



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** COG Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Clark Mercer, COG Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** Executive Director's Report – January 2026  
**DATE:** January 7, 2026

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## POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

**National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB)** – In December 2025, the TPB approved *Visualize 2050*, the region's transportation plan, and the FY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The board also allocated \$10.7 million for twenty-five Enhanced Mobility projects and set annual safety targets. Additionally, the Mobility Analytics Subcommittee (MAS) held its inaugural meeting. The subcommittee advises staff on the Mobility Analytics Program to help members analyze regional travel patterns and manage congestion.

**Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC)** – During its December meeting, MWAQC received a briefing on the work being done to redesignate the region as now being in attainment of the 2015 federal ozone standard, which current data supports. MWAQC members received an informative presentation from UCLA's Levine Family Movement Disorder Center on the link between air pollution and Parkinsons Disease.



### COG Honors Regional Leadership Award Winners

In December, COG honored Montgomery County Councilmember Kate Stewart, Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition Executive Director Antoine Thompson, and former Northern Virginia Regional Commission Executive Director Robert Lazaro Jr. These leaders advanced regional transit, clean energy, and sustainability goals to create a more prosperous, livable metropolitan Washington.

[Learn more and view photos from COG's 2025 annual reception](#)

### **Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee (CBPC)**

– At its November meeting, CBPC members received a preview of upcoming state and federal issues for 2026, and a summary of the recent Potomac Drinking Water Source Protection Partnership (DWSPP) Workshop conducted with the Water Resource Foundation (WRF). Additionally, COG staff went over administrative updates to assist with planning CBPC activities for 2026, and solicited feedback on the COG Water Legislative Priorities for 2026.

### **Climate Energy & Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC)**

- At its November meeting, Climate Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) members received a briefing on the German energy transition and the role of renewables in transatlantic climate partnerships. The committee also participated in a Mid-Atlantic Climate Leaders Roundtable to share best practices and common challenges in implementing regional climate action plans. Additionally, members heard a presentation on the Carbon Measures Program Coalition regarding new global carbon accounting frameworks to support corporate climate goals.

**Food and Agriculture Regional Member (FARM) Policy Committee** – In December, the FARM Policy Committee hosted its second annual Regional Food Aggregation and Distribution Summit. Leaders from the District of Columbia, Montgomery County, and Prince William County joined producers and state agencies to expand institutional local food purchasing. The FARM Chair highlighted the Local Food Procurement Challenge, while a keynote address from Sunbird Farm Services focused on scaling regional initiatives. Partners from Georgetown Law, Locus, Mighty Thundercloud Edible Forest, and Prince William County Public Schools discussed regional investment in local food procurement.

**Human Services Policy Committee (HSPC)** – The Human Services Policy Committee (HSPC) met in November to discuss regional workforce development. Members heard from Smart Incentives, George Mason University, and Northern Virginia Community College on aligning education with labor market needs and supporting dislocated workers. Montgomery County shared its response to federal workforce reductions, including new career centers. Additionally, COG staff presented new regional economic dashboards that track labor market conditions and federal employment to support data-informed policymaking across the region.



### **Collaboration in Action: Greener rides and rooftops**

On the latest episode of Collaboration in Action, Clark Mercer highlights how regional leaders accelerate the transition to sustainable energy. The episode explores electric vehicle infrastructure and solar expansion through partnerships with the District of Columbia, Prince George’s County, and Clean Cities Coalition, showing how collaboration reduces emissions and improves regional air quality.

[Watch the episode](#)

## OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

**COG Earns Top Engineering Award for Flood Resilience** - COG received a Grand Award for its Blue-Green Infrastructure project. This collaboration with the District of Columbia and Prince George's County increases regional flood resilience. The project is now competing for a national engineering award.

**COG/WRAP Report: Impaired Driving Fatalities Down 26 Percent**– COG's new report shows regional impaired driving deaths fell 26 percent during 2023-2024. While fatalities decreased, injuries and crashes rose slightly. COG and the Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) continue collaborating to bolster regional road safety through data and advocacy.

**Public Safety Vendor Day** – The COG Law Enforcement Health and Wellness (LEHW) Subcommittee hosted Vendor Day on December 10 to learn about cutting edge wellness technologies and strategies for public safety agencies. Discussions focused on leveraging AI, implementing scalable solutions for agencies of all sizes, and adopting data driven approaches. The group plans to continue exploring opportunities for cooperative purchasing and ways to enhance resource sharing across jurisdictions.

**2025 Public Safety Leadership Cohort Completes Training** - COG celebrated the 2025 graduating cohort of the National Capital Region Public Safety Leadership Training Seminar. Dozens of local, state, and federal leaders completed three weeks of intensive training. This program emphasizes behavioral science and regional collaboration to strengthen public service leadership.

**Briefing on Data Center Energy Demands** - In December, COG staff briefed the National Association of Counties on data center energy demands and updated the District of Columbia Commission on Climate Change and Resilience on how the committee helps jurisdictions meet regional goals.



### COG Hosts National Public Safety Forum

COG convened 120 experts from across the nation and world on November 4-6 for a forum on public order policing. Held at the National Law Enforcement Officers Museum, the forum addressed crowd management, officer wellness, and de-escalation strategies to protect constitutional rights through regional collaboration.

[Learn more and view photos from the event.](#)

## MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

**DMVMoves** – The DMVMoves plan and its approval through various jurisdictions has been covered by Washington Business Journal, WAMU, Virginia Mercury, Loudoun Now, the Loudoun Times, FFXnow, the Fairfax Times, and ARLnow.

[FFXnow](#)

[Loudoun Now](#)

**Crime Dashboard** – COG’s regional crime dashboard was featured in an in-depth story on the Police1 national public safety news site.

[Police1](#)

**Report on Drunk Driving** – The COG report on the impact of drunk driving was covered by 7News, WTOP, the Washington Post, DC News Now, ALXnow, and FFXnow.

[7News](#)



### TalentCapital.AI Wins Product of the Year

The region’s new AI workforce resource platform, spearheaded by COG, received the Technical.ly award for product of the year.

[Technical.ly](#)