



MEMORANDUM

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

POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

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 21. The TPB adopted a resolution endorsing the DMVMoves regional transit initiative and as agreeing to develop a transit integration action plan to create a more seamless network. The also reviewed the FY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program, which outlines the TPB's scope of work for the coming year, including bicycle & pedestrian plan and freight plan updates as well as the Regional Travel Survey.

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). They also received state updates from Virginia and Maryland, provided by AquaLaw, and a presentation from the Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA) on their Salt Watch Community Science Initiative and other actions on road salt. Finally, the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay provided an update on the Chesapeake Bay Program after the signing of the new Bay Agreement in December.

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. These efforts prepare the committee for its 100th meeting in March to finalize 2026 regional goals.



DMVMoves earning more endorsements

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.

[Learn about the outreach & next steps](#)

Human Services Policy Committee (HSPC)

– The Human Services Policy Committee met in January to address Medicaid eligibility shifts and expiring Affordable Care Act subsidies. Health officials from the Maryland Department of Health, Montgomery County, and Fairfax County detailed strategies to maintain coverage for residents. The committee also reviewed Montgomery County’s Primary Care Coalition programs and a Northern Virginia Opioid Task Force collaboration supporting those affected by addiction. These regional insights help jurisdictions navigate federal policy changes and ensure health care access for vulnerable populations across metropolitan Washington.



EV Session at DC Auto Show

At the DC Auto Show, the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) explored electric vehicle deployment. Leaders discussed building an equitable, resilient charging network to meet regional sustainability goals.

OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

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. They presented to the City of College Park, City of Greenbelt, Montgomery County Council, and Alexandria City Council, urging legislatures to endorse the DMVMoves transit plan, including new capital funding for transit this year.

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. Hundreds of attendees representing local, state, federal government agencies and other strategic partners participated in these calls. COG’s Community Engagement Campaign (CEC) also raised awareness about the impacts of winter weather on our water resources and infrastructure, including tips to protect home pipes as well as advice on using winter salts while preventing harmful runoff into the region’s streams, rivers, and reservoirs.

COG Staff Present at 2026 Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting - At the Transportation Research Board (TRB) annual meeting in Washington, DC, COG Transportation Planning staff Pierre Gaunard, Kenneth Joh, and Katherine Rainone presented their research to global transportation leaders.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Reuben Collins Elected COG Board Chair – Reuben Collins’ election as COG Board Chair was covered by The Southern Maryland Chronicle and The BayNet.

[The Southern Maryland Chronicle](#)

DMVMoves Coverage – The DMVMoves plan being reviewed and endorsed by local jurisdictions was covered by Governing, FFXnow, ALXnow, and ARLnow.

[Governing](#)

Federal Cuts to Homelessness Services – COG Homelessness Services Committee Chair Christine Hong was quoted on the potential impacts of federal cuts to homelessness services at the January COG Board meeting. The meeting was covered by FFXnow and Street Sense Media.

[FFXnow](#)



State of the Commute Press Event

In January, COG debuted the results of the 2025 State of the Commute Survey at a press event. The press conference and report were covered by The Washington Post, FOX 5, FOX Baltimore, 7 News, WTOP, WAMU, WMAL, The Alexandria Brief, FFXnow, and WebProNews.

[Washington Post](#)