



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wednesday, March 11, 2026  
12:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.  
National Association of Counties

### AGENDA

- 12:00 P.M.**
- 1. CALL TO ORDER**  
*Reuben Collins, COG Board Chair*
  - 2. CHAIR'S REPORT**  
*Reuben Collins, COG Board Chair*
  - 3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**  
*Clark Mercer, COG Executive Director*
  - 4. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**  
*Reuben Collins, COG Board Chair*
  - 5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 11, 2026**  
*Reuben Collins, COG Board Chair*  
**Recommended Action: Approve minutes.**
  - 6. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**  
*Reuben Collins, COG Board Chair*
    - A. Resolution R18-2026 – Resolution Authorizing COG to Receive a Grant to Combat the Unlawful Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) in the National Capital Region (NCR)  
**Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution R18-2026**
- 12:20 P.M.**
- 7. DATA CENTERS IN THE DMV: OUTCOMES AND NEXT STEPS**  
*Steven Bieber, COG Water Resources Program Director*  
*Jeff King, COG Climate Energy and Air Program Director*

Over the last month COG hosted two meetings focused on strengthening local governments' understanding of data centers and their impacts. The workshops focused on energy and water to gain insight into key planning considerations, including industry trends, infrastructure needs, and community considerations. The board will be briefed on the main insights and next steps COG will take around these issues.

**Recommended Action: Receive briefing.**

Reasonable accommodations are provided upon request, including alternative formats of meeting materials.  
Visit [www.mwcog.org/accommodations](http://www.mwcog.org/accommodations) or call (202) 962-3300 or (202) 962-3213 (TDD).

**12:35 P.M. 8. UPDATE ON REGIONAL COORDINATION AND RESPONSE TO THE POTOMAC INTERCEPTOR PIPELINE COLLAPSE**

*Steven Bieber, COG Water Resources Director*

The board will be updated on the response to the January 2026 Potomac Interceptor Pipeline Collapse including actions taken to date, next steps, and regional coordination and communication.

**Recommended Action: Receive briefing.**

**1:20 P.M. 9. 2025 STATE OF THE COMMUTE SURVEY RESULTS**

*Dan Sheehan, TPB Transportation Operations Programs Director*

The board will be briefed on results of the 2025 State of the Commute survey, conducted every three years, to assess regional commuting trends. The results provide a comprehensive look at how people travel to and from work throughout the region.

**Recommended Action: Receive briefing.**

**1:45 P.M. 10. EXECUTIVE SESSION/CLOSED MEETING**

*Reuben Collins, COG Board Chair*

Pursuant to Board Rules of Procedure 4.08 and 4.09, the Board will vote to hold an Executive Session/Closed Meeting of Board Members only for discussion of a personnel matter – annual evaluation of COG’s Executive Director.

**Recommended Action: Receive briefing and adopt Resolution R19-2026.**

**1:55 P.M. 11. OTHER BUSINESS**

**2:00 P.M. 12. ADJOURN**

The next COG Board Meeting will take place in-person on Wednesday, April 8 from 12:00 – 2:00 P.M. at the National Association of Counties.

**AGENDA ITEM #2**

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

# **AGENDA ITEM #3**

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**



## MEMORANDUM

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

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### 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](#)

**AGENDA ITEM #4**

**AMENDMENTS TO  
THE AGENDA**

# **AGENDA ITEM #5**

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**  
777 North Capitol Street, NE  
Washington, D.C. 20002

**MINUTES**  
**COG Board of Directors Meeting**  
**February 11, 2026**

**BOARD MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES:** See attached chart for attendance.

**SPEAKERS:**

Eli Russ, COG Senior Public Safety Planner  
Kevin Donahue, District of Columbia City Administrator  
Richard Madaleno, Montgomery County Chief Administrative Officer  
John Scrivani, Virginia Department of Emergency Management State Coordinator  
Leroy Jones, Metro Executive Vice President  
Timothy Canan, COG Planning Data and Research Program Director  
Tracy Hadden Loh, Brookings Fellow

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

COG Board Chair Reuben Collins called the meeting to order at 12:05 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. CHAIR'S REPORT**

The Chair's report included the following items:

- Recognition of new board members in attendance
- Reminder of positive board meetings and engagement

**3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT CHAIR'S REPORT**

The Executive Director's report included the following items:

- National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) – In January, area officials and COG staff announced the 2025 State of the Commute (SOC) survey results at a media event and provided an overview to the TPB at its meeting on January 2.
- Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee (CBPC) – At its January meeting, CBPC members received a briefing on federal updates including EPA funding and the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) and regulatory actions on PFAS (forever chemicals) and Waters of the United States (WOTUS).
- Climate Energy & Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) - At its January meeting, the Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) reviewed greenhouse gas reduction progress, focusing on electric vehicles and tree canopy, unveiled the Environmental Justice Toolkit 2.0 and legislative tracking priorities.
- Human Services Policy Committee (HSPC) – The Human Services Policy Committee met in January to address Medicaid eligibility shifts and expiring Affordable Care Act subsidies.
- Winter Preparedness Calls and Tips – COG staff facilitated five regional winter weather conference calls to share information and support decision-making during and after the historic winter storm on January 25.
- Member Outreach – In January, Clark Mercer, Deputy Executive Director Kanti Srikanth, and Multimodal Program Planning Director Tom Harrington gave presentations on COG's work program and DMVMoves.
- DMV Moves - As state legislative sessions began in Annapolis and Richmond, the DMVMoves plan (including the recommendation for an additional \$460M in annual capital funding for

Metro) has won the support of a growing group of local and regional governing bodies since being endorsed by the COG and WMATA Boards.

#### **4. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

There were no amendments to the agenda.

#### **5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 8 AND NOVEMBER 17, 2025**

The minutes from the January 14<sup>th</sup> board meeting were approved.

#### **6. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

- Resolution R12-2026 – Resolution Approving the Fiscal Year 2025 Single Audit Report
- Resolution R13-2026- Resolution Authorizing COG to be a Subrecipient for a DHS Grant to Manage the Biowatch Sample Collection in the National Capital Region
- Resolution R14-2026 – Resolution Authorizing COG to Receive a Grant, Procure and Enter into a Contract to Conduct Phase 41 of the Continuous Airport System Planning (CASP) Program
- Resolution R15-2026 – Resolution Authorizing COG to Receive a Grant, Procure and Enter into a Contract to Develop a Compatible Use Plan for Joint Base Anacostia Bolling
- Resolution R16-2026 – Resolution Authorizing COG to Receive a Grant, Procure and Enter into a Contract to Establish a Research Center to Mitigate PFAS in Drinking Water of the Metropolitan Washington Region
- Resolution R17-2026 – Resolution Authorizing COG to Procure and Enter into a Contract to Develop a Regional Interoperable Communications Plan and Strategy

**Action: The board adopted Resolutions R12-R17-2026**

#### **7. REGIONAL COORDINATION AND RESPONSE TO JANUARY 2026 WINTER WEATHER**

The board was briefed on the impacts and response to the winter storm on January 25, 2026. Due to running out of time, this agenda item will continue at the next board meeting.

#### **8. REGIONAL ECONOMIC MONITORING**

The board was briefed on DMV Monitor, a new dashboard that tracks additional economic indicators, such as real estate, venture capital, and tourism, and provides in-depth analysis of the region's economic, social, and fiscal health.

#### **9. EXECUIVE SESSION/CLOSED MEETING**

This agenda item was moved to the March meeting.

#### **10. OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **11. ADJORN**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 P.M.

**COG Board of Directors  
Meeting  
February 11, 2026 Attendance**

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Y/N</b>	<b>Alternate</b>	<b>Y/N</b>
<b><i>District of Columbia</i></b>				
<b>Executive</b>	Hon. Muriel Bowser		Ms. Beverly Perry	
	Mr. Kevin Donahue	Y	Mr. Tomas Talamante	
<b>Council</b>	Hon. Phil Mendelson		Hon. Brianne Nadeau	Y
	Hon. Charles Allen	Y		
<b><i>Maryland</i></b>				
City of Bowie	Hon. Dufour Woolfley	Y		
Charles County	Hon. Reuben Collins	Y	Hon. Thomasina Coates	
City of Frederick	Hon. Michael O'Connor		Hon. Gayon Sampson	
Frederick County	Hon. Jessica Fitzwater		Ms. Victoria Venable	
City of College Park	Hon. Denise Mitchell		Hon. Fazlul Kabir	
City of Gaithersburg	Hon. Robert Wu	Y	Hon. Neil Harris	
City of Greenbelt	Hon. Emmett Jordan	Y	Hon. Kristen Weaver	
City of Laurel	Hon. Keith Sydnor	Y	Hon. Brenis Smith	
Montgomery County - Exec	Hon. Marc Elrich		Mr. Richard Madaleno Ms. Fariba Kassiri Mr. Earl Stoddard	Y
Montgomery County - Council	Hon. Evan Glass	Y	Hon. Maxene Bardwell	
Montgomery County - Council	Hon. Kate Stewart		Hon. Natali Fani-Gonzalez	
Prince George's County - Exec	Hon. Aisha Braveboy		Mr. Maxene Bardwell	
Prince George's County - Council	Hon. Krystal Oriadha		Hon. Tom Dernoga	Y
Prince George's County - Council	Hon. Wala Blegay			
City of Rockville	Hon. Monique Ashton			
City of Takoma Park	Hon. Talisha Searcy			
Maryland General Assembly	Hon. Brian Feldman			
<b><i>Virginia</i></b>				
City of Alexandria	Hon. Alyia Gaskins	Y	Hon. Sarah Bagley	
Arlington County	Hon. Takis Karantonis	Y		
City of Fairfax	Hon. Catherine Read	Y	Hon. Stacey Hardy-Chandler	
Fairfax County	Hon. Rodney Lusk	Y	Hon. Daniel Storck	
Fairfax County	Hon. Jeff McKay		Hon. Andres Jimenez	
Fairfax County	Hon. James Bierman	Y	Hon. Walter Alcorn	
City of Falls Church	Hon. David Snyder	Y	Hon. Marybeth Connelly	
Loudoun County	Hon. Laura TeKrony			
Loudoun County	Hon. Phyllis Randall	Y	Hon. Koran Saines	
City of Manassas	Hon. Mark Wolfe	Y	Hon. Sonia Vasquez Luna	
City of Manassas Park	Hon. Darryl Moore	Y		
Prince William County	Hon. Deshundra Jefferson	Y	Hon. Kenny A. Boddye	
Prince William County	Hon. Andrea Bailey		Hon. Tom Gordy	
Virginia General Assembly				

Y = voting member present

P = present alternate in addition to member

Total voting present: 21

# **AGENDA ITEM #6**

## **ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**  
**March 2026**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COG TO RECEIVE A GRANT TO COMBAT THE UNLAWFUL USE OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (UAS) IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION (NCR)**

The board will be asked to adopt Resolution R18-2026 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive and expend grant funds from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the amount of \$23,355,000. Grant funds will be used to combat the unlawful use of UAS posing a threat to the safety and security of the NCR by developing and enhancing Counter-UAS plans and protocols, purchasing UAS detection and tracking technologies, and conducting trainings, assessments, and exercises in support of public safety officials for the protection of the public and critical infrastructure from nefarious or unlawful use of UAS. Funding for this effort will be provided through a grant from the State Administrative Agent (SAA) for the NCR. No COG matching funds are required.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt Resolution R18-2026.**

# **AGENDA ITEM #7**

## **DATA CENTERS IN THE DMV: OUTCOMES AND NEXT STEPS**

## Data Center Series Forum #1 Summary: Energy and Data Centers

### Purpose:

Data centers are a major driver of regional economic growth. At the same time, they present new challenges for electric utilities, the electric grid, and local governments related to the demand for power, infrastructure planning, reliability, and affordability. The forum brought together utilities, regional grid operators, local governments, industry, power engineers, and policy organizations to inform the discussion, ground it in facts, and identify practical paths forward.

### Key Takeaways:

- **Data centers need near-constant energy, and demand is growing at a fast pace**, bringing both challenges and opportunities for power supply and grid enhancements.
- Data centers bring with them very large electric loads. **Current utility infrastructure will require substantial ongoing investment to be able to meet the growing demands from this sector.**
- Due to the nature of their large loads, **data centers can potentially impact the reliability of the overall electrical grid within the region and surrounding it.** Communication and coordination can help manage these concerns.
- Given the scale and pace of energy demand and necessary infrastructure investments to support data centers and other increasing electricity loads, **there is a potential for impacts on electric rates for residential and commercial customers. New rate classes and tariffs are under development to minimize these impacts.**
- Due to the long lead time needed for new data centers to connect to the grid, **there will be a need for data centers to explore bringing their own power**, such as on-site natural gas turbines configured in microgrids. New generation and transmission technologies, such as small modular reactors and high-voltage direct current transmission, will be needed.
- **Regional coordination is critical.** Decisions made by energy utilities; the Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Maryland Interconnection (PJM); Public Service Commissions; and state and local governments require ongoing coordination. Additionally, coordination with other stakeholders and critical infrastructure sectors, such as emergency management, water utilities, WMATA, hospitals, and public safety, is important.

### Implications for Decision Makers:

- Local governments should be engaged with state legislatures, Public Service Commissions, and electric utilities to help coordinate and manage reliability and rate impacts.
- Sharing best practices can guide decisions related to on-site power generation and clean backup generation. Siting decisions are as critical for residents as data center developers.
- Transparency is critical: Accurate and consistent data improves planning and public trust.
- Regional coordination is essential. Energy, water, and land use decisions are interconnected. Decisions made by one jurisdiction impact others, regionally.

### Bottom Line:

Energy demand for data centers is anticipated to continue to grow considerably for the next 5-7 years and beyond, necessitating sustained coordinated regional and local efforts focused on managing reliability, maintaining affordable residential and consumer electric rates, and handling local environmental impacts (location, emissions, noise) associated with on-site power generation and backup power, as well as utility scale infrastructure development such as substations and transmission. Transparency and accurate information are key.

## Data Center Series Forum #2 Summary: Water and Data Centers

### Purpose:

Data centers are increasingly essential to regional economic growth and government operations. At the same time, they present new challenges for water utilities and local governments related to demand uncertainty, peak use, infrastructure planning, and public trust. The forum brought together utilities, regional planners, researchers, local governments, industry, and policy organizations to ground the discussion in facts and identify practical paths forward.

### Key Takeaways:

- **Data center water demand is highly variable.** Water use depends on cooling technology, IT load, climate, and operations, with unknown tenants and evolving AI workloads complicating long-term planning.
- **Peak demand, not average use, drives regional risk.** Short-duration, high-demand periods (often during hot, dry conditions) create the greatest strain on water and energy infrastructure.
- **The Potomac River requires basin-wide, cumulative impact management.** As a shared and vulnerable resource, regional coordination is essential because individual projects may appear manageable while cumulative impacts pose significant risk.
- **New growth must cover the cost of new infrastructure.** Early coordination between utilities, planners, and economic development teams helps ensure new development pays for the infrastructure it needs and avoids higher costs for existing customers.
- **Policy and land-use tools matter.** Zoning overlays, infrastructure ordinances, and transparent data sharing help guide where and how data centers are built and reduce unintended impacts.
- **Regional coordination is critical.** Water, energy, land use, and technology decisions are tightly linked, and coordinated regional planning enables economic growth while safeguarding long-term system reliability.

### Implications for Decision Makers:

- **Early engagement matters:** Utilities must be involved before land use and economic development decisions are finalized.
- **Transparency is critical:** Better data sharing improves planning and public trust.
- **Regional coordination is essential:** Water, land use, and energy decisions in one jurisdiction affect others.
- **Policy alignment works:** Zoning, adequate public facilities ordinances, consumptive use regulations, and targeted incentives can manage cumulative impacts effectively.

### Bottom Line:

Data centers do not create entirely new water challenges, but they intensify existing vulnerabilities. Proactive coordination, transparent data, disciplined land-use policy, and sustained regional collaboration are essential to support economic growth while maintaining long-term water reliability and affordability.

# **AGENDA ITEM #8**

**UPDATE ON  
REGIONAL  
COORDINATION AND  
RESPONSE TO THE  
POTOMAC  
INTERCEPTOR  
PIPELINE COLLAPSE**



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** COG Board of Directors  
**FROM:** COG Water Resources Program  
**SUBJECT:** Regional Sewer Infrastructure, Water Quality, and Ongoing Repair Work  
**DATE:** March 4, 2026

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**Latest status (as of March 4, 2026):** DC Water reports that wastewater is being captured and rerouted via temporary bypass pumping systems while emergency repairs continue at the collapse site. No overflows have reached the Potomac River since February 8<sup>th</sup>. According to DC Water, emergency repairs remain on schedule to be completed by mid-March, at which time the full flow and functionality will be restored to the Potomac Interceptor and the bypass pumping operation using the C & O Canal will be deactivated. As of March 4, District, Maryland, and Virginia agencies continue to publish location-specific public health guidance, including recreational advisories and shellfish-harvesting restrictions in affected areas.

### 1. POTOMAC INTERCEPTOR SEWER PIPELINE OVERVIEW

- The Potomac Interceptor (PI) is a 54-mile-long regional sanitary sewer pipeline with two river crossings. It was constructed in the early 1960s by an Act of Congress (See Figure 1).
- The interceptor line serves about 500,000 people and carries about 60 million gallons of wastewater daily from Loudoun and Fairfax counties, near Washington Dulles International Airport, Vienna, Herndon, and Montgomery County to DC Water's Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- Rehabilitating the PI is a high priority DC Water project. It is estimated that the PI project will take about 10 years and cost approximately \$625 million.
- DC Water provides drinking water and wastewater (sewer) services in a service area of 725 square miles (Figure 1). DC Water operates 1,900 miles of sanitary and combined sewers, nine wastewater pumping stations, 16 stormwater pumping stations, 12 inflatable dams, and a combined sewer swirl facility. It treats wastewater for approximately 1.8 million people in neighboring jurisdictions, including Montgomery and Prince George's counties in Maryland and Fairfax and Loudoun counties in Virginia.



Figure 1: Facilities managed by and service areas served by DC Water (credit: DC Water)

## 2. OVERVIEW: A SECTION OF POTOMAC INTERCEPTOR SEWER COLLAPSES

- A section of the Potomac Interceptor collapsed on Monday, January 19, 2026, along Clara Barton Parkway and the I-495 interchange in Montgomery County, MD (Figure 2).
- The broken pipe measured about six feet in diameter and is estimated to have an average flow of 40 million gallons of untreated sewage a day. This break caused a sanitary sewer overflow into the C&O Canal National Historical Park, which then entered the Potomac River. This section carries wastewater from Loudoun and Fairfax counties in Virginia and parts of Montgomery County to DC Water’s Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- The pipeline, as built, has no redundancy or built-in bypasses. The section that collapsed was part of the planned rehabilitation, but work had not begun.

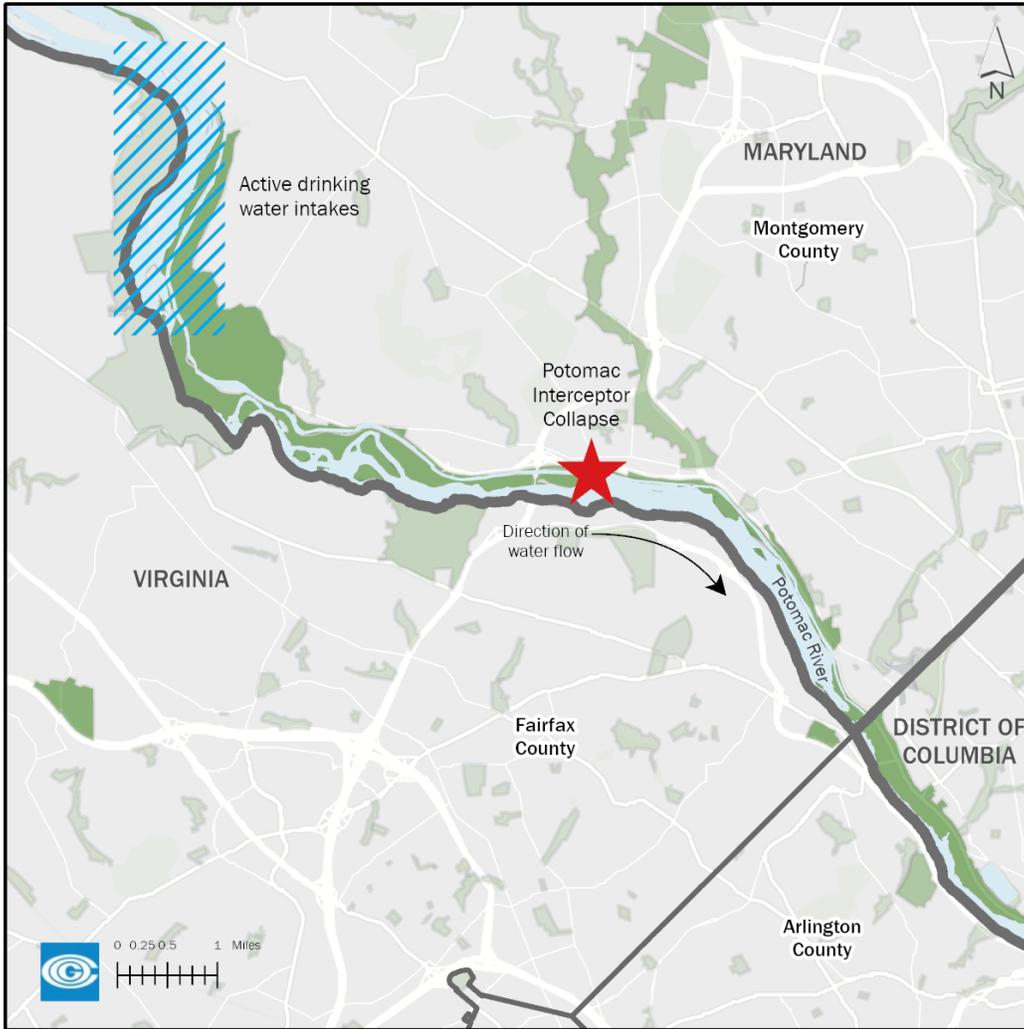


Figure 2. Pipeline Collapse Location (Source: COG)

The Maryland Department of the Environment identifies and describes the roles and responsibilities, as below, of the various agencies associated with the provision of water and sanitary sewer services in the region.

## Key Agencies

- **District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water):** Pipe owner/operator; responsible for bypass, repairs, cleanup, and public signage. Gives operational updates to state and federal partners.
- **United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):** Primary regulator and lead federal enforcement and compliance authority; enforces federal Clean Water Act regulations and oversees DC Water/Blue Plains consent decree.
- **Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE):** Regulates unauthorized discharges into Maryland waterways and wetlands, monitors shellfish harvesting, and oversees drinking water safety and enforcement.
- **Maryland Department of Health:** Coordinates with local health departments on water contact advisories.
- **Virginia DEQ & VDH:** Monitors downstream water quality and public health.
- **DC Department of Energy and Environment:** Supports water, quality, monitoring, and issuing public health advisories for District residents.
- **Supporting Entities:** National Park Service and the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin coordinate monitoring, modeling, and river management, as well as oversee some permitting.

## 3. DC WATER'S RESPONSE TO THE PIPELINE COLLAPSE

Thus far, DC Water has completed numerous tasks that may be broadly summarized, as below. DC Water has also listed specific actions associated with this event chronologically, which is reproduced below.

- Has constructed bypass pumping systems to contain most of the overflow.
- Is capturing and rerouting wastewater with bypass pumping systems around the collapsed interceptor segment during repairs.
- Is monitoring bypass systems 24/7.
- Is conducting daily water quality sampling.
- Has stood up a [dedicated DC Water webpage](#) to provide information to the public, community organizations, and local, state, and federal stakeholders.
- Is developing an Environmental Restoration Plan with federal, state, and local regulators.

### ***Key Dates and Actions Taken***

Monday, January 19, 2026

- Overflow reported late day.
- Emergency response mobilized
- Public notification issued of Sanitary Sewer Overflow
- Estimated 40 MGD escaping from collapse site into Potomac River

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

- Investigation and assessment underway
- Bypass plan developed using pumps to divert the wastewater around the damaged pipe section into an isolated section of the C & O Canal and back into the Potomac Interceptor further downstream.

Saturday, January 24, 2026

- Downstream reinforcement completed
- Bypass pumping system activated late day.
- Most overflow contained, but some wastewater continues to escape.

Tuesday, January 27, 2026

- Excavation and stabilization of collapse site begins.

Saturday, January 31, 2026

- Cleaning begins to remove debris and obstructions blocking access to the damaged pipe section.

Thursday, February 5, 2026

- CCTV inspection conducted due to ongoing challenges with large rocks.
- Significant rock dam discovered, requiring manual removal and heavy equipment.
- Enhanced bypass system will need to be constructed to safely remove rock dam.
- Expected to take 4-6 weeks to complete enhanced system.

Friday, February 6, 2026

- First week of water quality sampling data released.
- Flow monitoring data provides estimates on volume of overflow; approximately 243 million gallons of wastewater released.
- 194 million gallons overflowed in first five days before bypass was activated.

Saturday, February 7, 2026

- Construction underway on enhanced bypass pumping system and bulkhead gate

Sunday, February 8, 2026

- Significant overflow events occur during a high flow period on Super Bowl Sunday while several bypass pumps were temporarily taken out of service for maintenance, reducing overall pumping capacity.
- Approximately 600,000 gallons overflowed into the Potomac River

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

- Two bypass pumps clogged with wipes and had to be taken offline for cleaning. This occurred during a high-flow period and contributed to an overflow event.

Saturday, February 14, 2026

- New high-capacity pumps were installed and activated as part of enhanced bypass system.

Thursday, February 19, 2026

- DC Water successfully reached the damaged section of the Potomac Interceptor, marking a critical step in the ongoing damage assessment and repair efforts. Crews manually digging out the affected area, carefully removing sludge, soil, and debris from the collapsed pipe.
- Crews were able to reach the damaged pipe section after the successful installation of a steel bulkhead gate that is now blocking all flow in the pipe.
- The enhanced bypass pumping system is fully operational and diverting wastewater around the collapse site and back into the Potomac Interceptor further downstream.

#### **Early March 2026**

- DC Water is working with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), National Park Service (NPS), Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and other agencies to determine means, methods, and scope for the environmental restoration/rehabilitation plan.
- DC Water reported beginning environmental restoration/rehabilitation activities in areas impacted by the sewer overflow; partner agencies continued to publish updated water quality monitoring information and location-specific public health guidance.
- DC Water notes that preparations are underway to mobilize equipment and materials to begin spraying a geopolymer lining in the upstream portion of the pipe. The geopolymer, which is similar in strength to concrete, will reinforce and strengthen the pipe. Cleaning and debris removal continues in the pipe downstream of the collapse site. Once the geopolymer is applied upstream, work will move to the downstream section to complete the emergency repair.

Repairs are expected to be completed by mid-March, restoring full flow and function to the Potomac Interceptor. At that point, the bypass pumping system utilizing the C&O Canal will no longer be needed.

#### 4. DRINKING WATER REMAINS SAFE

The Potomac River is the drinking water source for approximately 85 percent of the region. All active drinking water intakes are located upstream of the collapse site. Regional drinking water utilities treat Potomac River water through filtration and disinfection processes before distribution. All regional water systems report that drinking water is not affected by the spill.

- The Washington Aqueduct<sup>1</sup> confirmed that the Potomac Interceptor collapse did not affect drinking water treatment operations or the regional water supply.
- The [District's Department of Energy and Environment](#) (DOEE) has advised the public that DC drinking water remains safe. The department is tracking regional test results and has established a dedicated webpage to share these results.
- The [Maryland Department of the Environment](#) has advised that all active Maryland drinking water intakes are upstream and unaffected. The department has established a dedicated webpage providing information on the test results, chronology of events, FAQs and other resources.
- [Fairfax Water](#) and Loudoun Water have made similar drinking water announcements.

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<sup>1</sup> The Washington Aqueduct is a division of the Baltimore District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineer. It produces drinking water for approximately one million citizens living, working, or visiting in the District of Columbia, Arlington County, Virginia, and other areas in northern Virginia to include portions of Fairfax County. The Aqueduct is a federally owned and operated public water supply agency that produces an average of 135 million gallons of water per day at two treatment plants located in the District of Columbia.

## 5. WATER QUALITY SAMPLING LOCATIONS

DC Water initiated daily sampling for *E. coli*, an indicator bacterium, at six (6) locations beginning on January 29, 2026, utilizing a contracted environmental firm and a certified laboratory (Figure 3). They have expanded to 10 locations. Since the river is no longer ice-covered, Maryland, District, and Virginia are monitoring in the mid-channel River areas below Chain Bridge.

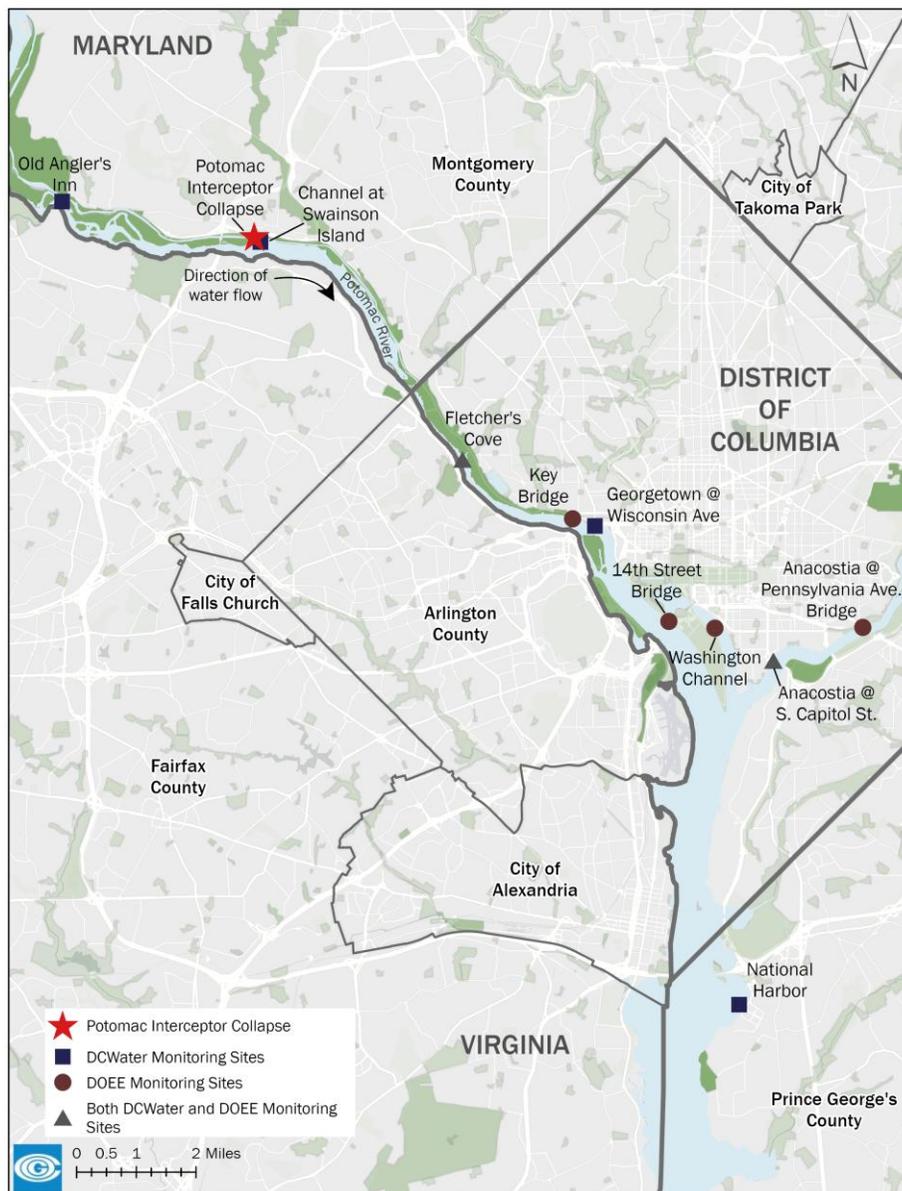


Figure 3: Water sampling locations (credit: COG)

DC Water reports “Overall, results show mostly decreasing trends since the start of sampling. It’s important to note that historically the E. coli levels in the Potomac and Anacostia rivers vary widely from day to day. Fluctuations in water quality are influenced by many factors, from weather conditions such as precipitation, snowmelt, temperature variability, and other natural sources of E. coli bacteria such as wildlife and pet waste. As a result, measurements taken much further downstream cannot be attributed solely to this incident.”

### Monitoring Resources

[DC Water Potomac Interceptor](#)

[DC Department of Energy and Environment \(DOEE\)](#)

[Maryland Department of the Environment \(MDE\)](#)

[Virginia Department of Environmental Quality \(VDEQ\)](#)

[Virginia Department of Health \(VDH\)](#)

[Potomac Riverkeeper](#)

## 6. ADVICE TO THE PUBLIC

As of March 4, 2026, public health and environmental agencies continue to provide incident-specific guidance for contact recreation and shellfish harvesting in affected areas of the Potomac River and connected waters. In the District, the Department of Health lifted the Potomac River recreational advisory on March 2, 2026, per the Mayor’s release (Department of Health Lifts Potomac River Recreational Advisory in Washington, DC: <https://mayor.dc.gov/release/department-health-lifts-potomac-river-recreational-advisory-washington-dc>). Residents and visitors should continue to follow posted signage and check agency updates for location-specific guidance.

[MDE \(Maryland\)](#) reports that water quality in areas where emergency shellfish closures were issued (Potomac River from Charles County to the Route 301 Bridge) are trending positively and the precautionary shellfish closure is expected to be lifted on March 10<sup>th</sup>, pending final confirmation testing. Health advisories remain active in Montgomery, Prince George’s, and Charles counties while water quality continues to be monitored; and [VDH \(Virginia\)](#) continues to post its recreational water advisory for Virginia residents and will update the public as conditions evolve.

The region’s water utilities encourage residents to avoid flushing ANY wipes or non-disposable items, as these materials can interfere with pumping operations during emergency response and repair activities.

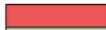
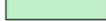
Residents can also report suspected fish and wildlife injuries related to the incident to the [District](#) or [Maryland](#).

## 7. REGIONAL COORDINATION ACTIVITIES AT COG

COG is collaborating with its member governments and partners on the following coordination activities.

- Providing briefings and updates across jurisdictions, including a regional briefing for officials from the District, Maryland, and Virginia held on February 23, 2026.
- Tracking updates from DC Water and partner agencies on emergency repair progress and environmental restoration/rehabilitation activities and sharing timely information with COG members.
- Aligning and amplifying messaging across jurisdictions (e.g., safe drinking water, health advisories, wipes guidance, and PI resilience investments).
- Coordinating water quality monitoring activities across jurisdictions (e.g., state, and local governments, DC Water, University of Maryland, and others)

Figure 4: E. Coli (MPN/100 ml) testing results from February 23 - present. Past results may be found [here: Past Sample results-through-Feb22.pdf](#). (credit: DC Water)

 >recreation limit  
 <below recreation limit

Sample Date	E. coli (MPN/100 ml)							
	Old Anglers Inn (upstream of collapse)	Near Drainage Channel @ Overflow (Swainson Island)	Between Minnie's Island and north shore of Potomac River	South Side of Minnie's Island	Fletcher's Boathouse	Georgetown @ Wisconsin Ave	Anacostia @ S. Cap St	National Harbor
2/23/2026	204	1,100	299	299	461	613	687	304
2/24/2026	178	1,100	186	172	178	345	276	260
2/25/2026	58	500	58	63	66	249	210	105
2/26/2026	22	2,420	41	40	21	155	64	43
2/27/2026	16	1,730	51	20	5	1990	49	21
2/28/2026	9	5,400	43	10	8	41	30	15
3/01/2026	7	2,420	46	12	4	30	16	9
3/02/2026	9	2,300	43	6	10	89	17	12

Note: MPN = most probable number

\*Consistent with public health and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards, swimming is not recommended when *E. coli* levels exceed 410 MPN/100 mL.

**DC Water Notes:**

1. Lab results are unavailable on weekends and will be provided on the following Monday (excluding holidays).
2. Historical data indicate typical E. coli levels in the Potomac River can range from 10 to 5,000 MPN/100mL. Variability in E. coli results are common and are influenced by multiple factors, such as weather (rainfall/snow melt and associated runoff) and subwatershed activities and conditions, including aging sewer infrastructure and illicit discharges.
3. Consistent with public health and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards, swimming is not recommended when E. coli levels exceed 410 MPN/100 mL.

# **AGENDA ITEM #9**

## **2025 STATE OF THE COMMUTE SURVEY RESULTS**

# 2025

# State of the Commute Executive Summary

Photo by Pierre Gaunard/COG

## FAST FACTS



Commuter Connections conducts a regional State of the Commute survey every three years—the 2025 survey is the ninth one.



The results provide a comprehensive look at how people travel to and from work, providing info to help shape Commuter Connections' free services and programs and informing area officials.



The survey randomly sampled households from each of the 11 jurisdictions in the Commuter Connections service area.



Over 7,500 completed surveys were received between April-June 2025.

### Commuter Connections Service Area



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Commuters' transportation modes have generally returned to pre-pandemic patterns, except for higher rates of telework in 2025.
- Almost half of the region's workers—48%—teleworked regularly in 2025, down from 65% in 2022 during the pandemic.
- Metrorail satisfaction increased by 16 percentage points from 2022 to 2025.

Photo by ART-Arlington Transit



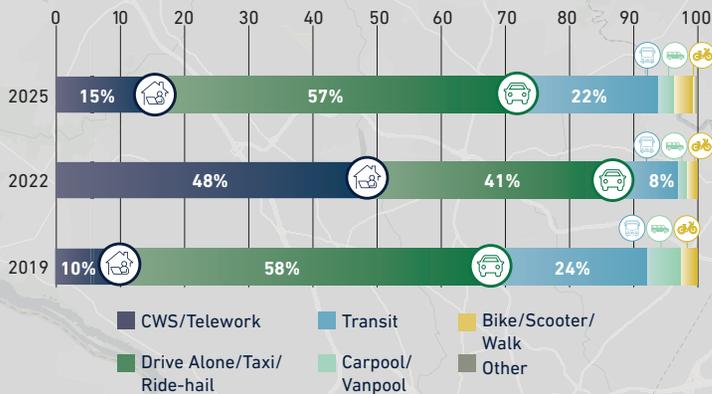
Point your phone's camera at the QR code and follow the link to the 2025 State of the Commute interactive dashboard and full report.

**COMMUTER  
CONNECTIONS.**  
A SMARTER WAY TO WORK

# Commuting patterns have generally returned to pre-pandemic conditions

Photo by COG

Percentage of All Weekly Commute Trips



Driving alone to work (or using a taxi or ride-hail service) was the most prevalent commute mode in 2025 (57% of all weekly commute trips) followed by transit (22%)—similar to pre-pandemic mode usage.

In 2025, Core residents commuted via walking, biking, and scootering at a higher rate than residents outside of the Core—14% compared to 2%.

Average commute length and duration have remained consistent from before, during, and post-pandemic:

**17 miles** **40 minutes**



The longest commutes in 2025 were by:

- Those who primarily rode transit (52 minutes)
- Commuters age 35 or older (40-44 minutes)
- Non-Hispanic Black commuters (42 minutes)
- Commuters from households earning over \$180,000 per year (43 minutes)

**50%**

of commuters were satisfied or very satisfied with their commute to work in 2025, similar to 2022 (52%) and the same as 2019 (50%).



Between 2022-2025, Metrorail commuter satisfaction increased by...

**16** Percentage Points



Other transit modes also saw increases in satisfaction rates: nine percentage points for commuter rail and...

**6** Percentage Points for buses



Satisfaction with bike/walk/scooter commuting decreased slightly from 2022-2025 by...

**4** Percentage Points



Commuters who drove alone were less satisfied with their commutes in 2025 compared to 2022—a decrease of...

**7** Percentage Points

Almost half of the region's workers—48%—teleworked regularly in 2025, down from 65% in 2022 during the pandemic. Pre-pandemic (2019), 34% of workers teleworked.

- Full-time telework decreased from 37% in 2022 to 13% in 2025.
- Hybrid arrangements (teleworking some days) grew to 35% of workers in 2025, from 28% in 2022.
- Federal government employees had the highest rates of telework 2019-2022. In 2025, they had the lowest rates (even lower than in 2019), due to return-to-office mandates. In all other sectors, 2025 telework rates were notably higher than in 2019.

Percentage of Workers With Telework or Hybrid Arrangements

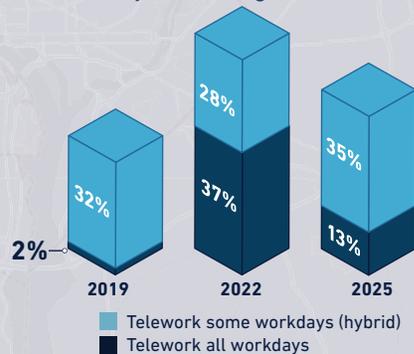


Photo by Freepik

# OTHER KEY FINDINGS

Top commute-related factors considered by commuters who changed home or work locations:



Commute length



Ease/difficulty of commute



Proximity to Metrorail stations or bus stops



Photo by MDOT

# 77%

of commuters who drove alone (as their primary mode) in 2025 had free parking provided by their employers, compared to just 24% of transit riders.

# 89%

of toll/express lane users drove alone in 2025, while 12% of the lane users were in carpools/vanpools and 5% used transit.\*

\*Respondents could select multiple answers, so the results do not add to 100%



Photo by Commuter Connections

## Highlights: Carpool/ Vanpool

- In 2025, 51% of carpool/vanpool users were satisfied or very satisfied with their commute. That's 7 percentage points higher than for driving alone (44%).
- Carpool/vanpool commuters cited companionship and saving time as benefits of their commute at much higher rates than users of other non-drive alone modes in 2025.
- Not knowing anyone to carpool/vanpool with was the most-cited reason for why people don't commute this way. Commuter Connections continues to help commuters find carpool/vanpool partners, helping reduce commuting costs, make commuting less stressful, and reduce vehicle miles traveled.

For questions, or media or data requests, please visit us at [mwcog.org/contact](http://mwcog.org/contact)

Commuter Connections is a program of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments



# **AGENDA ITEM #10**

**EXECUTIVE  
SESSION/CLOSED  
MEETING**

**AGENDA ITEM #11**

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**AGENDA ITEM #12**

**ADJOURN**