



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** COG Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Chuck Bean, COG Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** Executive Director's Report – March 2021  
**DATE:** March 3, 2021

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### POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

**National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB)** – In February, TPB members were briefed on the initial findings from the Voices of the Region survey to gauge opinions on the future of transportation. More than 2,400 area residents participated in the survey, which will inform Visualize 2045, the region's long-range plan. The board also received briefings on the budget and workplan for the TPB and Commuter Connections.



**Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC)** – MWAQC members discussed in February several rules announced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency related to air quality planning and how these rules may affect the committee's regional work. They also discussed plans to meet the 2015 ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) to protect public health.

#### COVID-19 VACCINE COORDINATION

To support its member governments, COG hosted four webinars in February featuring experts like Johns Hopkins' Dr. Amesh Adalja to share insights and emerging best practices on vaccine distribution, messaging, and more.

[View select event presentations/video](#)

**Chief Equity Officers Committee (CEOC)** – The newly created CEOC committee met to discuss priorities for 2021 including regional trainings, identifying best practices, and establishing a regional definition of racial equity. They also elected committee leadership: Chair Karla Bruce, Fairfax County, and Vice Chairs Brian McClure, District of Columbia and Tiffany Ward, Montgomery County.

## OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

**COG Presentations** – COG Executive Director Chuck Bean spoke at the Greater Washington Partnership’s “Building the Transit-Oriented Capital Region: Prince George’s County” webinar on February 12. The discussion explored the future of Transit-Oriented Development after the pandemic. COG Department of Community Planning and Services Director Paul DesJardin presented COG’s Housing Targets to graduate students in Urban Planning at the University of Maryland on February 16. DesJardin also participated in the 22nd annual Business Advisory Panel for the Montgomery County Department of Finance on February 16 and discussed COG’s ongoing work to monitor COVID-19 economic impacts.

**Community Engagement Campaign (CEC)** – As part of a COVID-19 relief effort, area water utilities are offering water utility relief programs and have partnered with COG to share messaging about the programs to residents. The CEC has also been actively sharing winter salts messaging, encouraging residents to be #WinterSaltSmart.

**Voices of the Region Focus Groups:** COG Department of Transportation staff completed 11 virtual focus groups to learn more about what people in the region think and feel about the transportation system. The focus groups will provide more detail on the issues explored in the Voices of the Region survey.

## MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

**More biking, fewer trains: Survey examines the pandemic’s effects on mobility in the D.C. region** – COG Deputy Executive Director for Metropolitan Planning Kanti Srikanth and Transportation Planner Karen Armendariz discuss the recent Visualize 2045 “Voices of the Region” survey and what transportation options residents expect post-pandemic.

[The Washington Post](#)

**Collaboration is Key for Interoperability in National Capital Region** – COG Homeland Security and Public Safety Managing Director Scott Boggs discussed regional work to enhance public safety communications.

[FirstNet](#)

**The Potomac River: Its Future Depends On Us** – COG Principal Environmental Planner Karl Berger discusses chemical threats to the Potomac River.

[Alexandria Living Magazine](#)

**Metro seeks bond sales to raise \$360 million for capital projects** – COG Board letter calling for increased federal funding referenced.

[The Washington Post](#)