please contact: electionsecurity@hq.dhs.gov
- **CISA Soft Targets and Crowded Places Security Plan Overview and Resource Guide** provides public and private sector partners with relevant information to enhance their preparedness and security: www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/DHS-Soft-Target-Crowded-Place-Security-Plan-Overview-052018-508_0.pdf www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/19_0424_cisa_soft-targets-and-crowded-places-resource-guide.pdf
- **CISA Protecting Infrastructure During Public Demonstrations** offers security recommendations for businesses that may be the target of unlawful acts during public demonstrations: www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/protecting_infrastructure_during_public_demonstrations_508.pdf
- **CISA Mitigating the Impacts of Doxing on Critical Infrastructure** defines and provides examples of doxing, explains the potential impact of doxing to critical infrastructure, and offers protective and preventative measures, mitigation options, and additional resources for individuals and organizations: www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/cisa_insights_mitigating_the_impacts_of_doxing_508.pdf
- **Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) Counterterrorism Guide for Public Safety Personnel** assists first responders in recognizing and reporting suspicious activity, spotting indicators of mobilization to violence, and responding to and mitigating terrorist attacks: www.dni.gov/nctc/jcat/index.html



Key Website/Contact Information

- **CISA Election Security** webpage contains all of CISA's election security tools and resources, including all of the federal government's resources listed in this document: www.cisa.gov/election-security
- **CISA Hometown Security** program website provides tools and resources to support community security and resilience: www.cisa.gov/hometown-security
- **CISA Interagency Security Committee** addresses continuing government-wide security for federal facilities and has created numerous standards, policies, and best practices documents that are available for individuals and organizations to review at: www.cisa.gov/isc
- **CISA Office for Bombing Prevention** provides a variety of resources, trainings, tools and products to help state and local authorities, private partners and others understand and mitigate the threat of improvised explosive devices and protect critical infrastructure: www.cisa.gov/obp
- **CISA Central** is CISA's hub for critical infrastructure partners and stakeholders to request assistance and services. CISA Central operates 24/7: Central@cisa.gov or 888-282-0870
- **FBI Tip Line** is FBI's hub for reporting election and non-election threats and crimes: <https://tips.fbi.gov> or 1-800-CALL-FBI (225-5324)
- **FBI Election Crimes and Security** webpage provides information on understanding and reporting election crimes: www.fbi.gov/elections
- **FBI Protected Voices** initiative provides tools and resources to political campaigns, companies, and individuals to protect against online foreign influence operations and cybersecurity threats: www.fbi.gov/protectedvoices
- **ODNI National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) First Responder Toolbox** provides information to aid in preparedness, coordination, response, safety, security, and investigations among counterterrorism stakeholders: www.dni.gov/index.php/nctc-how-we-work/joint-ct-assessment-team/first-responder-toolbox
- **US Election Assistance Commission (EAC)** serves as a national clearinghouse of information on election administration, and has additional election security related resources, which can be found here: www.eac.gov/election-officials/election-security



Trainings and Exercises

- **CISA Election Security Trainings** provide additional guidance to election stakeholders in managing risk and strengthening election infrastructure resilience. To schedule or to learn more about these trainings, email: electionsecurity@hq.dhs.gov
- **CISA's Interagency Security Committee (ISC)**, which focuses on security for all federal facilities, provides online and interactive training courses that may be useful to securing your physical infrastructure: www.cisa.gov/interagency-security-committee-training
- **CISA's Office For Bombing Prevention (OBP)** provides in-person, virtual and web-based independent study trainings. These courses assist public and private stakeholders with awareness and response to improvised explosive device (IED) threats: tripwire.dhs.gov/training-education/counter-ied-training-0
- **CISA Exercises**, including tabletop exercises, provide scenario-based training to help identify areas for improvement, share best practices, and enhance preparedness against threats to election infrastructure and personnel: www.cisa.gov/critical-infrastructure-exercises



Alerts and Public Service Announcements

- The **Elections Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center (E-ISAC)** offers a suite of election security resources, including threat intelligence products, threat and vulnerability monitoring, incidence response and remediation, and other products and services: www.cisecurity.org/ei-isac/
- **FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3)** accepts online complaints from victims of internet crime and publishes both industry and consumer alerts on internet crime-related issues: www.ic3.gov
- **CISA National Cyber Awareness System (NCAS)** is a repository of CISA alerts pertaining to current security issues, vulnerabilities, and exploits: www.cisa.gov/uscert/ncas/alerts

Combating Foreign Influence



Foreign influence operations—which include covert actions by foreign governments to influence U.S. political sentiment or public discourse—are not a new problem. But the interconnectedness of the modern world, combined with the anonymity of the Internet, have changed the nature of the threat and how the FBI and its partners must address it. The goal of these foreign influence operations directed against the United States is to spread disinformation, sow discord, and, ultimately, undermine confidence in our democratic institutions and values.

The FBI is the lead federal agency responsible for investigating foreign influence operations. In the fall of 2017, Director Christopher Wray established the Foreign Influence Task Force (FITF) to identify and counteract malign foreign influence operations targeting the United States.

Foreign influence operations have taken many forms and used many tactics over the years. Most widely reported these days are attempts by adversaries—hoping to reach a wide swath of Americans covertly from outside the United States—to use false personas and fabricated stories on social media platforms to discredit U.S. individuals and institutions.

Other influence operations by adversaries include:

- Targeting U.S. officials and other U.S. persons through traditional intelligence tradecraft
- Criminal efforts to suppress voting and provide illegal campaign financing
- Cyber attacks against voting infrastructure, along with computer intrusions targeting elected officials and others

The FITF is made up of representatives from our Counterintelligence, Cyber, Criminal, and Counterterrorism Divisions, and the task force also coordinates with other FBI divisions as needed.

Task force personnel work closely with other U.S. government agencies and international partners concerned about foreign influence efforts aimed at their countries.

Through the FITF, the FBI is taking a three-pronged approach to this serious threat:

- **Investigations and operations:** The FITF works with FBI field offices across the country to counter the extensive influence operations of our foreign adversaries.
- **Information and intelligence sharing:** The FBI works closely with other intelligence community agencies, as well as with state and local law enforcement partners and election officials, to ensure a common understanding of the threat and a unified strategy to address it.
- **Private sector partnerships:** The FBI considers strategic engagement with U.S. technology companies, including threat indicator sharing, to be important in combating foreign influence actors. The FBI also partners with election stakeholders to defend against foreign malign influence on U.S. elections.

Resources

- [Protected Voices](#)
- [Providing Foreign Malign Influence Threat Information to Social Media Platforms](#)
- [FBI Director Christopher Wray's Statement at Press Briefing on Election Security](#)
- [Deputy Assistant Attorney General Adam S. Hickey's Statement at Senate Judiciary Committee Hearing on Election Interference](#)
- [Security Resources for the Election Infrastructure Subsector \(English, PDF\)](#)
 - [Security Resources for the Election Infrastructure Subsector \(Arabic, PDF\)](#)
 - [Security Resources for the Election Infrastructure Subsector \(Chinese, PDF\)](#)
 - [Security Resources for the Election Infrastructure Subsector \(French, PDF\)](#)
 - [Security Resources for the Election Infrastructure Subsector \(Spanish, PDF\)](#)
 - [Security Resources for the Election Infrastructure Subsector \(Tagalog, PDF\)](#)

AGENDA ITEM #10

OTHER BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM #11

ADJOURN