

# 2025 Annual Report



## Fostering Next-Level Collaboration



Metropolitan Washington  
Council of Governments



# Joint message from the COG Chair and Executive Director

2025 was a year of major change for the metropolitan Washington region. We faced issues that went beyond jurisdictional boundaries, most notably the significant cuts to our federal workforce. Despite these challenges, area governments, businesses, and nonprofits stepped up and responded, thanks in large part to a truly unprecedented level of collaboration across sectors.

Collaboration is what drives our work at COG, and what makes our region stronger. We launched Talent Capital, a first-of-its-kind AI tool matching displaced workers with jobs and skills training. Partnering with the region’s law enforcement agencies, we produced the Regional Crime Dashboard, and working with Brookings Metro, we created the DMV Monitor, an economic data interactive, to support data-driven policymaking.

And, of course, capping a monumental regional effort involving a huge coalition of officials and stakeholders, we produced the DMVMoves Plan laying out our shared vision for seamless, integrated, and world-class transit.

Collaborations like these demonstrate what’s possible when area leaders come together and prioritize problem-solving. Now, let’s maintain this momentum in 2026.

Together, we’ll ensure that our DMVMoves recommendations to transform regional transit are implemented. We’ll focus on new initiatives to advance roadway safety, public health, and economic and workforce development. We will also be convening area leaders on a timely topic that demands more regional discussion: data centers. Our series of workshops will focus on strengthening local governments’ understanding of the data center and AI sectors and providing insight into key planning considerations.

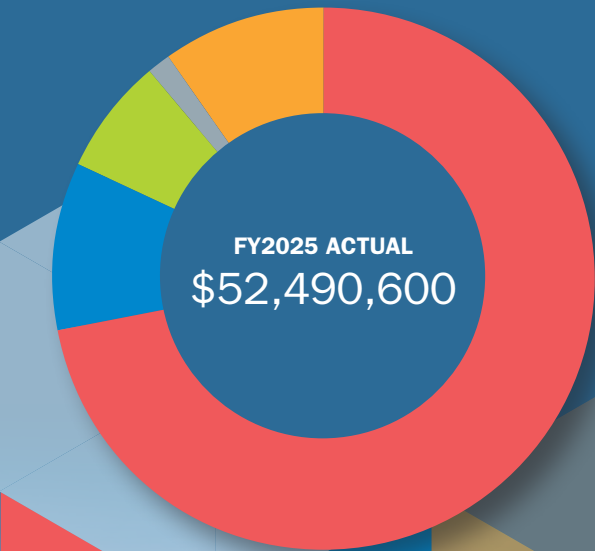
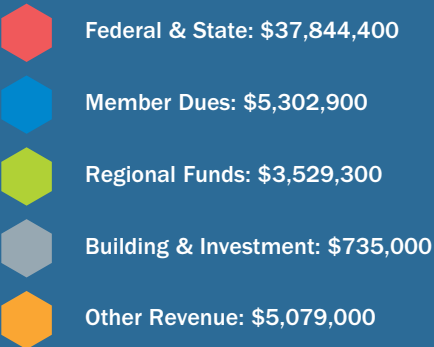
Let’s build on this progress and shape a more resilient, dynamic, and future-ready region.

**Reuben B. Collins, II**, 2026 COG Board Chair  
**Clark Mercer**, COG Executive Director



## COG Budget

### REVENUES BY SOURCE





## Featured Programs & Initiatives



### ▲ Return to Office Support

As more workers returned to the office, COG's Commuter Connections program reported a surge in web visits and added 11,200 new accounts. The new CommuterCash rewards app debuted strongly, with more than 1,750 commuters logging more than 86,000 eco-friendly trips in its first year, while Bike to Work Day welcomed more than 12,000 riders, the most since the pandemic.

### ▼ Workforce Solutions

Elected officials, business leaders, philanthropies, and higher education institutions joined forces to launch Talent Capital, a first-of-its-kind, AI-powered platform to assist displaced federal workers. Spearheaded by COG, this free, regional resource offers job matching, career training, credentialing, and coaching to help transition workers into new opportunities.

Photo Credit: Chris Ferenzi



### ▲ Mid-Air Collision Response

The COG Board honored 130 first responders and officials for their heroic and coordinated efforts following the January 29 mid-air collision near Reagan National Airport. The response leveraged the National Capital Region Mutual Aid Agreement (MAA) established by COG, involving hundreds of responders from more than 90 agencies across the region.

## DMVMoves Initiative

In November 2025, following 18 months of discussion, debate, and consensus building, the COG and Metro boards jointly endorsed recommendations from the DMVMoves Task Force. The DMVMoves Plan calls on area leaders to secure \$460 million annually in new, capital funding for Metro to reinvest in and modernize the system, plan and construct a regional bus priority network, strengthen coordination among the region's transit operators on priorities like fare integration and joint procurements, and leverage investments in commuter rail to create a regional rail service.

Following the endorsement, officials are focused on advancing the DMVMoves recommendations through a new regional transit integration action plan and seeking the enactment of funding legislation by the DC Council and the Maryland and Virginia state legislatures to bring this transformative vision to life.

Photo Credit: WMATA





### ▼ AI Workshop

COG convened a first-of-its-kind workshop for regional leaders, including U.S. Representative Don Beyer, local elected officials, and information technology directors, to examine how artificial intelligence (AI) can support public service. Discussions focused on best practices for responsible AI use, cybersecurity, and public safety, leading to plans for a regional AI workgroup.



### ▲ Regional Crime Dashboard

COG launched the nation's first-ever Regional Crime Dashboard, developed in partnership with area jurisdictions and law enforcement agencies. It provides near real-time data and showed a significant decrease in overall crime from 2025 compared to 2024. The dashboard supports data-driven policymaking and public understanding of safety.



### ▼ Capital Caucus

COG hosted the first-ever Capital Caucus Reception, bringing together state delegates and senators from Maryland and Virginia, DC Councilmembers, and local elected officials. The event fostered a post-legislative session wrap-up to strengthen collaboration on shared priorities across Annapolis, Richmond, and Washington, DC.



## Federal Workforce Impacts

As the region's largest employer, changes to the federal government's workforce and spending often result in an oversized impact on metropolitan Washington. Given the deep cuts rolled out in 2025, COG supported the regionwide response by making data on the federal footprint and regional economy available to policymakers, and COG statistics were shared widely by the media. COG also stood up a resources page for affected workers and their families on the COG website.

COG's Regional Economic Monitoring System (REMS), which tracks job growth, unemployment, inflation, and housing production, is now available as an interactive dashboard, providing current and historical regional data. COG also partnered with Brookings Metro on the DMV Monitor, a new resource designed to track additional economic indicators such as real estate, venture capital, tourism, and more.







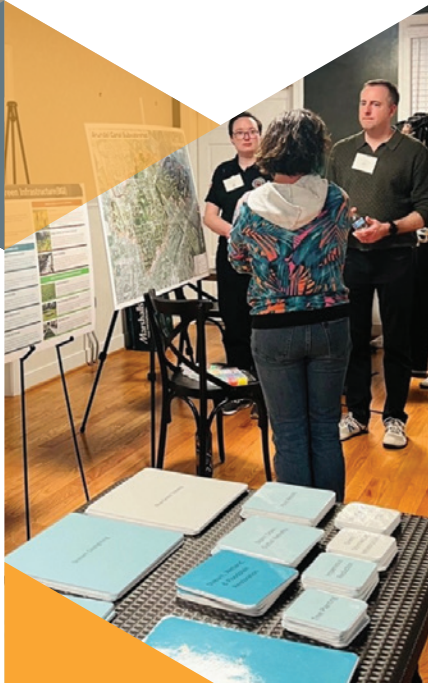
### ▼ Blue-Green Infrastructure

COG's Regional Blue-Green Infrastructure (BGI) Community Engagement and Planning Project developed solutions to increase flood resilience in collaboration with the District of Columbia and Prince George's County. The project was honored with a top regional engineering award.



### ▲ Public Order Policing Forum

COG hosted a National Executive Forum on Public Order Policing, bringing together law enforcement executives, researchers, and public safety experts. The forum focused on the evolving challenges of public order policing, including managing crowds and de-escalating conflict.



### ▲ Flood Risk Analysis

The TPB completed an updated flood risk analysis using data and maps from Fathom, a leading environmental and climate data analytics company. The assessment revealed far more transportation assets vulnerable to current and future inland flooding than earlier FEMA-based analyses, providing clearer insights to guide long-term regional resilience planning and investment.

[Photo Credit: Emma K. Alexandra/Flickr](#)

## Visualize 2050

The National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) at COG approved Visualize 2050, the region's federally mandated, metropolitan transportation plan, in December 2025. Visualize outlines current conditions, key issues, anticipated transportation funding through 2050, and priority investments to operate, maintain, and make improvements to transportation infrastructure and services in the District of Columbia, suburban Maryland, and Northern Virginia.

The plan showcases the transportation system envisioned for 2050 and consists of \$297 billion in multimodal projects, with 85 percent of the amount focused on maintaining the region's system in a state of good repair, while 15 percent of funding is dedicated to expanding the current system. Transportation projects must be in the plan to receive federal funding and approvals.

[Photo Credit: Emma K. Alexandra/Flickr](#)



# 2025 COG Leadership

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City of College Park

Vice President  
Catherine Read  
City of Fairfax

Vice President  
Kenyan McDuffie  
District of Columbia

Secretary-Treasurer  
Michael O'Connor  
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Ingrid Watson

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Arlington County  
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Catherine Read

Fairfax County  
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James Bierman

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Loudoun County  
Phyllis Randall  
Laura TeKrony

City of Manassas  
Mark Wolfe

City of Manassas Park  
Darryl Moore

Prince William County  
Deshundra Jefferson  
Andrea Bailey

VA General Assembly  
Mark Sickles

## COG STAFF

Clark Mercer  
Executive Director

## About the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG)

COG is an independent, nonprofit association that brings area leaders from the District of Columbia, suburban Maryland, and Northern Virginia together to address regional issues and plan for the future. COG's membership is comprised of 300 elected officials from 24 local governments, the Maryland and Virginia state legislatures, and U.S. Congress.

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Metropolitan Washington  
**Council of Governments**

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Front cover: COG Board recognition of first responders to the mid-air collision near DCA, Talent Capital launch event (photo credit: Chris Ferenzi), and DMV Moves transit tour (photo credit: WMATA)