



MEMORANDUM

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

POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) – In September, the TPB adopted DMVMoves bus service guidelines to establish regional frameworks for service frequency and hours. The board also reviewed proposed FY 2027 and FY 2029 Travel Time Reliability targets, with action expected in October. Additionally, the TPB released the Extreme Heat Toolkit for Transportation Planning to improve the resilience of streetscapes and transit waiting areas.

Chesapeake Bay & Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC) – In September, the CBPC hosted the 16th Annual Bay and Water Quality Forum to explore emerging utility challenges and regional resilience. Members discussed utility trends regarding affordability, federal funding, and regulatory pressures. Additionally, a panel of local and federal partners discussed gaps in current planning frameworks to strengthen regional water infrastructure. These discussions identified legislative opportunities will inform future policy actions.

Climate Energy & Environment Policy

Committee (CEEPC) - The September CEEPC meeting focused on a follow-up of the COG Board discussion on the Midcourse Review Report, featured a demonstration of the new interactive Climate and Energy Progress Dashboard, and presentations on Montgomery County's climate action progress and COG's economic development strategy.

Food and Agriculture Regional Member Policy Committee (FARM) and Human Services Policy Committee (HSPC) (Joint Meeting) - The HSPCs and FARM Policy Committees met jointly in



COG Celebrates Historic Headquarters Reopening

Hundreds of regional officials and current and former staff gathered to celebrate the grand reopening of COG's headquarters. Featuring Mayor Muriel Bowser, the event highlighted a shared vision for metropolitan Washington's future. This historic milestone ensures the organization will proudly call the District and the NoMa neighborhood home for years to come.

Watch reopening video, view photos ([link to the news highlight](#))

September for the third consecutive year to focus on food insecurity. The Capital Area Food Bank presented the results of their annual Hunger Report, sharing recent findings and trends in the metropolitan Washington region. A panel addressed changing eligibility requirements for Medicaid and SNAP programs and the impacts to the region. Panelists shared the current challenges in preparing for these changes and efforts to date to ensure that all eligible residents are informed and supported during the transition in program participation requirements.

OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

TPB Freight Subcommittee Tour– The TPB Freight Subcommittee held its second site visit at the I-95 Dale City Truck Rest Area and Weigh Station on September 23, where Virginia Department of Transportation and Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles staff provided an overview of operations. Highlights included touring the weigh stations and the tunnel connecting the northbound and southbound facilities beneath I-95.

[View photos from the tour](#)

Public Safety and AI – On September 17, dozens of executives represented on the Emergency Preparedness Council held a facilitated session, *Leading Through AI: Leadership, Governance, Risk, and Regional Coordination*, to discuss how leaders make decisions regarding AI and managing risk, trust, accountability, and responsible adoption.

TPB Recognized at AMPO 2026 – At the Association of Metropolitan Organizations (AMPO) 2026 conference, TPB showcased transportation and extreme heat resilience tools. TPB, COG, and WMATA also received an Excellence in MPO Coordination honorable mention for the DMVMoves Plan, highlighting regional partnerships driving an integrated transit system.

[Learn more about the awardees](#)



COG convenes region's U.S. Representatives, local officials

On September 23, COG hosted local and state officials and members of the National Capital Region Congressional Delegation. COG Board Chair Reuben Collins emphasized how strong federal and local collaboration across jurisdictional boundaries builds a better metropolitan Washington for all residents.

[View photos and highlights](#)

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Climate Midcourse Report– COG’s report on progress towards goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions was covered by FFXnow.

[FFXnow](#)

Report on Extreme Heat– The TPB’s new report about the impact of extreme heat on health and public transit was covered by WUSA9.

[WUSA9](#)

Water Supply Study – COG’s Water Resources Program Director Steve Bieber spoke with 7News about a major regional water supply study to provide a backup source to the Potomac River.

[7News](#)

Flood Maps – The TPB’s Regional Flood Maps that can help inform people about flooding risk was covered by Yale Climate Connections. COG Principal Transportation Resiliency Planner Katherine Rainone was interviewed.

[Yale Climate Connections](#)



Potomac Regional Alliance & CEDS Initiative

COG, Greater Washington Board of Trade, Greater Washington Partnership, and the Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area formed the Potomac Regional Alliance to to strengthen the long-term competitiveness, resilience, and growth of Greater Washington. The alliance’s initial project, which will be coordinated by COG, will be to craft the region’s first Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). This new partnership and initiative was covered by the Washington Business Journal and Virginia Business.

[Washington Business Journal](#)