



MEMORANDUM

TO: COG Board of Directors
FROM: Clark Mercer, COG Executive Director
SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report – June 2025
DATE: June 4, 2025

POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) – At its meeting on May 21, the TPB approved \$440,000 for five projects through its Transportation Land-Use Connections (TLC) Program and \$320,000 for four projects through its Regional Roadway Safety Program (RRSP), with work beginning in September 2025. TLC projects include street design, bikeway, and trail studies in Washington, DC, Montgomery County, Prince George's County, Alexandria, and Fairfax County. RRSP projects focus on pedestrian safety improvements in Prince William County, Alexandria, Rockville, and Fairfax County. The board also received updates on COG's Regional Activity Centers map and regional bicycle and pedestrian planning, including the National Capital Trail Network.

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) – At its May 28 meeting, MWAQC approved its FY 2026 Work Program and Budget, prioritizing a Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan for the 2015 ozone standard. MWAQC also endorsed its Air Quality Action Resource Guide, offering a voluntary framework to incorporate equity and environmental justice into regional air quality planning.



DMVMoves Task Force meeting

Since its launch a year ago, DMVMoves has advanced a shared regional vision for transit as the backbone of a world-class mobility network. During May's DMVMoves Task Force meeting, the group aligned on key priorities—including rail modernization and a fast, frequent bus network—and discussed a long-term funding strategy to address a projected capital funding shortfall. With broad regional support, DMVMoves aims to secure reliable funding and finalize recommendations by year's end to ensure a safe, efficient, and future-ready transit network.

[View the May 2025 meeting presentation](#)

Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee (CBPC)

– CBPC met on May 16 and heard from speakers on topics, including salt influx from land and sea, the Prince William County Energy and Sustainability Master Plan, and USGS' Chesapeake Bay related activities from FY25. Additionally, COG staff provided updates on the regional drought status, and PFAS work.

Climate Energy & Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) – At the May 28 CEEPC meeting, members heard updates on climate action progress from the state legislative sessions, Montgomery County, and regional bicycle and pedestrian planning activities. CEEPC also reviewed and approved the FY26 Regional Environmental Work Program and Budget.

Human Services Policy Committee (HSPC)

– The Human Services Policy Committee met on May 9 to review the COG 2025 Foster Parent of the Year recipients and the 2025 report on homelessness. Members discussed kinship care, mass deportation impacts, and strategies to recruit and retain foster/resource parents. They also learned about regional efforts using the Built for Zero methodology to end homelessness.

**COG Chief Administrative Officers (CAO) Committee Tours Potomac River**

On May 6, COG's Chief Administrative Officers Committee toured the Potomac River with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation to see projects tackling sewer overflow and stormwater runoff and discussed water quality improvements, biodiversity and climate change.

[View photos from the outing](#)

OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Federal Workforce Resources and Data – Clark Mercer presented to the Arlington County Chamber of Commerce on COG's programs as well as regional economic impacts of changes to the federal workforce. Tim Canan, COG's Planning Data and Research Director, spoke on a panel at the May 16 Mid-Atlantic StatNet (MASN) conference in Fairfax on how data can improve service delivery and decision-making. Canan highlighted COG's Federal Workforce Resources and Data page.

Public Safety – In May, 27 personnel from 17 agencies completed the three-week NCR Public Safety Leadership Seminar. Applications for the Fall 2025 cohort are currently open through August 25.

Air Quality Awareness Week – COG's Clean Air Partners program launched its summer campaign during Air Quality Awareness Week with a gas-powered lawn equipment exchange. Residents traded in mowers, trimmers, and blowers at participating Ace Hardware stores for electric models, with old equipment sent for recycling. The campaign also featured public events and an educational exhibit on reducing lawn and garden emissions.

Recycling Media Campaigns – In May, COG wrapped up its Battery Management media campaign, spending \$72,500 to promote battery safety and recycling. In June, COG will launch the Go Recycle Campaign with \$65,000 in media spending, focusing on food waste with the theme: “WASTED: 1/3 of all food we buy is thrown away.”

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

DMVMoves task force meeting – The DMVMoves task force meeting was covered by the Washington Post, 7 News, Virginia Mercury, and FFX Now. DMVMoves was also a topic on the Politics Hour with Kojo Nnamdi on WAMU – Maryland Delegate and Task Force member Marc Korman was interviewed.

[Washington Post](#)

COG's 2025 Foster Parents of the Year - COG's 2025 Foster Parents of the Year were covered by ALXnow, ARLnow, and Potomac Local.

[Potomac Local](#)

TPB funding – Local planning projects approved by the TPB were featured in ALXnow, FFXnow, Patch, The Zebra, and Annandale Today.

[Annandale Today](#)

Federal workforce – Clark Mercer was interviewed by Adam Tuss for a story on how changes to the federal workforce are impacting the region's economy and transportation network.

[NBC4](#)

Bike to Work Day 2025 – Bike to Work Day, co-organized by COG's Commuter Connections program, was covered by Loudoun Now, ALXnow, and DC News Now.

[DC News Now](#)



COG's 2025 Report on Homelessness

COG's 2025 Report on Homelessness was covered by WTOP, 7 News, WUSA9, FFXnow, ARLnow, Bethesda Magazine, My MCM, Patch, and The Sentinel.

[WTOP](#)