

MEMORANDUM

TO: COG Board of Directors
FROM: Chuck Bean, COG Executive Director
SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report – November 2022
DATE: November 2, 2022

POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) – At its October meeting, the TPB approved regional targets for highway systems performance and highway assets, which include bridge and pavement conditions. In addition, the TPB received a briefing on the *2022 State of the Commute Survey*, as well as a briefing on an updated bus equity analysis in the region with an emphasis on service frequency and coverage in relation to COG's Equity Emphasis Areas. Staff also provided a status report on the 2024 Long-Range Transportation Plan update.

Food and Agriculture Regional Member Policy Committee (FARM) – In October, the FARM committee held its first annual forum virtually with the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. FNS administers critical food security programs like federal school meals, SNAP, and WIC.

Region Forward Coalition (RFC) – October's RFC meeting focused on sustainability and featured briefings from COG staff on Region Forward sustainability performance indicators and electric vehicle infrastructure deployment planning. The committee also heard from the Northern Virginia Regional Commission about innovative climate initiatives happening globally.



COG CELEBRATES LEADERS IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT
The Institute for Regional Excellence, a partnership between COG and The George Washington University's Center for Excellence in Public Leadership, recognized 28 professionals from 13 local governments and agencies, who completed the year-long public management course.

[Learn more about the 2022 cohort](#)

OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

COG Presentations – COG Executive Director Chuck Bean presented on COG’s regional housing targets for Arlington County’s *Missing Middle Housing Information Session on Planning for Growth* on October 12.

Climate outreach – Senior Environmental Planner Leah Boggs presented at the Prince George’s County Climate Action Implementation Task Force on October 13. The “Lunch and Learn” was a preliminary meeting meant to introduce the task force to the core concepts of environmental and climate justice included in COG’s environmental justice toolkit.

Food and Water Security – On October 11, COG hosted a Food and Water Supply Chain Summit, a planning effort led by the District’s Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency through regional preparedness funding. The event brought together 65 in-person attendees and several virtual participants to review supply chain threats and a new framework to guide food and water response.

Pedestrian Enforcement – The TPB held a webinar on Best Practices in Pedestrian Enforcement on October 27, in support of the fall Street Smart pedestrian safety campaign. The webinar briefed police officers on pedestrian safety issues, as well as current best practices for carrying out enforcement.

2022 AMPO Conference – Several of COG’s transportation staff participated in the Association Metropolitan Planning Organizations’ Annual Conference bringing together metropolitan planning organization (MPO) staff from around the country to discuss data, resiliency, equity, public participation, MPO management and more. Transportation planners Feng Xie and Ken Joh delivered presentations on transportation forecasting and travel behavior from COVID-19, respectively.

CEC Outreach – In October, COG’s Community Engagement Campaign (CEC) ran its annual Protect your Pipes, Don’t Flush Wipes campaign, including three 15-second videos promoted on social media to remind residents about the danger of clogged pipes. The CEC also participated in Drug Take Back Day on October 29, sharing information for proper medication disposal.



ELECTED OFFICIALS STUDY WATER QUALITY
COG Board Chair Christian Dorsey, Executive Director Chuck Bean, and members of COG’s Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee participated in the Chesapeake Bay Foundation Potomac Tour which included Alexandria Renew’s tunnel solution for their combined sewer overflow, documenting fish and aquatic life, and discussing a MD and VA assemblies’ legislative forecast.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

2020 Climate goal – *The D.C. Region Met Its 2020 Climate Goal. Now, The Hard Part*

DCist – Quotes COG Executive Director Chuck Bean and Senior Environmental Planner Maia Davis.

D.C. regional planning group touts carbon reductions

Virginia Mercury – Quotes several COG Board members

Metro funding - *Metro makes case for funding as regional leaders point to federal government*

The Washington Post – Quotes Deputy Executive Director for Metropolitan Planning Kanti Srikanth.



PODCAST: ADDRESSING HEALTH INEQUITIES

Data shows life expectancy across the region can differ drastically within a single city or county, from neighborhood to neighborhood. Hear Dr. Reuben Varghese and Dr. Steven Woolf discuss the factors that lead to varying health outcomes & what the road to solutions looks like.

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