



February 15, 2018

Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington D.C. 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

Enclosed are the responses to the Committee of the Whole performance oversight hearing preliminary questions for the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. I look forward to the opportunity to meet with the Committee on February 28th.

If you have any questions or need further information please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Chuck Bean'.

Chuck Bean
Executive Director

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is a membership organization of local elected officials from the District of Columbia and 23 other area jurisdictions in Maryland and Virginia. The region's state and federal elected delegations also are members of COG. Three independent policy boards direct the Council's work, including the COG Board of Directors, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) – which is the federally-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization – and the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC), which prepares the region's air quality plans to comply with federal law. COG's work is funded by government grants, membership dues and private foundations. (NB: The Council of Governments could not supply information on questions directed specifically to city agencies and therefore answered with "not applicable.")

1. The COG's organizational chart is attached. We currently have 131 FTE's and five vacancies.

2. Not applicable.

3. Not applicable.

4. There are no current or impending vacancies on the Board of Directors.

5. Current Capital Projects:

- IT Security – Email Archiver, Web Filters, Malware Filter: \$10,000
- Evoke Liso Room Management (18 units): \$32,000
- Data Center Power, HVAC & Rack Equipment: \$12,000
- Remodel Project – 2nd and 3rd floors
 - Construction: \$1,816,300
 - Furniture, phone system security signage: \$387,500
 - Audio-visual infrastructure: \$66,800
 - Design and related: \$250,200
 - Administration fees and costs: \$61,500
 - Contingency: \$239,400

6.

A. There were no investigations, studies, audits, or reports affecting the District at any time in 2018 or 2019.

B. There are no ongoing investigations, audits, or reports affecting the District.

7. The top five priorities for the Council of Governments in 2018 include:

COG's commitment to convene regional partners to help better ensure the return of a world class Metrorail transit system includes:

- Provide orientation for the newly appointed Metro Safety Commission and support the commission members in hiring an Executive Director consistent with federal requirements to provide authority for safety oversight of Metro.
- Serve as a convener for discussion and information sharing as the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia work to advance legislation to establish dedicated funding for Metro.

- Collaborate with the business and nonprofit community to advance the shared goal of establishing dedicated funding for Metro and maintaining a safe and reliable Metro system.
- Working closely with the COG Fire Chiefs Committee and WMATA to address coordination on testing of equipment, training of first responders and the rapid reporting and timely repair of all systems.
- Using COG's monthly Board meetings as a public forum to follow-up on issues related to the overall improvement of the Metrorail system
- Continuation of the Metrorail Communications Study in where COG will continue to coordinate and assist the regional partners as they follow-up on recommendations included in the report, including monitoring completion of long-term projects to allow cell phone surface in Metrorail cars.

COG's commitment to ending the opioid epidemic in our region includes:

- COG hosted the Regional Substance, Opioid Dependency Meeting on February 5, 2018. The participants were comprised of elected officials, behavioral health, public health, funders, law enforcement, Fire/EMS, prevention specialists, and members of the Drug Enforcement Agency. This group was tasked to identify potential regional initiatives that would support the COG member jurisdictions to combat the substance abuse crisis.
- An executive committee is being comprised to develop action plans around these possible regional initiatives. Regional initiatives may include a regional campaign, data sharing, regional training, and regional education/prevention opportunities.
- COG will be holding a second convening, tentatively scheduled for May 2018, to present on the regional action plans and request feedback and support in carrying out these initiatives.

COG's commitment to transportation planning through Visualize2045 includes:

- COG, through the Transportation Planning Board is staffing the creation of Visualize 2045 to help decision makers and the public visualize the region's future under current transportation plans.
- Visualize 2045 is a new kind of long-range transportation plan for the National Capital Region. It will show the projects and other improvements the region's transportation agencies expect to be able to afford between now and 2045 as well as those they would build if they had more funding.
- The plan will focus on regionally significant road and transit projects, but will also highlight bicycle and pedestrian projects and key land-use issues facing the region.
- As the plan is developed, it will include constrained elements, unconstrained elements, financial analysis, bicycle and pedestrian plans, and freight plans.

COG's commitment to ensuring drinking water security includes:

- Working with the region's drinking water utilities to develop an after-action report on the November, 2016 Potomac River oil sheen to identify lessons learned and next steps.
- Work with EPA to improve Unified Command representation during future events and increase protection of the region's drinking water supplies.
- Continued coordination, management, and technical support of the regional contaminant warning system/drinking water security monitoring system.

- Address vulnerabilities and necessary actions related to the security of the Washington Aqueduct.

COG's commitment to serve as a hub for obtaining and implementing Next Generation (NextGen) 911 throughout the region includes:

- Reliable and uninterrupted 9-1-1 service continues to be a priority for COG and our member jurisdictions.
- Through support of the 9-1-1 Center Managers Committee COG is supporting the study and implementation of improving the region's public safety communication infrastructure by implementing NextGen 911 technologies.
- These technologies will enhance 9-1-1 center operations with voice, data, texting, web and visual information and add redundancy and diversity so the system will be less at risk of a failure.
- COG is working on ensuring the interconnectivity of these systems throughout the region and researching group cost saving options through our cooperative purchasing program.