



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** COG Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Chuck Bean, COG Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** Executive Director's Report – November 2020  
**DATE:** November 5, 2020

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## POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

**National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB)** – At its October meeting, the TPB endorsed a new 2030 goal approved by the COG Board to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions in the region. The meeting also included briefings on the Regional Travel Survey, a High Capacity Transit mapping tool, and restructuring the Citizens Advisory Committee as well as approval of the TPB Participation Plan.

**Region Forward Coalition (RFC)** – In October, RFC focused on accessibility, receiving updates on the Purple Line Corridor Coalition's work and WMATA's plans to continue maintaining transit service throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The committee also discussed overall transportation impacts in the region resulting from the pandemic and reviewed the results of Commuter Connections' 2020 Employer Telework Survey.



**NEW COVID-19 DATA EXCHANGE PLATFORM**  
Area health officials, in partnership with COG, have developed a way to securely share COVID-19 contact tracing data through an Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) platform, the nation's first multi-state program of this data.

[Read the news release](#)

## OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

**COG Presentations** – COG Executive Director Chuck Bean spoke at the Reuters Events Mobility Summit about "The Role of 'New' Mobility Partnerships in Driving Regional Economic Growth". COG Deputy Executive Director for Metropolitan Planning Kanti Srikanth participated in a panel at The Association of Metropolitan Organizations Annual Conference on Environmental Justice (EJ) focused on equity. COG Community and Planning Services Director Paul DesJardin was a guest panelist on the Regional Housing Strategies and Policies Annual Housing Forum of the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission on October 22.

**Homeless Services** – In October, COG Homeless Services Committee members discussed the proposed Human Services Policy Committee (HSPC) regional compact to end homelessness and finalized a scope of work for a consultant to conduct a regional racial equity systems audit. The committee also confirmed the date of the 2021 PIT count. Two subcommittees met to consider options for regional data metrics to track regional cooperation in ending homelessness and to provide input on the proposed HSPC compact to end homelessness.

**Imagine a Day Without Water 2020** – COG partnered with local jurisdictions to feature residents, small business owners, and public service workers in a video highlighting why water is essential in their daily lives and how it plays a major part in keeping the region safe.

**Drug Take Back Day 2020** – COG participated in the promotion of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency’s annual National Prescription Drug Take Back Day by reminding residents of the importance of safe and proper medication disposal.

## **MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS**

**Washington had best summer air quality on record because of COVID-19 restrictions and good weather**– COG Air Program Chief Jennifer Desimone discusses record-low pollution levels in the region and how stay-at-home measures helped improve air quality.

[The Washington Post story](#)

**Survey: Rural D.C. suburbs see more trips per day** – COG Senior Statistical Survey Analyst Kenneth Joh and Planning Research and Assistance Manager Nicole McCall discuss the results of TPB’s Regional Travel Survey and how future data will reveal the impact of COVID-19 on transportation in the region.

[Frederick News-Post story](#)



**TPB ANALYSIS SHOWS TRAFFIC REBOUNDING**  
The analysis shows roadway traffic volumes beginning to increase again in the region, after reaching its lowest point in April as a result of stay-at-home measures taken to slow the spread of COVID-19.

[View the analysis](#)