



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** COG Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Clark Mercer, COG Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** Executive Director's Report – October 2025  
**DATE:** October 1, 2025

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## POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

**National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB)** – The TPB did not meet in September and staff has continued preparations for the Visualize 2050 comment period scheduled for October 23-November 21, 2025. The TPB will decide the final project list for the Visualize 2050 National Capital Region Transportation Plan at its October 15 TPB meeting. The TPB Steering Committee has nominated Fairfax County Supervisor Walter Alcorn as new TPB Chair for the remainder of 2025 upon former TPB Chair James Walkinshaw's election to U.S. Congress.

**Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC)**– The Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee met virtually on September 24 to review transportation conformity results, discuss the past ozone season, and receive a briefing on EPA's reconsideration of the Endangerment Finding.

**Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee (CBPC)**– CBPC held its 15th Annual Bay & Water Quality Forum on September 26, featuring a keynote by George Hawkins of Moonshot Missions (and formerly the General Manager at DC Water) on turning water challenges into opportunities. A panel of state and local leaders discussed federal funding, affordability, and infrastructure needs, followed by member dialogue on shared priorities.



### Talent Capital Launch

Leaders from across the Greater Washington region launched a groundbreaking, public sector driven workforce tool on October 1 to support displaced federal workers and build long-term economic resilience. The tool, Talent Capital, offers free job matching, career training, reskilling, credentialing, and coaching, and is housed at COG.

[Learn more and explore the resource](#)

**Climate Energy & Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC)** - At the September 24 CEEPC meeting, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) presented on its 2021-2022 Chesapeake Bay land use cover and tree canopy assessment. CEEPC reviewed the key elements of the Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) Draft Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP), which will be available for public comment in October. Lastly, staff presented updates on the Midcourse Review which is analyzing progress towards the region's 2030 greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction goal; and the EPA's reconsideration of the Endangerment Finding.

**Food and Agriculture Regional Member (FARM) Policy Committee and Human Services Policy Committee (HSPC)** - FARM and HSPC co-hosted a meeting on Friday, September 12 ahead of the release of Capital Area Food Bank's annual *Hunger Report*. The meeting included a roundtable with leaders of major food banks serving the region, and remarks from legislators in the Maryland and Virginia General Assemblies. Key takeaways include: tracking both food assistance and Medicaid issues as they serve the same populations; coordination and dialogue to ensure that other policy changes benefit food-insecure families against the backdrop of cuts to essential federal programs; and to think about providing support to reduce food insecurity in a multi-year horizon.

## OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

**Public Safety** - On September 8, COG hosted a regional tabletop exercise to test and further develop the draft NCR Cybersecurity Mutual Aid Operations Plan, which will enable agencies to share resources and information across the region for a cyber incident. On September 29, hosted by COG, dozens of emerging governmental leaders in the region



### DMVMoves Transit Tour

More than 50 regional leaders marked World Car Free Day with the DMVMoves Transit Tour, highlighting bus priority lanes, Metro modernization, and the Purple Line as key investments for a visionary transit future.

[Read highlights and view photos from the event](#)



### Great Place to Work Certification

In September, COG earned its first-ever Great Place To Work certification. Great Place to Work highlights organizations with positive, engaging workplace cultures. To achieve the certification, COG had to meet specific, globally recognized benchmarks.

[Learn more about the certification](#)

graduated from the nine-week Mid-Level Leadership Development Program pilot, provided by The McChrystal Group.

**COG 101** – At September’s Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce forum, COG Executive Director Clark Mercer addressed the county’s transportation outlook and underscored the importance of regional collaboration through the DMVMoves program, focusing on aligning transit operations and addressing funding challenges. Mercer also joined an Economic Mobility forum in Arlington, hosted by the Gates Foundation and Results for America, where leaders and partners from national organizations discussed strategies to advance community and economic mobility.

**COG and Brookings Launch DMV Monitor** –Brookings Metro, in collaboration with COG, launched a new resource called DMV Monitor to track real-time changes in the regional economy since January 2025 to capture the effects of federal restructuring and other national policy shifts. View the [DMV Monitor](#).

## MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

**DMV Monitor** - COG and Brookings’ new DMV Monitor was covered by several news outlets, including the Washington Business Journal, The New York Times, and AP News. Clark Mercer was also interviewed by The Washington Post, Washingtonian, WMAL, and DC News Now on stories related to the region’s economy and the federal workforce.

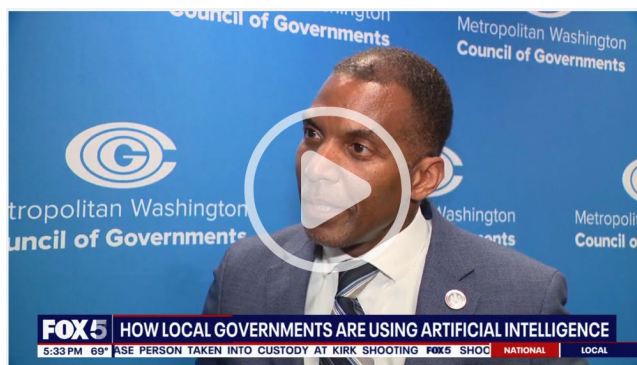
[Washingtonian](#)

**Upcoming TPB Vote on Southside Express Lanes Project**– The upcoming TPB vote on the Southside Express Lanes projects was covered by WUSA9, WTOP, and FFXnow.

[FFXnow](#)

**Loudoun Chamber of Commerce Forum** – Clark Mercer’s transportation presentation to the Loudoun Chamber was covered by Loudoun Now.

[Loudoun Now](#)



### COG AI in Government Workshop

COG’s first-ever AI in Government Workshop was covered by FOX 5, including an interview with COG Board Chair Rodney Lusk on key takeaways from the event.

[FOX 5](#)