



MEMORANDUM

TO: COG Board of Directors
FROM: Clark Mercer, COG Executive Director
SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report – March 2026
DATE: March 4, 2026

POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) – In February, the TPB approved \$12.5 million in federal Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside funding for seven projects that will improve walking, ADA access, and safe routes to schools in Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William counties; the cities of Alexandria, Manassas, and Manassas Park; and in the Town of Vienna. The board received the results of the recently updated Regional Roadway Safety Report, an inventory of roadway safety strategies, and a white paper on automated traffic enforcement. Staff also provided briefings on the FY 2027 TPB Unified Planning Work Program and the FY 2027 Commuter Connections Work Program ahead of the TPB's vote on these programs in March.

Food and Agriculture Regional Member (FARM) Policy Committee - The FARM committee met in February to address rising regional food insecurity, disruptions from the major winter storm, and integrating food systems into emergency planning.

Committee leadership introduced to members the Local Food Procurement Challenge, which encourages jurisdictions to support local producers through flexible public food purchasing. To assist members, FARM released a new fact sheet and policy matrix for local decision makers. Members also shared updates on school meals and food access while reaffirming the committee's 2025 – 2026 strategic priorities.



Virtual Briefing on Pipeline Collapse

COG convened officials and experts for a February 23 briefing on the Potomac Interceptor sewer pipeline collapse and response. DC Water reported containment is nearly complete; repairs will continue through mid-March.

[View the latest on COG's pipeline resources page](#)

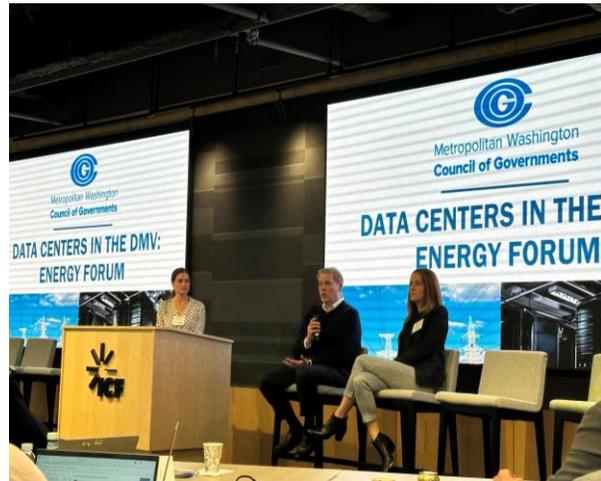
OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Member Outreach – In February, COG staff provided presentations highlighting COG’s work program and members benefits as well as the DMVMoves plan to the City of Falls Church, the City of Fairfax, the City of Rockville and the Washington Suburban Transit Commission.

NCR Public Health and Preparedness Academy - The DHSPS Public Health Emergency Planners Subcommittee hosted the inaugural two-day NCR Public Health and Preparedness Academy that featured over 15 peer presentations and a full-day tabletop exercise to advance regional capabilities for over 75 medical and public health emergency preparedness attendees from 25 local, state, and federal government agencies and healthcare sector entities.

Pipeline Messaging – COG convened two calls of regional public information officers to share information and resources related to the pipeline collapse and response, including messaging for the public related to drinking water not being affected by the incident and guidance on not flushing wipes.

Electric Vehicle Planning – COG environmental staff participated in Arlington County's Climate Action Plan Kickoff Event in February. Staff co-hosted an Electric Vehicle Community Listening Tabling and EV Showcase with staff from Arlington County and the Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition. The event was part of the community engagement related to a Charging and Infrastructure (CFI) grant that COG and its member governments won to expand EV use across the region.



COG convenes area leaders, experts for Data Center Series

COG is hosting a workshop series to strengthen local governments’ understanding of data center and artificial intelligence (AI) growth. These forums facilitate regional knowledge-sharing on infrastructure and planning. Workshops on energy and water use have already convened area leaders and experts. The third and final session will focus on land use.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Pipeline briefing – COG’s regional call with updates on the recent sewer collapse was covered by ALXnow, The Alexandria Brief, My Montgomery County Media, WUSA9, 7News, and WTOP.

[7News](#)

DMVMoves Plan – The DMVMoves Plan receiving endorsements by various jurisdictions was covered by WUSA9.

[WUSA9](#)

Roadway Safety Study – The TPB 2025 Roadway Safety Study was covered by WTOP.

[WTOP](#)

Transportation Alternatives funding – The TPB approved funding for two pedestrian safety projects in Alexandria was covered by ALXnow.

[ALXnow](#)



Winter storm response

The COG Board’s discussion on the region’s response to the January winter storm was covered by FOX 5, FOX Baltimore, 7News, WUSA9, ALXnow, WAMU, WMAL, and WTOP.

[View highlights from the briefing](#)