

COG

October 12, 2011

media report

COG Executive Director Pens *Capital Business* Op-Ed

COG's David Robertson authored an Op-Ed in the Washington Post's *Capital Business* in September in which he urged the region's leaders to not become complacent given metropolitan Washington's relatively strong economy, but rather to focus on continuing to diversify it. Robertson recommended Brookings' Metropolitan Business Planning as a potential model. A link to the Op-Ed is on the COG homepage at www.mwcog.org.

Transportation Planning Director Participates in *National Journal* Debate

In September, *National Journal* brought together a group of political leaders and experts at Union Station to discuss the need to improve America's aging infrastructure during a time of massive deficits and demands for fiscal restraint. COG Transportation Planning Director Ron Kirby was one of the featured speakers. Other participants included Grover Norquist, President of Americans for Tax Reform and Ed Rendell, former Governor of Pennsylvania. A link to the video recap of the debate is posted at www.mwcog.org.

Car Free Day Breaks Participation Record

Nearly 12,000 people participated in this year's Car Free Day event in metropolitan Washington, a 70% increase over the previous record. The event was covered by a number of media outlets, including *The Washington Post*, NewsChannel 8, WAMU, the *Washington Examiner*, NBC 4, the *Washington Informer*, the *Frederick News Post*, Inside NoVa, as well as several Patch web sites.

Emergency Preparedness & Response Issues Generate Attention

The recent flooding, earthquake, and hurricane refocused attention on emergency preparedness and response. At its September meeting, the COG Board discussed the topic. The discussion was covered by *The Washington Post*, WAMU, and the *Washington Examiner*. COG's David Robertson and Fairfax County's Merni Fitzgerald discussed the topic during an appearance on NewsChannel 8's NewsTalk program on September 16.

**SOCIAL
MEDIA
UPDATE**



Julia Koster, NCPC's Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, recently authored a blog entry at *Region Forward* on the Transportation/Land-Use Connections (TLC) program.

In September, the *Region Forward* blog also covered a series of workshops held by COG and the EPA aimed at creating a climate change adaptation plan for metropolitan Washington. Check out these and other blog entries at www.RegionForward.org.

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