

MEMORANDUM

TO: COG Board of Directors

FROM: Chuck Bean, COG Executive Director

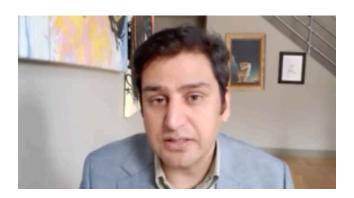
SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report - March 2021

DATE: March 3, 2021

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