



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** COG Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Clark Mercer, COG Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** Executive Director's Report – April 2025  
**DATE:** April 2, 2025

---

### POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

**National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB)** – In March, the TPB approved carryover funding from the FY 2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for use in FY 2026 and adopted the FY 2026 UPWP to guide planning activities for the metropolitan area. The board also approved the FY 2026 Commuter Connections Work Program. Staff provided updates on the Visualize 2050 National Capital Region Transportation Plan and introduced the new [Visualize2050.org](https://visualize2050.org) website, highlighting its features, resources, and role in the fall 2025 public comment period.



#### DMVMoves Task Force

The DMVMoves Task Force met to discuss Metro's financial outlook and a revised proposal for managing its maintenance program while making targeted investments to improve service, including modernization efforts like rail automation and a regional bus priority program.

[Read a recap, watch the presentation](#)

**Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC)** – At the March 2025 CEEPC meeting, the Union of Concerned Scientists provided an update on recently announced federal actions, including ones that could potentially impact regulations on emissions. CEEPC also received a presentation on progress in meeting the Renewable Portfolio Standards in DC, Maryland, and Virginia and implications for meeting COG's regional 2030 climate goals.

**Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC)** – At its March meeting, the committee approved the FY 2026 Regional Water Quality Management Work Program and Budget. Members received an overview of the Chesapeake Bay Program's Beyond 2025 initiative and were briefed on key federal and state legislative developments.

**Food and Agriculture Regional Member (FARM) Policy Committee** – The FARM Committee held a member retreat in March at the Montgomery County Office of Agriculture at the Ag History Farm Park in Derwood, MD. In addition to a brief member orientation, participants heard remarks from the

County's Office of Food System Resilience. The meeting ended with a tour highlighting a composting partnership and cold storage program for small farmers. Members and guests networked and shared observations which will inform FARM's 2025 to 2026 Strategic Plan.

**Human Services Policy Committee (HSPC)** - During the March HSPC meeting, committee members shared efforts to address affordable housing needs across the region, including work in Fairfax County, Frederick County, and the District of Columbia. New members of the committee were able to share policy priorities in their jurisdictions and expressed their interest in advancing these goals through regional collaboration.

## OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

**Regional Outreach** - Clark Mercer and COG Homeland Security and Public Safety Managing Director Scott Boggs gave a presentation on COG's programs and services to the Prince William Board of County Supervisors on March 18. Mercer also delivered remarks on federal workforce changes to the Alexandria City Council on March 25 and moderated a panel at the Restaurant Association of Washington's annual meeting on March 19 on the economic outlook for the hospitality sector.

**Complete Streets** - On March 24, COG Deputy Executive Director Kanti Srikanth joined Agenda Alexandria as a panelist for a discussion on Alexandria's Complete Streets program. The concept, which was adopted by the Transportation Planning Board at COG in 2012, aims to design roadways that safely accommodate pedestrians, cyclists, motorists, and transit riders.

**Cybersecurity** - On March 10, COG hosted a second Cybersecurity Mutual Aid Operations Plan (MAOP) Lunch & Learn. The event brought local Chief Information Officers (CIO), Chief Information Security Officers (CISO), emergency managers, and risk managers together with representatives from some of the region's major cyber insurers and cyber legal experts to raise awareness and enhance understanding of the cybersecurity resource sharing and related initiatives.



### Federal workforce resources and data

Changes to the federal workforce are having deep impacts in the region. To offer support during this time, COG has created a web page with helpful resources, including information on unemployment benefits, upcoming job fairs, and key statistics about the region's federal workforce. COG has been promoting this web page in presentations and through media and social media outreach, making it COG's most-viewed web page since its launch.

[View the page](#)

**Blue-Green Infrastructure FloodReady Workshops** – The Regional Blue-Green Infrastructure (BGI) Project, a community-based flood resiliency planning project being coordinated by COG in Prince George’s County and the District of Columbia, held three in-person community workshops in March for residents to learn about blue-green infrastructure, map where residents have experienced flooding, and play a game to line up projects based on size and costs. [Learn more.](#)

## MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

**Federal workforce** – COG’s federal workforce resources and data web page received coverage from WUSA9, WTOP, WAMU, the Washington Business Journal, Inside NoVA, MyMCMedia, FFXnow, and ALXnow.

### WAMU

COG’s analysis of federal workforce data has been cited in several stories by additional news outlets, including the Washington Post, Bloomberg, Virginia Public Media, and the Associated Press.

### Washington Post

Clark Mercer appeared as a guest on WAMU’s Politics Hour with Kojo Nnamdi to discuss the impacts of federal workforce changes on the region.

### WAMU

**DMVMoves** – The March 2025 DMVMoves Task Force meeting was covered by FFXnow and ARLnow and Task Force Co-Chairs Charles Allen and Paul Smedberg were interviewed for a feature by 7News on the initiative.

### 7News



## Bike to Work Day 2025

COG has started promoting Bike to Work Day 2025, which is on Thursday, May 15 this year. The regional event is organized by COG’s Commuter Connections program and the Washington Area Bike Association (WABA) with more than 100 pit stops where riders can claim a free shirt and a chance to win prizes.

[Register and learn more.](#)



## First responders to DCA crash honored

Stories on the COG ceremony honoring first responders and officials from public safety agencies, local governments, and non-profit organizations for their heroic response to the DCA crash received widespread coverage, including stories by NBC4, Fox 5, 7News, WUSA9, WTOP, Inside NoVA, ARLnow, and the Baltimore Banner.

### WUSA9