



MEMORANDUM

TO: COG Board of Directors
FROM: Chuck Bean, COG Executive Director
SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report – March 2020
DATE: March 4, 2020

POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) – At its February meeting, the board approved bicycle and pedestrian projects in Virginia to receive funding through the Transportation Alternatives Set-aside Program (TAP) and approved transit asset management targets for the region. The board was also briefed on the TPB's Unified Budget and Work Program, the new Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), amendments to Visualize 2045, and the associated air quality conformity analysis.



(Chesapeake Bay Foundation/Flickr)

Metropolitan Water and Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) – During its February meeting, MWAQC approved the base year inventory for the 2015 ozone standard, which is a requirement under the Clean Air Act. The District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia will be publishing the inventory for a public hearing and comment.

TAP PROGRAM PROJECTS

The TPB approved \$5.5 million in funding for 7 transportation projects, that make it easier and safer to bike and walk.

[View the awarded projects](#)

OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

COG Presentations – COG Board Chair Derrick L. Davis and Executive Director Chuck Bean presented to the Triangle J Council of Governments on February 5 in the Raleigh/Durham area. Bean also presented at the Demystifying Density event organized by George Mason University and the American Institute of Architects D.C. chapter on February 20. COG's housing targets and transit-oriented communities work were the focus of both presentations. Bean also provided presentations on COG's programs and services to the City of Falls Church on February 24 and Prince George's County on February 25.

Bean and COG Deputy Executive Director for Operations and Programs Tom Gates provided performance oversight remarks to the Council of the District of Columbia on February 24.

COVID-19 Coordination – Regarding the COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak, COG continued to support regional information sharing and communication among area officials.

2020 Census Data – COG hosted two half-day trainings by the U.S. Census Bureau for more than 60 local government officials where officials learned about the new method of collecting and viewing census statistics through the *data.census.gov* tool.

Housing Focus Groups – COG joined with other area organizations to sponsor research to develop a messaging playbook this spring for officials and housing professionals across the region. The research includes several public focus groups. On February 26, COG hosted a focus group for public, private, and nonprofit stakeholders.

Collaboration with Regional Councils – COG members and staff participated in the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) annual conference from February 9-12. COG Board Member Penny Gross provided welcoming remarks, Chuck Bean moderated a panel on the connection of housing and transportation, and COG Environmental Programs Director Steve Walz participated on a panel on the region’s climate action planning and partnership with the Global Covenant of Mayors.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

As D.C. area grows, new tool promises to reduce traffic woes– COG Board Chair Derrick L. Davis and COG Planning Data and Research Program Director Timothy Canan explain the value of the High Capacity Transit Map Tool and how it works to advance the region’s priorities.

[WTOP story](#)

\$5.5M in federal funds to improve biking, walking options in northern Virginia –COG Transportation Planner John Swanson discusses funds awarded to projects that promote safe biking and walking.

[Inside Nova story](#)

Fairfax County receives funding for mobility access project – TPB Chair Kelly Russell and COG Transportation Planner Lynn Winchell Mendy discuss how the Enhanced Mobility Program projects help expand transportation services in communities.

[Fairfax County Times story](#)



(EUintheUS/Twitter)

NARC CONFERENCE

Several COG members and staff attended and presented at the conference covering a variety of topics promoting regional collaboration.