



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** COG Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Clark Mercer, COG Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** Executive Director's Report – February 2023  
**DATE:** February 1, 2023

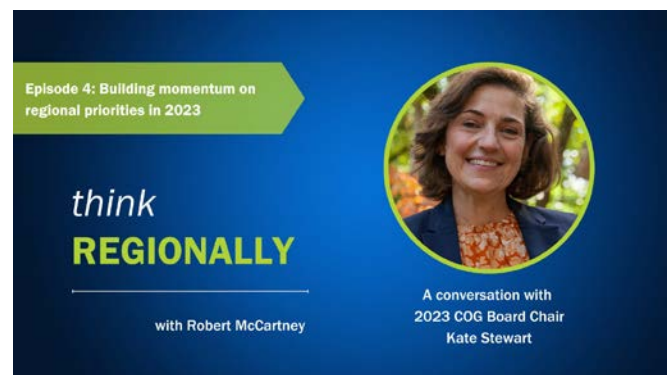
## POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

**National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB)** – In January, the TPB approved the nomination of 24 members of the TPB Community Advisory Committee for 2023-2024, including the appointment of Richard Wallace (Charles County) as CAC Chair. Board members received an overview of the *FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program* and a briefing on the proposed *Visualize 2050* long-range transportation plan and *Transportation Improvement Program* technical inputs solicitation (the process and schedule for including projects, programs, and policies in the air quality conformity analysis).

**Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC)** - At their January meeting, the CBPC members discussed general assembly bills of interest and formed their legislative tracking team. U.S. Senator Cardin's staff also briefed CBPC members on the status of Chesapeake Bay Program funding and Bay programmatic updates.

**Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC)** - Electric vehicle (EV) deployment in the region took center stage at Public Policy Day at the D.C. Auto Show in an event hosted by CEEPC. The event, "Accelerating Action on Electric Vehicles," brought together over 75 regional leaders and advocates across sectors to further the COG Board's priority on electric vehicle deployment and advance the accessibility, equity, and efficiency of metropolitan Washington's EV network.

**Human Services Policy Committee (HSPC)** – The January HSPC meeting focused on youth mental and behavioral health, including a briefing on mental health during the pandemic among Fairfax County students and a presentation on child, adolescent, and family mental health services in the District of Columbia.



### PODCAST: BUILDING MOMENTUM ON REGIONAL PRIORITIES IN 2023

In the latest episode of COG's podcast, *Think Regionally*, host Bob McCartney and COG Board Chair and Montgomery County Councilmember Kate Stewart discuss advancing climate, housing, transit, and equity priorities in the *Region United* framework & other new initiatives.

[Listen to the episode/read the transcript.](#)

**Region Forward Coalition** –The January meeting of the coalition focused on advancing the vision plan’s goals related to prosperity, including briefings on the state of the region’s economy and sectoral bargaining, which relates to negotiating labor agreements of an entire industry or sector.

## OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

**Region United planning framework** – Clark Mercer and outgoing COG Executive Director Chuck Bean joined staff at Brookings Metro for a presentation on the “History and Future of Greater Washington” and shared information on *Region United* and other COG Board priorities.

**COG Housing Targets** – COG’s regional targets and ongoing work on housing were the focus of several presentations last month, including briefings by COG Housing Program Manager Hilary Chapman for the Prince George’s County Council on January 4 and 10, Chuck Bean for the National Association of Regional Councils’ 2023 National Conference of Regions on January 24, and COG Community Planning and Services Director Paul DesJardin for the Montgomery County Council on January 30.

**Fair Housing Plan Public Comment** - The Regional Fair Housing Plan is now open for public comment. This marks the first time in 25 years that local jurisdictions have worked together to create a joint plan for metropolitan Washington. The plan includes an analysis of impediments to fair housing choice across the region and provides strategies to increase access to safe and affordable housing, increase investment and resources in priority areas, and create more inclusive communities. The 60-day comment period is open from January 31 to March 31, 2023.

[Learn more and submit a public comment](#)

**TPB Technical Assistance** - The Transportation-Land Use Connections (TLC) and Regional Roadway Safety programs are now accepting grant applications. The programs offer short-term consultant services with selected projects receiving between \$30,000 and \$80,000 in assistance for planning or design. Local jurisdictions are encouraged to apply by March 3.

[Learn more and apply](#)

**Transportation Research Board** - The 102nd Annual Meeting of the Transportation Research Board (TRB) took place January 8-12 in Washington, DC. A dozen COG transportation staff members participated in this year’s sessions and committee meetings.



### ACCELERATING ACTION ON ELECTRIC VEHICLES

At Public Policy Day at the D.C. Auto Show, COG’s Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee hosted an event bringing together leaders across public, private, and nonprofit sectors to discuss how to deploy electric vehicles and create an efficient, equitable, and robust EV network in the region.

[Read the highlight.](#)

## MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

**Greenhouse Gas Inventory** – Stories reference COG’s Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Inventory Summaries showing regional and local progress towards greenhouse gas reduction goals.

[Falls Church News Press](#) – reports on City of Falls Church progress towards regional GHG emissions goal.

[WUSA9](#) – covers Montgomery County progress towards regional GHG emissions goal.

**State of the Commute survey** – Article on carpooling/slugging references COG Commuter Connections survey.

[The Washington Post](#) – quotes Commuter Connections Director Nicholas Ramfos.

**Human Services** – Story brings awareness to housing needs in the region by featuring the annual Point-in-Time Count of people experiencing homelessness.

[DCist](#) – covers the annual Point-in-Time Count; cites 2022 data from COG.



### **COG STAFF JOIN WASHINGTON POST FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLE Q&A**

COG’s Climate, Energy, and Air Programs Director Jeff King was featured in the Washington Post’s latest transportation Q&A. King shared information on how the region is planning to meet infrastructure demands as EV adoption continues to grow, and the role local governments play in supporting a robust, equitable EV network.

[Read the story.](#)