



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** COG Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Chuck Bean, COG Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** Executive Director's Report – April 2021  
**DATE:** April 7, 2021

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## POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

**National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB)** – At its March meeting, the TPB approved its work program and budget for the year as well as Commuter Connections' work program and budget. After a robust report on public comments, the board discussed how staff work on climate change mitigation will factor into the process of developing the next long-range plan. The board also received briefings on Airport Ground Access and the *Regional Travel Survey*.

**Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC)** – During its March meeting, CEEPC announced COG's recognition by the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM) as fully compliant with the global standards of best practices for climate planning. GCoM awarded COG "Mitigation" and "Adaptation" achievement badges in recognition. The committee also learned about zero energy building policies and guidance and the City of Frederick's climate action planning efforts.

**Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC)** – In March, CBPC discussed the 2021 General Assembly committee actions and related issues, and received a briefing from COG's Tree Subcommittee about its work and upcoming projects.

**Human Services Policy Committee (HSPC)** – At its March meeting, HSPC received a presentation by representatives from the Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP) and Children's National Hospital on early childhood development & early intervention. The committee also discussed mental and behavioral health challenges within the child welfare system and heard from child welfare directors from Prince George's County, City of Alexandria, and the District of Columbia.



### Staff Spotlight: Karen Armendariz

The TPB recently released the findings of its *Voices of the Region* survey which asked area residents about their behaviors and attitudes about regional transportation, including travel during COVID-19 and post-pandemic expectations. COG Public Engagement Specialist Karen Armendariz was part of the survey team.

[Learn more about Armendariz's contribution to the survey](#)

## OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

**COG Presentations** – Chuck Bean briefed the Council of the District of Columbia on COG’s work program and priorities.

**Housing** - COG Board Member Derrick L. Davis provided opening remarks for a HAND (Housing Association of Nonprofit Developers) webinar that unveiled their Housing Indicator Tool, which measures local progress on affordable housing production. COG's housing directors provided HAND with data for this effort. COG Department of Community Planning and Services Director Paul DesJardin and Housing Program Manager Hilary Chapman presented COG’s Housing Targets to the Prince George’s County Housing Opportunities for All (HOFA) work group led by Councilmember Danielle Glaros.

**Visualize 2045** - The Transportation Planning Board has released the *Visualize 2045* update project inputs and the Air Quality Conformity Analysis of the financially constrained element for public comment. The comment period closes on May 3.

[Learn more about the plan and comment](#)

**Bike to Work Day 2021** – Registration for the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Bike to Work Day (BTWD) on May 21 is now open. Organized by Commuter Connections and the Washington Area Bicyclist Association, this year’s event will be inclusive of those working from home and mindful of COVID-19 safety protocols.

[Visit the Bike to Work Day website to learn more.](#)

## MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

**The Washington commute could return by fall for many workers. It won’t be the same as before** – COG Deputy Executive Director for Metropolitan Planning Kanti Srikanth discussed the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on travel in the region.

[The Washington Post](#)

**Which workers were hardest hit by pandemic-related job losses in DC region?** –Paul DesJardin discussed job loss trends in metropolitan Washington as a result of the pandemic.

[WTOP](#)