

MEMORANDUM

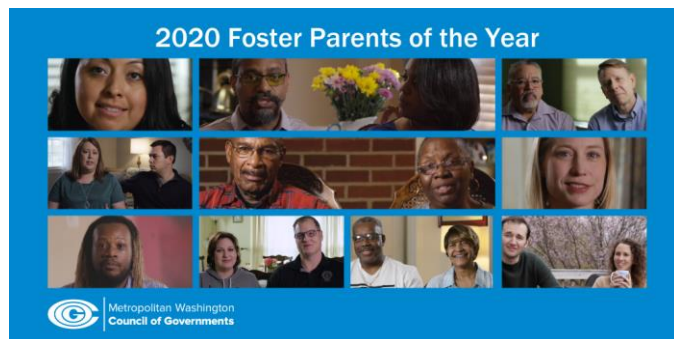
TO: COG Board of Directors
FROM: Chuck Bean, COG Executive Director
SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report – June 2020
DATE: June 3, 2020

COVID-19 COORDINATION

COG has continued to support the Chief Administrative Officers (CAO) Committee on COVID-19 coordination—sharing information on reopening plans, health metrics (cases, hospitalizations), and changes to government operations. COG has begun to coordinate with state-level efforts to expand contact tracing capabilities and improve communication and information exchange. Emergency managers, health officials, public information officers, and other groups continue to regularly connect and explore opportunities for coordination, such as a new joint radio ad to share messaging on stopping the spread of COVID-19 with the region's Latino population.

POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) – At its May virtual meeting, the TPB was briefed on the results of its *Regional Roadway Safety* study, which analyzed the factors contributing to fatal and serious injury crashes. The briefing included an in-depth look at crashes involving pedestrians and at certain intersections and arterials. Also related to the board's focus this year on safety, the Washington Regional Alcohol Program updated the board on the findings of its *How Safe Are Our Roads?* report, which tracks the prevalence of impaired driving in the region. The TPB also received a briefing on the draft results of an assessment of the market potential for commuter rail service between points in Maryland and Virginia, known as VRE-MARC run-through service, including how it could influence regional development and revitalization of commercial centers.



COG RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING FOSTER PARENTS FROM 10 AREA JURISDICTIONS

Each year, COG partners with local and state child welfare agencies around the region to recognize exceptional foster parents.

[View a video and news release on the awardees](#)

Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) – At its May virtual meeting, CEEPC members approved the *FY-2021 Regional Environmental Fund Work Program and Budget*. Members were briefed on the estimated impact of the COVID shutdown on energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. COG staff provided updates on the *2030 Climate and Energy Action Plan* and members shared updates on local climate action plans, metrics, developments, and initiatives.

Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC) – At its May virtual meeting, CBPC received presentations from the authors of the top two submissions to the inaugural CBPC Paper Competition and announced the winner, Hailey Clark, a student at the University of Maryland Institute of Applied Agriculture. The board was also briefed on WSSC Water’s COVID-19 response which includes providing essential employees with PPE equipment and safety measures, and messages to customers about bill payment programs and pipe protection.

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) – At its May virtual meeting, MWAQC reviewed the emissions inventory for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard and opened it to the public for comments. The board was also briefed on the 2020 Ozone season and reviewed a preliminary analysis of the impact of COVID-19 related behavior changes and their impact on regional air quality.

OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Air Quality Awareness Week – To celebrate Air Quality Awareness Week May 4 – 8, 2020, COG partnered with Clean Air Partners to inform residents, through a blog and social media, on how they can do their part to improve air quality from home while following Stay-at-Home orders.

Go Recycle Campaign – COG will be running its annual *Go Recycle* radio and digital media campaign beginning the first week in June, with the theme of “Help to Keep our Trash & Recycling Workers Safe.” The campaign will encourage everyone to properly dispose of masks and gloves in the trash, to bag trash, to not bag recyclables, to reduce waste, and to recycle right.

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



STREET SMART

As Stay-at-Home orders and other actions to slow the spread of COVID-19 reduced traffic on the region's roadways, law enforcement reported an increase in drivers speeding, so COG's Street Smart safety program and area officials have been urging residents to keep their guard up when venturing out on area streets..

[View the campaign and safety tips](#)

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Washington region's governments are largely committed to a coordinated reopening – COG Board members discuss the importance of a coordinated, scientifically-informed reopening strategy for the region.

[The Washington Post story](#)

How Does Transportation and Commuting Change In A Post-Coronavirus World? We Asked Experts – COG Deputy Executive Director for Metropolitan Planning Kanti Srikanth discusses how the pandemic has changed travel patterns and what is to come in the future.

[WAMU story](#)

This is Air Quality Awareness Week: How is Air Quality in the DC area? – COG Environmental Programs Director Steve Walz gave an update on the status of air quality in our region and how residents can do their part to improve it.

[ABC7 story](#)