

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wednesday, May 14, 2025 12:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M. Walter A. Scheiber Board Room

AGENDA - UPDATED 5,13,25

Rodney Lusk, COG Board Chair

2. CHAIR'S REPORT

Rodney Lusk, COG Board Chair

A. COG Leadership Retreat - July 25-26

3. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Rodney Lusk, COG Board Chair

12:05 P.M. 4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Clark Mercer, COG Executive Director

A. Fiscal Year 2025 Third Quarter Financial Report

12:10 P.M. 5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM APRIL 9, 2025

Rodney Lusk, COG Board Chair

Recommended Action: Approve minutes.

6. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Rodney Lusk, COG Board Chair

A. Resolution R13-2025 – Resolution authorizing COG to procure and enter into a contract to purchase vendor support services for aircraft water rescue incident after action report

Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution R13-2025.

12:15 P.M. 7. COG FOSTER CARE PROGRAM AND 2025 RECOGNITION

Jazmin Burroughs, COG Human Services Planner

The board will be briefed on the work of COG's Foster Care Advisory Committee and recognize the 2025 foster parents of the year.

Recommended Action: Receive briefing.

12:30 P.M. 8. UPDATE TO COG'S REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTERS MAP

Ricky Barker, City of Rockville Community Planning and Development Services Director - COG Planning Directors Technical Advisory Committee Co-chair Greg Goodwin, COG Regional Planner

The COG Board will be briefed on the COG's Planning Directors Technical Advisory Committee's recommended update to the Regional Activity Centers Map (RAC). In its effort to promote balanced, sustainable, and livable communities, as called for in the Strategic Plan, COG developed Regional Activity Centers as a policy tool in 2002. The RAC map has been updated periodically to reflect major updates to the region's forecast growth. This update corresponds to the Round 10.0 Cooperative Forecast of population, households and employment and changes to jurisdictional planning priorities since 2013.

Recommended Action: Receive briefing and approve Resolution R14-2025.

12:50 P.M. 9. HOMELESSNESS IN METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON

Stefan Caine, City of Alexandria Continuum of Care Lead Administrator - COG Homeless Services Committee Chair

Christine Hong, Montgomery County Homelessness Chief Elisabeth Young, Community Partnership Deputy Chief of Policy and Programs Hilary Chapman, COG Housing Program Manager Sam Kenney, COG Regional Homeless Systems Coordinator

The board will be briefed on the results of the Point-in-Time count, an annual enumeration of persons experiencing homelessness, discuss the Community Solutions' Built for Zero initiative, and the current state of homelessness in the region.

Recommended Action: Receive briefing and discuss.

1:35 P.M. 10. BOARD DISCUSSION: RESPONSE TO THE STATE OF THE REGION

COG Board Members Discussion

The board will participate in a round table discussion on the current state of the region, members' biggest concerns, priorities, and what COG can do to coordinate and collaborate.

Recommended Action: Discussion.

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, June 11th from 12:00 – 2:00 P.M.

CHAIR'S REPORT

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



MEMORANDUM

TO: COG Board of Directors

FROM: Clark Mercer, COG Executive Director **SUBJECT:** Executive Director's Report – May 2025

DATE: May 7, 2025

POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) - In April, TPB Chair James Walkinshaw signed the Bike to Work Day proclamation, encouraging cities and counties to promote commuting via bicycling on May 15 for the regionwide event coordinated by the COG/TPB Commuter Connections program. The board was also brief on the federal transportation reauthorization process and five draft principles to be part of the TPB's legislative proposal. In addition, the TPB received an update on the Virginia I-495/95 Southside Express Lanes project study and public comment as well as an update on DMVMoves.

Food and Agriculture Regional Member (FARM) Policy Committee – At its April meeting, in honor of National and DMV Food Waste Prevention Week, members heard from a panel of experts on programs and policies to prevent food waste and increase composting from Food Rescue USDC, the City of Laurel, and Arlington County. The Capital Area Food Bank also provided an update on its new pop-up food distributions in the region for lower wage



COG Hosts First-Ever Capital Caucus

On April 10, COG held its inaugural Capital Caucus Reception, uniting DC, Maryland, and Virginia lawmakers to boost regional collaboration. Leaders discussed post-session outcomes, economic resilience, and Metro funding, stressing the importance of cross-state coordination and COG's role as a legislative hub ahead of 2026.

Read highlights and view photos from the event

federal workers and contractors potentially facing job loss. FARM members discussed the need to come together to support each other and the region at a time when already high levels of food insecurity could be exacerbated.

OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Public Safety – On May 3, COG hosted the 33rd Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony and Honor Guard Competition in honor of corrections officers who have fallen in the line of duty. COG Board Chair Rodney Lusk spoke about the heroism and dedication of these officers.

From April 15-17, COG, the Northern Virginia Emergency Response System, and the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, hosted the National Capital Region (NCR) Fire Health & Safety Seminar. Dozens of national experts and presenters provided around 200 participants with information and resources on topics including lessons learned related to lithiumion battery fires, the impacts of cancer to the firefighting community, tactical safety on emergency scenes, and leveraging data to inform a safer emergency response.

On April 22, COG hosted a pilot session of the Alerting Law Enforcement to the Tactics of Extremists training delivered by the Center for Naval Analyses. The goal of the training, tailored to the NCR, is to equip law enforcement officers with the information to protect themselves and their departments from extremist beliefs and recruitment.



COG, Metro host Safety & Security Summit

On April 29, Metro and COG jointly hosted a first-ever Safety and Security Summit, convening fire chiefs, police chiefs, and 911 center directors for a deep dive to learn more about Metro's safety and security strategies, crime reduction efforts, and emerging technologies and training resources. U.S. Senator Mark Warner also joined the gathering, which served as an opportunity for area leaders to discuss opportunities for greater collaboration.

Learn more about the Safety & Security Summit

Earth Month Highlights and Climate Award Nominations – In recognition of Earth Day on April 22, a global observance dedicated to environmental protection, and Earth Month, COG showcased regional efforts to build climate resilience, clean up area rivers and waterways, and more on social media throughout the month of April. Additionally, the nominating period for the 2025 Climate & Energy Leadership Awards seeking applications from government agencies and NGOs is open through June 30. COG's annual awards highlight a broad range of climate solutions for their unique engagement practices as well as their results, creativity, and replicability.

Learn more about COG's Climate Awards, nominate an org

Battery Management Campaign – COG runs a battery management campaign annually aimed at educating audiences about batteries, how they can spark fires, and advising that they should never go in the trash or recycling. The campaign, which will run on social media platforms through May, will promote reducing waste, improve safety awareness, and inform on how to properly recycle batteries.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Regional Economy/Federal Workforce Cuts

- COG's April Board meeting discussion regarding the impact of federal workforce cuts was covered by Fox 5, WUSA9, WTOP, WAMU, and ARL/FFXNow. Clark Mercer was also interviewed for a story on the federal workforce for 7 News.

Fox 5

WorldPride - COG's April Board meeting discussion on preparations for the WorldPride event was covered by several outlets, including the Washington Business Journal, WTOP, WUSA9, Axios, Washington Blade, and the Advocate.

WTOP

Safety and Security Summit - COG and WMATA's Safety and Security Summit was covered by NBC4, WUSA9, and DC News Now.

WUSA9

DMV Spotlight on Homelessness - COG

Housing Manager Hilary Chapman appeared on the DMV Spotlight podcast to discuss regional efforts to reduce homelessness.

WMAL

COG's Street Smart Safety Campaign – COG's Street Smart Safety Campaign was covered by WUSA9, Fox 5, and NBC4

Fox 5



Collaboration in Action: Solving Homelessness as a Region

On the latest episode of Collaboration in Action, Clark Mercer explores homelessness in the DMV with COG members and partners and takes a behind the scenes look at the annual Point-in-Time count of the unhoused.

Watch the episode



MEMORANDUM

TO: COG Board of Directors

FROM: Clark Mercer, COG Executive Director

Julie Mussog, Chief Financial Officer

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2025 Third Quarter Financial Report

DATE: May 7, 2025

We are providing the following interim financial reports to the Board of Directors for the nine months ended March 31, 2025:

- Statement of Revenue, Expense, and Change in Net Position for the period July 1, 2024 March 31, 2025
- Comparative Statement of Net Position as of March 31, 2024, and March 31, 2025

SUMMARY AND HIGHLIGHTS

As of the first nine months of the fiscal year, the net surplus from operations is \$1.7 million (\$1.5 million in undesignated funds and \$0.2 million in designated program funds). Of the \$1.5 million in undesignated funds about \$1 million of the surplus is due to investment and REIT income above budget and the remainder is savings from vacancies in member dues funded positions, primarily the Director of Community and Planning Services. The \$0.2 million surplus in program funds is primarily a timing issue where we have collected funds in advance of expenses being recognized. The Loudon Learners (\$0.5 million) is driving the increase in program funds partially offset by spending down in fund balance in the Enhanced Mobility programs (\$0.3 million).

Operating revenue is tracking to 66% of the budget nine months into the year. Total operating expenses are tracking lower to the FY2025 budget at 58%. Lower federal and state revenue to the budget is driven by lower spending in Transportation Planning Board Work Program (TBP) and Commuter Connections (\$4.6 and \$3.2 million) offset by higher DHSPS revenues of \$2.3 million. These are cost reimbursement projects, so the year-to-date expenses are also lower than budget but tracking to the prior year. Spend and thus revenues are typically higher in the last quarter of the year for most programs at COG. Salaries are lower than budget due to unbudgeted turnover and delays in hiring some new budgeted positions in TPB, Commuter Connections and Community Planning. Consulting expenses are lower than budget due to lower spending in TPB, Metro Area Transportation Operations Coordination (MATOC) and in the Amtrak repower environmental program. These programs typically have higher spending later in the fiscal year. Other employee benefits are running higher than salaries at 77% of budget year to date due to an increase in healthcare premiums beyond the budgeted amount, higher DC sick leave rates, and a timing issue where one additional month of healthcare expense is included in the balance.

Subrecipient pass-through funds are at 24% of the amount budgeted. Both Enhanced Mobility and UASI are at about \$2.5 and \$1.6 million below budget on a nine month basis and we expect them to track higher in the last quarter of the year.

The Statement of Net Position as of March 31, 2025, shows an overall increase in net position of \$2.8 million. The increase reflects the increase in the capital reserve fund for the office renovation project and undesignated funds which reflects the positive surplus from the end of FY2024 and some current year surplus due to the REIT dividend and investment income.

Board-designated reserves, which include the operating and capital expenditures reserves remain 100% funded at \$11.8 million (\$5.2 operating reserve and \$6.6 capital reserve).



Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Comparative Statement of Net Position As of March 31, 2024 and March 31, 2025

	FY2025 as of 3/31/2025	FY2024 as of 3/31/2024	Increase (Decrease)
<u>Assets</u>			
Cash & Investments	17,084,000	12,979,700	
Accounts receivable	12,016,400	12,758,700	
Prepaid expenses and other assets	101,700	430,200	
Capital assets, net of depreciation	2,030,600	2,295,600	
Total Assets	31,232,700	28,464,200	2,768,500
Liabilities			
Accounts payable	1,451,100	399,000	
Accrued payroll, leave & other liabilities	1,503,300	2,165,300	
Deferred revenue	2,045,000	1,458,100	
Other Non-current Liabilities	-	-	
Total Liabilities	4,999,400	4,022,400	977,000
NET POSITION*			
Net investment in capital assets	2,030,600	2,295,600	(265,000)
Board designated reserves	11,835,900	10,355,400	1,480,500
Restricted project funds	7,284,400	8,646,600	(1,362,200)
Undesignated	5,082,400	3,144,200	1,938,200
Total Net Position	26,233,300	24,441,800	1,791,500
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	31,232,700	28,464,200	2,768,500

^{*}Excludes Net Pension Asset of \$6,587,000 which is available only for pension plan benefits.

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments FY 2025 Statement of Revenue, Expense, and Change in Net Position For the nine months ended March 31, 2025

With Comparisons to Approved Budget and Prior Year Results

Prepared on an accrual basis	Fiscal YTD			Prior FY
	As of	Budget	% of	As of
	3/31/2025	FY2025	Budget	3/31/2024
Operations Revenue	-	-		
Federal and state revenue	21,477,900	34,650,900		20,898,200
Member dues	3,977,200	5,302,900		3,811,800
Regional funds	2,707,700	3,638,200		3,122,500
Building revenue	551,300	480,900		562,500
Other revenue*	4,545,200	6,503,700		5,170,300
Total Operations Revenue	33,259,300	50,576,600	66%	33,565,300
Operations Expense				
Salaries - Direct program	8,874,900	14,781,400		8,675,900
Other employee benefits	2,406,000	3,142,600		2,280,100
Consultants	7,895,000	19,350,900		7,143,000
Other direct program expense	5,392,000	6,837,100		5,097,400
Support services, rent and other allocated expense	6,985,800	10,271,100		6,650,300
Total Operations Expense	31,553,700	54,383,100	58%	29,846,700
Net Surplus (Deficit) - Operations	1,705,600	(3,806,500)		3,718,600
Increase (Decrease) in Designated Program Fund Balance	243,800	(3,610,100)		1,154,600
Change in Undesignated Fund Balance	1,461,800	(196,400)		2,564,000

^{*}Other Revenue includes sponsorships, donations, fees for services, and other miscellaneous revenue.

Revenue - All Sources	FY2025 YTD	FY2025 Budget	
Operations	33,259,300	50,576,600	66%
Special Revenue Funds	187,700	-	#DIV/0!
Subrecipient Pass-Through	1,957,700	8,131,000	24%
Contributed Services			
Total Revenue - All Sources	35,404,700	58,707,600	

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

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

MINUTES COG Board of Directors Meeting April 9, 2025

BOARD MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES: See attached chart for attendance.

SPEAKERS:

Julie Jakopic, iLead Strategies President/CEO
Ryan Bos, Capital Pride Alliance Executive Director
Ashley Smith, Capital Pride Alliance Board President
Alexander Austin, Prince George's Chamber of Commerce President & CEO
Mark Carrier, NVC Board Chairman
Shawn Townsend, Restaurant Association of Metropolitan Washington President and CEO

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COG Board Chair Rodney Lusk called the meeting to order at 12:00 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair's report included the following items:

COG Capital Caucus Event on April 10th

3. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were no amendments to the agenda.

4, APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM MARCH 12, 2025

The minutes from the March 12, 2025 board meeting were approved.

5. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Resolution R10-2025 Resolution authorizing COG to procure and enter into a contract to purchase vendor support services for 9-1-1 call center co-location assessment
- B. Resolution R11-2025 Resolution authorizing COG to procure and enter into a contract to purchase instructional design and learning development preparedness support services
- C. Resolution R12-2025 Resolution authorizing COG to procure and enter into a contract to purchase vendor services for 9-1-1 call center technology support

Action: The board adopted Resolutions R10-2025 - R12-2025.

6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Executive Director's report included the following items:

- Mr. Mercer is presenting to various COG member councils/boards on current changes to the federal workforce and impacts to our region. He will also be visiting to present on general COG programs and member benefits. If you are interested in having a presentation scheduled for your government please reach out to COG staff.
- DMVMoves Task Force update on how to better coordinate and fund transit in the region. A final report with recommendations will be coming this Fall 2025.
- COG Capital Caucus event will be the first time Virginia and Maryland general assembly members representing the COG region will meet with District of Columbia councilmembers to discuss regional priorities.

- Institute for Regional Excellence is currently accepting applications from local government staff to participate in the next learning cohort to become a Certified Public Manager.
- Bike to Work Day is coming up on May 15.
- Street Smart Campaign is underway to promote pedestrian public safety.
- Point-in-Time Count occurred earlier this year and the report on homelessness will be released next month.

7. COG'S MISSION STATEMENT AND STRATEGIC PLAN

The board was briefed on plans to work with the COG Board and staff to develop a mission statement and update the strategic plan for the organization.

Action: Received briefing.

8. WORLDPRIDE 2025

The board was briefed on the Capital Pride Alliance, their work in the National Capital Region, and WorldPride 2025 taking place May 17 – June 8 in Washington, DC. Members asked questions about the upcoming events and discussed local government involvement. *Action: Received briefing.*

9. ECOMONIC IMPACTS OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION ON THE REGION

The board was briefed on how changes at the federal level is impacting the private sector, restaurant industry and overall economy in the region.

Action: Received briefing.

10. BOARD DISCUSSION: RESPONSE TO THE STATE OF THE REGION

Time did not permit the board to discuss this agenda item.

Action: Time did not permit the board to discuss.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

12. ADJORN

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 P.M.

COG Board of Directors Meeting April 9, 2025 Attendance

<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Member</u>	Y/N	<u> Alternate</u>	Y/N
District of Columbia				
Executive	Hon. Muriel Bowser		Ms. Beverly Perry	
	Mr. Kevin Donahue		Mr. Tomas Talamante	
Council	Hon. Phil Mendelson	Y	Hon. Brianne Nadeau	Р
	Hon. Charles Allen	Y		
Maryland	1,			
City of Bowie	Hon. Tim Adams		Mr. Dufour Woolfley	
Charles County	Hon. Reuben Collins	Υ	Hon. Thomasina Coates	
City of Frederick	Hon. Michael O'Connor	Υ	Hon. Gayon Sampson	
Frederick County	Hon, Jessica Fitzwater	Υ	Ms. Victoria Venable	
City of College Park	Hon. Denise Mitchell	Υ	Hon. Fazlul Kabir	Р
City of Gaithersburg	Hon. Robert Wu		Hon. Neil Harris	
City of Greenbelt	Hon. Emmett Jordan	Υ	Hon. Kristen Weaver	
City of Laurel	Hon. Keith Sydnor	Y	Hon. Kyla Clark	
Montgomery County - Exec	Hon. Marc Elrich	'	Mr. Richard Madaleno	Υ
Workgomery County Lives	Tion: Ward Elifori		Ms. Fariba Kassiri	•
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Montgomery County - Council	Hon. Evan Glass			
Montgomery County - Council	Hon. Kate Stewart			
Prince George's County - Exec	Hon. Tara Jackson	Υ	Mr. Barry Stanton	
Prince George's County - Council	Hon. Tom Dernoga	Υ	Hon. Wanika Fisher	
Prince George's County - Council	Hon. Ingrid Watson		Hon. Krystal Oriadha	
City of Rockville	Hon. Monique Ashton		,	
City of Takoma Park	Hon. Talisha Searcy			
Maryland General Assembly	Hon, Brian Feldman			
<i>Virginia</i>		•		
City of Alexandria	Hon. Alyia Gaskins	Υ	Hon. Sarah Bagley	
Arlington County	Hon. Takis Karantonis	Υ		
City of Fairfax	Hon. Catherine Read	Υ	Hon. Stacey Hardy-	
·			Chandler	
Fairfax County	Hon. Rodney Lusk	Υ	Hon. Daniel Storck	
Fairfax County	Hon. Jeff McKay		Hon. Andres Jimenez	
Fairfax County	Hon. James Walkinshaw	Y	Hon. Walter Alcorn	
City of Falls Church	Hon. David Snyder		Hon. Marybeth Connelly	
Loudoun County	Hon. Laura TeKrony			
Loudoun County	Hon. Phyllis Randall		Hon. Koran Saines	
City of Manassas	Hon. Mark Wolfe	Y	Hon. Sonia Vasquez Luna	
City of Manassas Park	Hon. Darryl Moore	Υ		
Prince William County	Hon. Deshundra Jefferson	Y	Hon. Kenny A. Boddye	
Prince William County	Hon. Andrea Bailey	Υ	Hon. Tom Gordy	
Virginia General Assembly	Hon. Mark Sickles	Υ		

Y = voting member present

Total voting present: 21

P = present alternate in addition to member

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS May 2025

A. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COG TO PROCURE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO PURCHASE VENDOR SUPPORT SERVICES FOR AIRCRAFT WATER RESCUE INCIDENT AFTER ACTION REPORT

The board will be asked to adopt Resolution R13-2025 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive and expend \$220,000 for contracting services for developing an after action report (AAR) on the American Airlines Flight 5342 aviation incident. As the Secretariat for the Urban Area Security Initiative for the National Capital Region, COG has been requested by the District of Columbia Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency to procure a contractor(s) and enter into a contract to secure vendor services for the development of the AAR. The focus of the report will be on improving executive, strategic, and operational-level actions. It will also include high-level Federal and regional interactions such as coordination with airports, airlines, Federal entities, activation of Mutual Aid, and other resources. Funding for this effort will be provided through a subgrant from the State Administrative Agent (SAA) for the National Capital Region. No COG matching funds are required.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt Resolution R13-2025.

COG FOSTER CARE PROGRAM AND 2025 RECOGNITION



2025 Foster Parents of the Year

City of Alexandria Foster Parents of the Year: Carrie and Matthew David Field

David and Carrie Field have been resource parents with the City of Alexandria since 2019. Most of the children they have cared for have either transitioned from their home to be cared for by family or have achieved reunification with their parents. Mr. and Mrs. Field have always done a great job working with families and ensuring that they stay connected to their children through visits or video calls on a regular consistent basis. They also work cooperatively with the Family Services Specialist and the rest of each child's support team. In August 2023, a sibling group of three girls joined their family after a significant safety issue occurred in their home during a trial home visit. They have ensured that the three girls have all their needs met to include educational, medical, as well as their emotional well-being. They have learned their interests and have ensured that they participate in activities that interest them. They have provided them with structure, consistency, and guidance. They have supported their foster care goal and their family during this difficult and unexpected transition to their home. Their commitment and care have assisted the girls not only with stability but more importantly with their emotional well-being and safety.

Arlington County Foster Parent of the Year: Melanie and Drew Bond

Drew and Melanie Bond have been fostering with Arlington County for almost 18 years. During their years of service, they have had 14 children join their family, and the whole Bond family, to include their 4 birth children, play a role in supporting the children in their care. Drew and Melanie also have always shown up for our foster parent community. Over the years, they have partnered with other families as respite providers, spent years co-training for PRIDE, mentored new foster families, and participated in retention events. When we call, email, or text, they say yes. They even agree to accept sibling groups into their home, which is essential to maintaining those connections. For three years after accepting those two children into their family, the Bonds managed all the medical appointments, behavior strategy sessions, sibling visits and rapport building with birth relatives. Then when return home became impossible, the Bonds said yes to forever through adoption. When the adoptions were finalized in April of 2022, the Bonds became a family of 8 and selfishly I wondered if their fostering journey was complete. We are incredibly grateful that after taking some well-deserved time to settle in as a newly expanded family, the Bonds reached out about continuing to foster. Since that time, two more little ones have joined the family. It is truly amazing how the Bond's capacity to love and care continues to expand.

Charles County Foster Parent of the Year: Regina Green

Ms. Green excels in recognizing and celebrating each child's unique identity, fostering a strong sense of belonging and self-worth. She builds trust through consistent emotional support and guidance, honoring children's boundaries to create a safe, valued environment. Her dedication to fostering children's development, particularly in the foster care system, is evident in her nurturing approach, involving children in decision-making and empowering them to express their thoughts and feelings

District of Columbia Foster Parents of the Year: Natasha and Bernard Boley

Bernard and Natasha Boley have been fostering with DC Child and Family Services Agency since 2022. During that time, they have fostered over 13 children/youth and have provided respite for many more. In addition, they have adopted one teenager and they're in the process of adopting two sibling sets; in all they hope to expand their family to seven! Despite the challenges that fostering can present, the Boley's understand that parenting requires the stretching of oneself and at the center of that effort is unconditional love and patience. They are an incredibly special and amazing family who have demonstrated an unwavering commitment and extraordinary grace, and they're

committed to providing permanency for the children they're supporting. The Boley's have created a warm and welcome environment, hoping that each child placed in their home feels valued and loved. They advocate fiercely for the children they support, and they've embraced the concept of shared parenting by actively engaging with the children's birth families. They understand the value in recognizing and maintaining familial connections for the children they support; the Boley's are great team players who work well with all parties involved.

Fairfax County Foster Parents of the Year: Adam and Amy Suppe

Amy and Adam Suppes have had several placements throughout the years. They are experienced adoptive and foster parents. In the last year, they have had a particularly difficult placement in which they have gone above and beyond, numerous times, for the child in their care. One of the children currently placed with Adam and Amy is hearing impaired and had never been enrolled in school and had not received any services for his needs, including his hearing impairment. Adam and Amy enrolled him in school and advocated for his needs. They began to learn sign language while teaching their foster son sign language. The whole family attended a camp to learn ASL. After a couple of months, when the child's sister was placed in foster care, Adam and Amy welcomed her into their home. They are supportive of the child's birth family relationships and considerate of their mother and patient with her progress.

Frederick County Foster Parents of the Year: Alexandra and Timothy Mulford

Ali and Tim Mulford are being selected as the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments foster family of the year for 2025. Ali and Tim have been licensed with Frederick County since 2022. They have accepted two teens into their home with challenging behaviors and unique family dynamics. Ali and Tim demonstrate strong patience, undeniable commitment to the children placed in their home, and easily adapt to new situations that arise. They manage challenging circumstances head on and are not afraid to voice their concerns and ask for help for the betterment of the children. Ali and Tim are actively engaged in all aspects of the children's lives and are fierce advocates for the children's well-being. Ali and Tim work effortlessly with the agency, community members, and members of the children's team. Ali and Tim are true team players who are always willing to help fellow resource parents by offering advice or assisting with respite.

Loudoun County Foster Parents of the Year: Juan and Johanna Rivas

Juan and Johanna Rivas have been foster parents with Loudoun County for the past seven years. During that time, they have fostered, adopted and provided respite care. They have cared for young children and older youth who have been challenged with developmental delays, medical needs and significant mental health issues. Last year, they opened their home to a 17 year old and are currently beginning the adoption process with her. Juan and Johanna have demonstrated the importance of birth family connections as they continue to encourage their soon-to-be adopted daughter to maintain her relationships with her family of origin. The Rivas family mentored a fictive kin family who accepted custody of their teen daughter's younger sister and supported them through the foster care process. They continue to nurture the sister bond by having frequent visits, family nights, and celebrations together. In addition to their recent adventures in parenting a teenager, they accepted an infant who has physical challenges. Juan and Johanna stay quite busy parenting three children but rarely request assistance from caseworkers to meet the needs of the children. Juan and Johanna Rivas are an exceptional example of bridging the gap, supporting the community, and helping families grow. Loudoun County is fortunate to have the Rivas family as part of the Foster Care and Adoption team and is proud to celebrate them as Foster Parents of the Year

Montgomery County Foster Parents of the Year: Samantha Singley

Samantha has done an outstanding job understanding and meeting the unique needs of the children placed with her and provides creative and specialized interventions and care. In late 2021, infant twins were placed with her who were later determined to have special needs. To meet their needs, she turned her home into an adaptive play center with a sensory stimulating environment with specialized toys and experiences, and provided a rich language environment, including teaching them sign language, to help the twins continue to grow and develop. She has been a strong advocate for them to get the services and supports to best meet their needs, including attending numerous medical, testing and evaluation appointments. Samantha is incredibly resourceful and finds fun, creative activities, experiences, and opportunities for the children to participate in. While many would be daunted as a single parent to take twins with behavioral and sensory challenges to these activities and adventures, Samantha has a deep commitment to enriching their lives, and has the patience, skills and ability to adapt, quickly pivot, and manage as needed to be able to do so. Samantha has also done an amazing job facilitating the relationship with the children's birth parents. navigating language and communication barriers, and extending an invitation to join her and the twins at any of their weekend adventures. This expanded to include a new sibling to ensure that a relationship was developed between them. Samantha did not become a foster parent with the intention of being a long-term resource, especially to special needs twins as a single parent. However, she has re-configured her career, life plans and future to be able to commit

Prince George's County Foster Parents of the Year: Benjamin Bussie

Since becoming a licensed resource parent, Mr. Bussie has fostered three children, all of whom were identified as "hard to place" due to challenging behaviors and truancy. What began as a weekend respite placement quickly turned into a long-term commitment, with Mr. Bussie requesting to keep these youths in his care. Despite the complexities and challenges associated with these placements, he has remained steadfast in prioritizing their safety, structure, and overall well-being. Mr. Bussie has consistently demonstrated qualities that reflect the spirit of an outstanding foster parent. He has gone above and beyond in making a positive impact on the lives of the children placed with him, demonstrating immense patience, understanding, and a deep commitment to building trust and fostering meaningful relationships with the youth who join his family. His efforts to mentor and bond with them have been both intentional and consistent, reinforcing his genuine interest in their success despite ongoing parenting challenges. Additionally, Mr. Bussie is compassionate and empathetic to the unique needs of children in out-of-home care. His dedication to working collaboratively with the agency and other service providers is exemplary, always prioritizing the best interests of the youth in his care. In recognition of his unwavering commitment to the children, the agency, and the professional network supporting youth in his care, we are honored to nominate Mr. Benjamin Bussie for the 2025 COG Foster Parent of the Year award

Prince William County Foster Parents of the Year: Damien and Quadrell Sylvester

The Sylvester family holds a placement of 3 siblings. The foster parents communicate effectively and have shown great depths of compassion with ensuring each child's needs are met accordingly. They have truly been an asset to foster children since joining our program. Tey have provided emergency care, respite and long-term care for several foster children. They have made themselves and their home available for emergency situations that have come up no matter the day or time. The children that they have had in their homes were not easy children, however, they are able to provide the care, nurturing and safety that the children require whether it is long term or short term. With their most recent placement, the family has built and maintained a healthy relationship with the children's biological parents. Through Bridging the Gap, they have displayed a great support system that has amply provided the best care, support and protection. For example, during the holidays, they

allowed biological parents into their home so that the children could wake up with their parents and open gifts. For this I nominate Damien and Qudrell Syvester for their commitment, drive, care, support and dedication to the most vulnerable of our society and to our program.

UPDATE TO COG'S REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTERS MAP



MEMORANDUM

TO: COG Board

FROM: Kanti Srikanth, COG Deputy Executive Director

SUBJECT: Update to Regional Activity Centers - Cooperative Forecasts Round 10.0

DATE: May 7, 2025

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SUMMARY

The COG Board is being asked to review and adopt the updated Regional Activity Centers (RACs) map (attached). Consistent with its Strategic Plan, COG developed Regional Activity Centers as a policy tool in 2002 in its effort to promote balanced, sustainable, and livable communities, and to better coordinate land use and transportation planning. The RAC map has been updated periodically to reflect major updates to the region's forecast of population, employment, and household growth. The existing RACs map is based upon the Round 8.0 Cooperative Forecast and was adopted by the COG Board in January 2013. This 2025 update corresponds to the Round 10.0 Cooperative Forecast of growth and changes to member jurisdictions' planning priorities since 2013. COG's Planning Directors Technical Advisory Committee (PDTAC) completed its update of the RAC earlier this year and unanimously approved recommending the COG board adopt the updated map.

BACKGROUND

The National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB), in 1998, proposed the idea of targeting geographic areas in the region to focus the region's future growth as a tool to better coordinate land use and transportation planning. At the direction of the Board, COG's PDTAC undertook this task and developed RACs and the Board adopted the first RAC map in 2002. The RAC map was subsequently updated in 2007, and 2013 with major updates to the region's growth forecasts, Round 7.0 and 8.0 respectively. The COG Board also integrated RACs into its regional comprehensive guide for planning, Region Forward, in 2010, by tying various targets under its Accessibility goal to RACs.

Since then, RACs have become widely used by COG member jurisdictions, the TPB and COG in its planning and programming activities. Most recently COG has used RACs as a preferred location for locating additional affordable housing in the COG Housing Targets (2019) and also as the preferred location for planning funds from COG's competitive Housing Affordability Planning Program (HAPP) Grants.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTER DESIGNATION

The COG board has previously adopted the criteria and process by which planning areas would be designed as a Regional Activity Center. A RAC designation would be consistent with local jurisdiction's planning priorities and not preclude jurisdictions' ability identify other areas as local activity centers. The PDTAC reviewed the COG Board-approved criteria for designating RACs during the December 2023 PDTAC meeting and decided that no changes to the Board-approved methodology would be proposed for this update.

The adopted methodology calls for any geographic area to meet the following two core attributes plus any two of the four secondary attributes:

- 1. **Policy Core Attribute** The center or priority growth area should be designated in a jurisdiction's adopted comprehensive/general plan or other locally adopted land use plan.
- 2. **Density Core Attribute** In the Round 10.0 Cooperative Forecast, the potential RAC must have a persons per acre density (employment + population) that falls within the top one-half of densities within the jurisdiction in the 2050 forecast year.

In addition, the potential RAC must also fulfill at least two of the following four secondary attributes:

- 1. Intersection Density Additional Attribute Have at least 55 intersections per square mile.
- 2. *Transit Capacity* Additional Attribute Have an existing high-capacity/performance transit (e.g. Metrorail, BRT, commuter rail, OR light rail), or have planned station with dedicated local funding or that is identified in the constrained element of Visualize 2045.
- 3. **Land Use Mix** Additional Attribute Have a locally adopted land use plan/ordinance that encourages mixed-use development (e.g. through a mixed-use designation, form-based codes, or overlay zoning).
- 4. **Housing and Transportation Affordability** Additional Attribute Combined housing and transportation costs within the potential RAC do not exceed 45% of regional median income, as measured by the Center for Neighborhood Technology's H + T Index.

Analysis and Selection of Round 10.0 Regional Activity Centers

COG staff worked collaboratively with member-jurisdiction planning department staff in 2024 to select Regional Activity Centers for Round 10.0. The technical work included an examination of adopted comprehensive/general plans and small area plans to identify the latest center or priority growth areas and advice from member-jurisdiction planning staff on selecting the appropriate geographies upon which to apply the adopted methodology.

While this update reflects the most recent local plans it does not result in any substantial changes in the distribution pattern of the current RACs. This update results in 145 RACs compared to 141 RACs in the current (Round 8.0) RAC map. Listed below are all the geographic areas in the COG region and a map of the updated RAC is provided.

Table 1. Round 10.0 Regional Activity Centers

1 AlexWest-Beauregard City of Alexandria 2 Braddock Road Metro City of Alexandria 3 Carlyle-Eisenhower East City of Alexandria 4 Eisenhower West/Landmark/Van Dorn City of Alexandria 5 Old Town Alexandria/Old Town North City of Alexandria 6 Potomac Yard City of Alexandria 7 Ballston Arlington County 8 Clarendon Arlington County 9 Columbia Pike Arlington County 10 Court House Arlington County 11 Crystal City Arlington County 12 Langston Boulevard Arlington County 13 Pentagon Arlington County 14 Pentagon Arlington County 15 Rosslyn Arlington County 16 Shirlington Arlington County 17 Virginia Square Arlington County 18 Port Towns Town of Bladensburg/Prince George's County 19 Bowie City of Bowie 20 La Plata Charles County 21 Waldorf Charles County 22 College Park Metro City of College Park 23 UMD Purple Line City of College Park 24 Adams Morgan/Dupont District of Columbia 25 Anacostia/Poplar Point/St. Elizabeths District of Columbia 26 Brookland/Catholic University District of Columbia 27 Capitol Hill District of Columbia 28 Capitol Riverfront District of Columbia 30 Convention Center/Shaw District of Columbia 31 Downtown DC District of Columbia 32 Downtown East DC District of Columbia 33 Former Walter Reed/Upper Georgia Ave District of Columbia 34 Georgetown District of Columbia	No.	Regional Activity Center Name	Jurisdiction
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31 Downtown DC District of Columbia 32 Downtown East DC District of Columbia 33 Former Walter Reed/Upper Georgia Ave District of Columbia 34 Georgetown District of Columbia	29	Columbia Heights	District of Columbia
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34 Georgetown District of Columbia	32	Downtown East DC	District of Columbia
and the second s	33	Former Walter Reed/Upper Georgia Ave	District of Columbia
35 Golden Triangle District of Columbia	34	Georgetown	District of Columbia
	35	Golden Triangle	District of Columbia

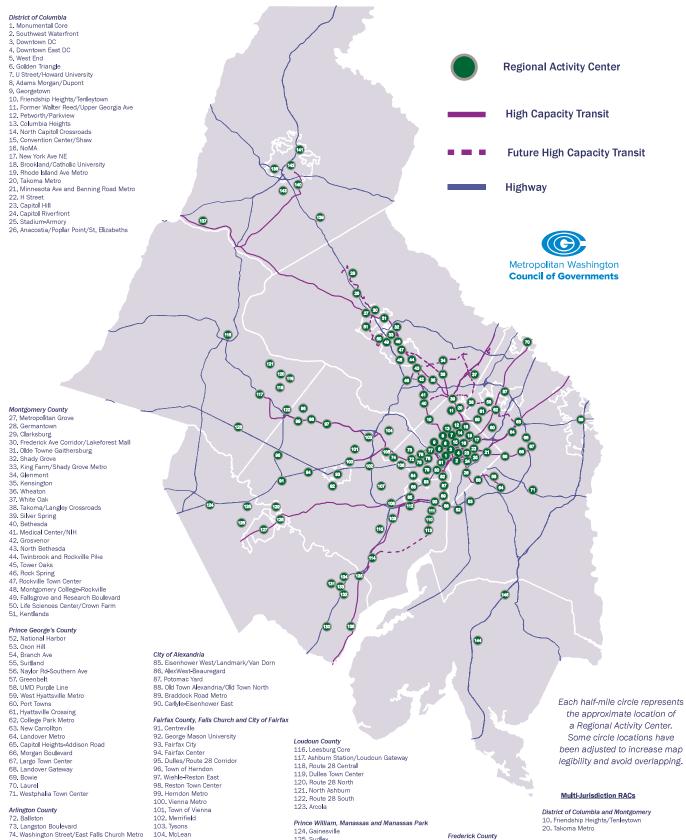
No.	Regional Activity Center Name	Jurisdiction
36	H Street	District of Columbia
37	Minnesota Ave and Benning Road Metro	District of Columbia
38	Monumental Core	District of Columbia
39	New York Ave NE	District of Columbia
40	NoMA	District of Columbia
41	North Capitol Crossroads	District of Columbia
42	Petworth/Parkview	District of Columbia
43	Rhode Island Ave Metro	District of Columbia
44	Southwest Waterfront	District of Columbia
45	Stadium-Armory	District of Columbia
46	U Street/Howard University	District of Columbia
47	West End	District of Columbia
48	Friendship Heights/Tenleytown	District of Columbia/Montgomery County
49	Fairfax City	City of Fairfax
50	Annandale	Fairfax County
51	Beacon-Groveton	Fairfax County
52	Beltway South	Fairfax County
53	Bush Hill/Van Dorn Street Metro	Fairfax County
54	Centreville	Fairfax County
55	Dulles/Route 28 Corridor	Fairfax County
56	Fairfax Center	Fairfax County
57	Fort Belvoir North	Fairfax County
58	Franconia-Springfield	Fairfax County
59	George Mason University	Fairfax County
60	Herndon Metro	Fairfax County
61	Huntington-Penn Daw	Fairfax County
62	Hybla Valley-Gum Springs	Fairfax County
63	Lorton	Fairfax County
64	McLean	Fairfax County
65	Merrifield	Fairfax County
66	Reston Town Center	Fairfax County
67	Town of Herndon	Fairfax County
68	Town of Vienna	Fairfax County
69	Tysons	Fairfax County
70	Vienna Metro	Fairfax County
71	Wiehle-Reston East	Fairfax County
72	Bailey's Crossroads-Western Gateway	Fairfax County/Arlington County

No.	Regional Activity Center Name	Jurisdiction
73	Washington Street/East Falls Church Metro	City of Falls Church/Arlington County
74	East End/Seven Corners	City of Falls Church/Fairfax County
75	West Falls Church/West Broad Street	City of Falls Church/Fairfax County
76	Downtown Frederick	City of Frederick
77	Northeast Frederick	City of Frederick
78	The Golden Mile	City of Frederick
79	Ballenger Creek	Frederick County
80	South Frederick	Frederick County
81	Urbana	Frederick County
82	Brunswick	Frederick County
83	Frederick Ave Corridor/Lakeforest Mall	City of Gaithersburg
84	Kentlands	City of Gaithersburg
85	Metropolitan Grove	City of Gaithersburg
86	Olde Towne Gaithersburg	City of Gaithersburg
87	Life Sciences Center/Crown Farm	City of Gaithersburg/Montgomery County
88	Greenbelt	City of Greenbelt
89	Hyattsville Crossing	City of Hyattsville/Prince George's County
90	West Hyattsville Metro	City of Hyattsville/Prince George's County
91	Laurel	City of Laurel
92	Arcola	Loudoun County
93	Ashburn Station/Loudoun Gateway	Loudoun County
94	Dulles Town Center	Loudoun County
95	Leesburg Core	Loudoun County
96	North Ashburn	Loudoun County
97	Route 28 Central	Loudoun County
98	Route 28 North	Loudoun County
99	Route 28 South	Loudoun County
100	Downtown Manassas	City of Manassas
101	Manassas Park	City of Manassas Park
102	Bethesda	Montgomery County
103	Clarksburg	Montgomery County
104	Germantown	Montgomery County
105	Glenmont	Montgomery County
106	Grosvenor	Montgomery County
107	Kensington	Montgomery County
108	Medical Center/NIH	Montgomery County
109	North Bethesda	Montgomery County

No.	Regional Activity Center Name	Jurisdiction
110	Rock Spring	Montgomery County
111	Shady Grove	Montgomery County
112	Silver Spring	Montgomery County
113	Wheaton	Montgomery County
114	White Oak	Montgomery County
115	Branch Ave	Prince George's County
116	Capitol Heights-Addison Road	Prince George's County
117	Landover Gateway	Prince George's County
118	Landover Metro	Prince George's County
119	Largo Town Center	Prince George's County
120	Morgan Boulevard	Prince George's County
121	National Harbor	Prince George's County
122	Naylor Rd-Southern Ave	Prince George's County
123	New Carrollton	Prince George's County
124	Oxon Hill	Prince George's County
125	Suitland	Prince George's County
126	Westphalia Town Center	Prince George's County
127	Fettler Park/Dumfries	Prince William County
128	Gainesville	Prince William County
129	Innovation Park Town Center	Prince William County
130	North Woodbridge Town Center	Prince William County
131	Potomac Mills	Prince William County
132	Potomac Shores	Prince William County
133	Potomac Town Center	Prince William County
134	Quartz District	Prince William County
135	Sudley	Prince William County
136	The Landing at Prince William	Prince William County
137	Yorkshire	Prince William County
138	Fallsgrove and Research Boulevard	City of Rockville
139	King Farm/Shady Grove Metro	City of Rockville
140	Montgomery College-Rockville	City of Rockville
141	Rockville Town Center	City of Rockville
142	Tower Oaks	City of Rockville
143	Twinbrook and Rockville Pike	City of Rockville/Montgomery County
144	Takoma Metro	City of Takoma Park/District of Columbia
145	Takoma/Langley Crossroads	City of Takoma Park/Prince George's County

Regional Activity Centers Map based on the COG Round 10.0 Cooperative Forecast

Approved May 14, 2025 by COG Board of Directors



74. Washington Street/East Falls Church Metro 75. Virginia Square

77. Rosslyn 78. Court House 79, Columbia Pike 80. Pentagon City 81. Pentagon 82. Crystal City

76. Clarendon

83. Shirlington 84. Bailey's Crossroads-Western Gateway

104. McLean 105. West Falls Church/West Broad Street

106, East End/Seven Corners 107. Annandale 108. Beltway South

129. Yorkshire 109. Franconia-Springfield 130. Fettler Park/Dumfries 131. Quartz District 110. Beacon-Groveton
111. Huntington-Penn Daw
112. Bush Hill/Van Dorn Street Metro

113. Hybla Valley-Gum Springs 114. Lorton 115. Fort Belvoir North

124. Gainesville 125. Sud**l**ey

126. Innovation Park Town Center 127. Downtown Manassas 128. Manassas Park

132. Potomac Town Center 133. Potomac Mills

134. The Landing at Prince William 135. North Woodbridge Town Center 136. Potomac Shores

137. Brunswick

138. The Golden Mile 139. Urbana

140. South Frederick 141. Northeast Frederick 142. Downtown Frederick 143. Ballenger Creek

144. La Plata 145. Waldorf Montgomery and Prince George's 38. Takoma/Langley Crossroads

Arlington and Falls Church

74. Washington Street/East Falls Church Metro

Arlington and Fairfax County 84. Bailey's Crossroads-Western Gateway

Falls Church and Fairfax County 105. West Falls Church/West Broad Street 106. East End/Seven Corners

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS 777 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, NE WASHINGTON, DC 20002

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE UPDATED REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTERS MAP BASED ON COG'S ROUND 10.0 COOPERATIVE FORECASTS

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) comprises the 24 jurisdictions of the metropolitan Washington region's local governments and their governing officials, plus area members of the Maryland and Virginia legislatures and the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, and COG provides a focus for action on issues of regional concern; and

WHEREAS, COG is responsible for assisting local governments in the metropolitan Washington region with the identification, analysis and resolution of problems and issues related to growth and development; and

WHEREAS, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) is the federally designated metropolitan planning organization, responsible for directing the continuing transportation planning process carried on cooperatively by the states and local governments in the metropolitan Washington region; and

WHEREAS, consistent with long-standing policy for integrating regional development with transportation plans and programs, the COG Board of Directors (COG Board), with the technical support of the Planning Directors Technical Advisory Committee (PDTAC) is responsible for developing Cooperative Forecasts of employment, population and households for the region through the Cooperative Forecasting process; and

WHEREAS, in 1998 the TPB adopted its Transportation Vision, a broad-based vision planning process that, among its objectives, recommended the identification of locations called Activity Centers in the region targeted for the region's future growth as a tool to better coordinate land use and transportation planning; and creation of a map of regional activity centers; and

WHEREAS, the PDTAC developed the first Regional Activity Centers Map which was approved by the COG Board in 2002 based on Round 6.1 Cooperative Forecasts; and

WHEREAS, in approving the 2002 map, the COG Board directed that the PDTAC consider updates to the Regional Activity Centers map upon adoption of new major rounds of Cooperative Forecasts; and

WHEREAS, the PDTAC developed 2 updates to the Round 6.1 Activity Centers map based, respectively, on the Round 7.0 and Round 8.0 Cooperative Forecasts, and which were approved by the COG Board in 2007 and 2013; and

WHEREAS, Regional Activity Centers include existing urban centers, priority growth areas, traditional towns, and transit hubs throughout the region as identified in local government plans; and

WHEREAS, Region Forward, COG's Comprehensive Vision for Regional Planning and Measuring Progress, includes goals and targets tied to Regional Activity Centers, specifically the share of household and employment growth to be concentrated in regional Activity Centers; and

WHEREAS, Regional Activity Centers are used by the TPB and COG in planning and programming activities including COG's Amazon-funded Housing Affordability Planning (HAPP) Program, and the TPB's Transportation and Land Use Connections, Transportation Alternatives Program, Regional Roadway Safety Program technical assistance grants; and

WHEREAS, in June 2023, the COG Board approved the Round 10.0 Cooperative Forecasts of population, households and employment to the year 2050; and

WHEREAS, in December 2023, the PDTAC approved technical criteria and a work plan to update the Regional Activity Centers map, reflecting local land use and the approved Round 10.0 Forecasts; and

WHEREAS, following extensive coordination between COG staff and each member local planning department, the PDTAC approved the new map of Regional Activity Centers at their March 2025 meeting.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT:

- 1. The board approves the new map of Regional Activity Centers based on the Round 10.0 Cooperative Forecasts.
- 2. The board commends the work of PDTAC members and COG staff for development of the map.
- The board requests that PDTAC and COG staff continue to monitor the adoption of new local land use plans, as well as emerging economic and demographic trends that might warrant future Activity Center map revisions.

HOMELESSNESS IN METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON

(The 2025 Regional Homelessness Enumeration report will be emailed to Board Members in advance of the meeting.)

BOARD DISCUSSION: RESPONSE TO THE STATE OF THE REGION

AGENDA ITEM #11 OTHER BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM #12 ADJOURN