

MEMORANDUM

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

POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) – On March 18, the Transportation Planning Board (TPB) approved the FY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program (nearly \$29 million, plus \$2.7 million carryover) and Commuter Connections (nearly \$8.4 million) budgets to advance regional mobility. The board also reviewed the Transportation Resilience Improvement Plan (TRIP) and leaders discussed regional transportation management, encouraging jurisdictions to sign mutual aid agreements to strengthen coordination and operations across the metropolitan Washington area.

Chesapeake Bay & Water Resources Policy Committee - On March 20, the Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC) reviewed federal and state water legislation, including legislation related to funding, PFAS forever chemicals, and storm drain safety updates across Maryland and Virginia. DC Water detailed its response and environmental remediation plans for the January Potomac Interceptor leak affecting the C&O Canal and Potomac River. Additionally, the committee approved the FY 2027 Regional Water Quality Monitoring Program Workplan and Budget, previewed the FY 2026 Stormwater Tax and Fee Table, and shared regional roundtable updates to advance environmental coordination across metropolitan Washington.

Food and Agriculture Regional Member (FARM) Policy Committee - One of FARM's Work Groups, the DMV Food Council Collaborative, held its bimonthly meeting. COG staff conducted outreach to member jurisdictions on the Local Food Procurement Challenge (LFPC) and will continue to do so.



Officials celebrate climate partnership

COG's Climate Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) held its 100th meeting on March 25 at the National Press Club, where members celebrated 15 years of collaborative climate action and reviewed regional greenhouse gas inventories to track progress towards climate goals.

[View a video on regional climate action presented at the 100th meeting](#)

Chair Friedson introduced a Resolution at the Montgomery County Council to commit to participation in the LFPC. The Council adopted the Resolution unanimously on March 24.

Human Services Policy Committee - The Human Services Policy Committee met in-person on March 13 in Arlington County to better understand partnership models with faith-based communities to create affordable housing. Members learned about Enterprise Community Partner's Faith-Based Development Institute and its impact on the metropolitan Washington region as well as its national expansion. Affordable housing developers True Ground Housing Partners and Affordable Homes and Communities (AHC) provided local case study examples, shared lessons learned, and provided insights into how local governments can support these efforts.

OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

DMVMoves Outreach - COG staff made presentations promoting the DMVMoves plan to Frederick and Prince William Counties.

Public Safety – On March 3, COG hosted a briefing with Verizon and local stakeholders to address recent network outages and plan communications redundancy. Additionally, on March 16, more than 300 public safety leaders participated in a coordination call to align operations ahead of severe weather.

Driving Government Efficiency George Washington University Panel – COG Executive Director Clark Mercer joined a GWU panel called Driving Government Efficiency: Delivering Measurable Results to discuss with other regional leaders actions to support efficiency in government.



2026 National Capital Region Fire Health and Safety Symposium

The 2026 National Capital Region Fire Health and Safety Symposium convened firefighters and experts on March 13 to share tactical insights and wellness resources. Through regional partnership, this biennial COG event provided critical cancer screenings and mental health support to strengthen the resilience of metropolitan Washington's first responders.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Pipeline discussion at Board meeting – COG’s March Board meeting discussion regarding the Potomac Pipeline was covered by DC News Now, FOX 5, WTOP, WUSA9, WMAL, WAMU and NewsRadio 92.3.

[DC News Now](#)

Bike to Work Day 2026 – COG’s 25th Bike to Work Day announcement and registration launch was covered by My Montgomery County Media and The Alexandria Brief.

[My Montgomery County Media](#)

Regional Ticket Reciprocity – Clark Mercer was quoted in an article about speeding tickets and regional ticket reciprocity in the Washington Post.

[The Washington Post](#)

Loudoun Learners – COG’s Loudoun Learners program was highlighted in a featured article by Loudoun Now.

[Loudoun Now](#)



Collaboration in Action: Keeping and growing talent in the DMV

On the latest episode of Collaboration in Action, Clark Mercer explores COG’s workforce development initiatives, including the job training program Loudoun Learners and the job matching and training AI platform Talent Capital.

[Watch the Episode](#)