

MEMORANDUM

TO: COG Board of Directors
FROM: Chuck Bean, COG Executive Director
SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report – January 2023
DATE: January 4, 2023

POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) – In November, the TPB held a state DOT safety roundtable, reviewed draft transit and highway safety targets, and discussed preliminary steps for the 2024 update to the Visualize 2045 long-range transportation plan. In addition, TPB members participated in a listening session with WMATA staff for the Better Bus network redesign. In December, the TPB received updates on the National Capital Planning Commission's Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative and the Maryland Zero Emission Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council (ZEEVIC). The TPB also approved transit and highway safety targets and \$2.3 million for six District of Columbia Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program projects.

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) - In December, MWAQC received briefings on regional electric vehicle initiatives led by the Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition as well as initiatives in the Cities of Frederick and Alexandria to move from gas to electric transit buses.

Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC) – In November, CBPC members were briefed on COG's equity resources and an Equity Emphasis Areas (EEAs) application to improve outreach related to the Anacostia Watershed restoration as well as the D.C. Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency's water infrastructure resiliency framework. Members also discussed 2023 legislative priorities for water.

Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) – In November, CEEPC received presentations on the state of global warming, impacts to metropolitan Washington, and progress made toward regional climate goals, including a new analysis showing the region met its emissions reduction goal for 2020. Members then discussed challenges ahead and CEEPC priorities for 2023 to accelerate progress toward the 2030 regional climate goal.



2022 ANNUAL VIDEO

In Region United: Accelerating Action, area leaders discuss how COG is helping local governments advance equity, transit, housing, and climate goals through its planning framework for 2030 and new initiatives.

[Watch the video.](#)

Food and Agriculture Regional Member Policy Committee (FARM) – In December, members discussed 2023 food and agriculture legislative priorities and received a high-level briefing on the U.S. Farm Bill from staff at Harvard Law School's Food Law and Policy Clinic. The Farm Bill is expected to be reauthorized by Congress in 2023.

Human Services Policy Committee (HSPC) – In November, HSPC received a briefing on a Prince George's County program offering apprenticeships within local government agencies to those ages 18-25 with disabilities as well as a briefing on NEXTVERSITY, a Connected DMV program to prepare students from underrepresented populations for leadership roles at public service organizations.

OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Region United – COG Community Planning and Services Director Paul DesJardin worked with staff of Greater Greater Washington, the Amazon Housing Equity Fund, and the Coalition for Smarter Growth to plan and host the Equitable Transit-Oriented Development (ETOD) Forum on December 7 at Strathmore Music Center in Rockville. COG Board Chair Christian Dorsey provided an opening presentation on COG's *Region United* planning framework.

Food Security - On December 2, COG hosted the DC, MD, and VA: 2023 Food Security and Resilience Legislative Priorities Briefing for interested FARM Policy Committee members and other stakeholders. Participants heard from the Maryland Food System Resiliency Council, the Virginia Food Access Coalition, and the DC Food Policy Council on policy and legislative priorities for the 2023 Virginia and Maryland General Assemblies and the next D.C. Council period.

Winter Weather Conference – COG's Department of Homeland Security and Public Safety hosted its annual Winter Weather Conference to help prepare the region for the upcoming winter season. Hundreds of partners attended the virtual conference, representing many local, state, and federal government agencies and transportation entities in the region. Participants were briefed on response plans, provided an overview of the revised *COG Winter Weather Plan*, and received an outlook for the season by the National Weather Service.

Cyber Tabletop Exercise – Emergency Preparedness Council (EPC) members met at COG for a cyber tabletop exercise developed with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). The exercise was designed to improve EPC members' ability to prevent, detect, respond to, and recover from a significant cyber event.



COG STREET SMART FALL CAMPGAIN KICKOFF
District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser and COG Executive Director Chuck Bean stand for a photo with area transportation leaders and crash survivors at campaign kickoff on November 17.

[Read the release.](#)

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Executive Director – *Clark Mercer named next COG Executive Director.*

Washington Business Journal – Story features incoming COG Executive Director Clark Mercer, who lays out his plans for the organization.

Washington Post – Story quotes 2022 COG Board Chair Christian Dorsey.

Roadway Safety – *“How Safe Are Our Roads?” Report and TPB actions call attention to roadway safety in our region.*

WTOP – Story covers trends revealed in “How Safe Are Our Roads?” report, quotes WRAP CEO Kurt Erickson.

Virginia Mercury – 2022 TPB Chair and City of Manassas Vice-Mayor pens op-ed on transportation safety measures in the region.

Housing – *Advocacy and outreach continues on the need to increase region’s affordable housing stock.*

Washington Post – Editorial on affordable housing availability in the region quotes Chuck Bean.

Loudoun NOW – Article covers efforts across the region to increase affordable housing, quotes COG Housing Program Manager Hilary Chapman.



PODCAST: ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS WITH COLLABORATION AND INNOVATION
Mayor Bowser, Montgomery County Chief of Services to Prevent and End Homelessness Amanda Harris, and Catholic Charities Executive Director of Homeless and Housing Services Amanda Chesney discuss progress made, the pandemic's impact, unique local challenges, and areas for further regional collaboration.

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