



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

September 2015

COMMITTEE WORK FEATURE OUTREACH CALENDAR MEDIA

### Policy Boards & Committees

#### **NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD**

In the wake of the Philadelphia Amtrak derailment, a panel of railroad representatives briefed area officials about advanced technologies designed to stop or slow a train before certain accidents occur as well as emergency preparedness initiatives. In addition, the TPB approved funding for 16 projects to improve pedestrian and bike access and support transit-oriented development throughout the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia.

#### **METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIR QUALITY COMMITTEE**

MWAQC was briefed on two recent developments related to air quality—the Supreme Court decision on the Mercury and Air Toxics Rule and EPA findings on the Good Neighbor State Implementation Plan.

#### **CHESAPEAKE BAY AND WATER RESOURCES POLICY COMMITTEE**

The CBPC was briefed on two initiatives that advance COG's economic competitiveness focus—Alexandria Renew Enterprises' wastewater apprenticeship program and COG's Aspen Institute program which provides training on workforce development in the stormwater sector. The CBPC is supportive of initiatives to advance training and certification programs for the water sectors.

#### **CLIMATE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY COMMITTEE**

CEEPC hosted a panel on advanced technology to further advance deployment of electric vehicle (EV) technologies. The discussion was an offshoot of the Regional EV Readiness Workshop held in June.

#### **REGION FORWARD COALITION**

The coalition met at *The Washington Post* and toured global incubator 1776 to discuss fostering innovation and entrepreneurship in the region. 1776 Managing Director David Zipper urged leaders to connect research and development from universities and labs with the private sector, and to connect start-ups with the venture capital and other resources.

Heart of COG:

#### **WENJING PU AND HOW COG USES BIG DATA TO BETTER UNDERSTAND TRAVEL PATTERNS**

Wenjing Pu was among the first to use "big data" for transportation research purposes, and he brought this expertise with him when he joined COG as a transportation planner in 2009.

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE STORY.](#)



### ENDING HOMELESSNESS

COG's Paul DesJardin and Hilary Chapman attended the first meeting of the District of Columbia, Montgomery County and Prince George's County Homeless Coordinating Council in Oxon Hill. In addition, Executive Director Chuck Bean, DesJardin, and Chapman hosted a luncheon of local nonprofit homeless advocates to discuss COG's possible role in new efforts to end homelessness. At the COG Retreat, homelessness was also a featured topic.

### METRO SAFETY

Executive Director Chuck Bean spoke at a forum on Metro held by the Montgomery County Council's Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment Committee. He discussed COG's collaborative efforts to enhance safety for the system, including the recent work of COG's Fire Chiefs Committee as well as COG's prospective role and forthcoming work to facilitate the creation of a new Metro Safety Commission.

### CLEAN AIR PARTNERS OUTREACH

Clean Air Partners, in partnership with WGL and Commuter Connections, sponsored the first Clean Air Deeds Concert. The promotional event included a concert ticket give-away for residents within the region. The promotion asked residents to perform and post/share clean air "good deeds" for a chance to win a pair of tickets to see Chicago and Earth, Wind & Fire at Jiffy Lube Live on August 14. The Clean Air Partners' education team did outreach at summer camps to nearly 4,000 kids across the metropolitan Washington-Baltimore regions.

### ZERO EMISSION BUS DEMONSTRATION

Metro, in partnership with Complete Coach Works and COG, hosted a demonstration of a Zero Emission Propulsion System (ZEPS) all-electric bus at Metro's Carmen Turner Facility in Landover, Maryland. The tour was an opportunity to see first-hand a cutting-edge, clean transportation alternative. It followed COG's Regional Electric Vehicle Readiness Workshop held earlier in the summer, which brought together experts from the private and public sectors for a conversation about the purchase and integration of EV fleets.

### DRUG TAKE BACK COORDINATION

The Community Engagement Campaign, comprised of water and wastewater public information officers, is coordinating with COG's Police Chiefs Committee and Health Officials Committee to notify the public about medication disposal and the DEA Drug Take Back Day programmed for September 26. For more information about the Drug Take Back program and drop off locations, [CLICK HERE](#).



Event Highlight:

### OFFICIALS GATHER AT RETREAT

At the COG Annual Leadership Retreat, officials focused on the economy, homelessness, and Metro. Maryland Lieutenant Governor Maryland Boyd Rutherford, pictured left with COG Board Chairman William Euille, provided welcoming remarks.

[CLICK HERE FOR BLOGS ON THE RETREAT.](#)

**COG MULTI-SECTOR WORKING GROUP** - September 3

**TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD** - September 16

**CHESAPEAKE BAY POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING** - September 18

**HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY POLICY COMMITTEE** - September 18

**CAR FREE DAY** - September 22

**COG MULTI-SECTOR WORKING GROUP** - September 25

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIR QUALITY COMMITTEE** - September 29

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE ABOUT THESE AND OTHER COG MEETINGS & EVENTS](#)

**INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT FEATURED IN ANOTHER WASHINGTON POST STORY**

*The Washington Post* highlighted findings from the COG report and interviewed board member Sharon Bulova and Environmental Programs Director Stephen Walz about the region's challenges.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE STORY.](#)

**METRO, COG FIRE CHIEFS ANNOUNCE NEW LIAISON POSITION**

The press conference announcing that a uniformed fire officer will serve in the "nerve center" of the Metrorail system 40 hours a week to help coordinate communication received widespread coverage.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE WUSA9 STORY.](#)

**COG TRANSPORTATION STAFF INTERVIEWED FOR TRAFFIC FEATURE**

Benjamin Hampton and Wenjing Pu were interviewed by Dr. Gridlock for a *Washington Post Local Living* cover story on the change in travel patterns at the end of summer.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE STORY](#)

**CLEAN AIR PARTNERS BREAK DOWN AIR POLLUTION IN "KIDS POST"**

Clean Air Partners' Board Member Janet Phoenix was interviewed by *The Washington Post* for an article in the "Kids Post" on air pollution.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE STORY](#)



Media Highlight:  
**MCAULIFFE TALKS ECONOMY,  
REGIONAL COOPERATION AT COG**

Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe spoke before COG Board of Directors about regional cooperation and his plan for a New Virginia Economy. The meeting received widespread coverage in print, radio, and television.

[CLICK HERE FOR A WAMU STORY.](#)