



February 14, 2020

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 24th at 10:00am.

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 24 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 120 FTE's and 17 vacancies.
2. Not applicable.
3. Payments to the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments from the District of Columbia for Fiscal Year October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020 (estimates) are listed below.

COG Membership Dues	\$542,100
DC's share of membership contributions to COG, allocated on a per capita fee basis. Provides match funds to leverage federal and other resources that support transportation planning, air quality monitoring, and other regional programs. Also supports regional priorities that do not have other sources of funding (health, housing and others). Provides the structure, facilities, and staffing to initiate and support regional planning and collaboration, and member services such as cooperative purchasing.	

Transportation Planning Programs

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)	DC DOT	\$2,091,400
DC's share of regional transportation planning funds under the federally designated regional metropolitan planning organization, the Transportation Planning Board, for planning activities that ensure the flow of federal transportation funds to local, regional and state transportation agencies. Funding is 90% federal.		

Commuter Connections (CCWP)	DC DOT	\$486,700
DC's share of funding for a regional program designed to promote alternatives to single occupancy driving. Includes programs and services such as ridesharing, guaranteed ride home, promotion of public transit, and events such as "Bike to Work Day" and "Car Free Day" that are designed to ease traffic congestion and reduce vehicle emissions. Funding is 80% federal.		

Homeland Security and Public Safety

Homeland Security Executive Committee (HSEC) and Regional Homeland Security Support and Staffing	DC HSEMA	\$1,502,898
DC HSEMA, in its role as State Administrative Agency (SAA) for regional homeland security funding under the DHS/FEMA Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI), provides funding to COG for research, information, and materials to support regional homeland security. This includes security threat		

prevention priorities, regional decision-making, regional agreements and policies, planning, and other related activities to support all regional subject matter expert committees such as police, fire, emergency managers, health officials, emergency transportation, interoperable communications, 9-1-1 directors, water and energy security, and other cross-cutting programs. Funding is 100% federal.

Regional Public Safety Fund (New in FY2020)

DC HSEMA

\$70,300

The Regional Public Safety Fund is being implemented starting in FY 2020 to provide direct services and support to participating local governments for three critical public safety programs previously funded by federal urban areas security initiative, plus a new program reflecting a high priority need for the region. Funding will support development and maintenance of public safety memoranda of understanding and regional public safety policies, support interoperability and coordination of essential emergency preparedness and response capabilities. A new priority included in the fund supports the development of leaders at all levels (elected/policy officials, city and county managers, subject matter experts and first responders) through a new regional training program designed to support long-term understanding and commitment to a regional homeland security and public safety perspective. The District will benefit from this on many levels including the cultivation of the next generation of leadership. Oversight for the Regional Public Safety Fund is assigned to the COG Chief Administrative Officer Committee; funding is allocated using a per-capital fee, as included in the adopted COG FY 2020 Member Dues and Regional Fees Assessment.

Regional Public Safety Projects

DC BUDGET OFC

\$452,495

- Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS): AFIS allows for the rapid search of latent fingerprints from crime scenes developed through the arrest/booking process from multiple agencies in the NCR. The combined effort of AFIS data in the region has resulted in an arrest database with two million records on three independent, yet connected, sites available to all approved law enforcement personnel.
- NCR Geospatial Data Exchange (NCRGDX): The NCR NCRGDX provides a known, common platform for the exchange of contextual and emergency event related geospatial data for emergency management and response. Computer aided dispatch (CAD) to geospatial information systems (CAD2GIS), a component of the NCRGDX program, assists in multi-jurisdictional and local emergency event coordination. CAD2GIS gives incident or area commanders a view into the status and location of fire and rescue units and incidents that no other system can provide. NCRGDX helps leaders and responders to understand a situation through the power of maps garnered from the authoritative sources, the actual municipalities experiencing the incident.
- License Plate Readers (LPR): The NCR Law Enforcement LPR program collects and allows authorized personnel to rapidly access regional LPR data to receive early warnings about potential threats, support investigations, and conduct day-to-day law enforcement activities. LPR cameras capture photos of license plates, convert them to data, and compare them to stolen car, wanted person, unregistered vehicle, and other databases. When a match occurs, the system alerts law enforcement so they can respond promptly. Developed and maintained by UASI funds, the LPR program includes mobile, portable, and fixed cameras that share information between more than two dozen federal, state, local, and regional law enforcement partners.

- Identity and Access Management Services (IAMS): IAMS allows first responders and other emergency support functions (ESF) in the NCR to use a single, familiar username/email address and strong password combination to access regional and shared applications. This concept of "single credential" that is used for any authorized application is a faster, easier, trusted and secure common utility, that does not require additional regional credentialing administration overhead.

Homeland Security Projects DC HSEMA \$4,181,569
 Provides financial and procurement management and subject matter expertise for homeland security consulting services, equipment purchases, training and exercise projects on behalf of the region and DC, when requested by DC HSEMA as SAA. Funding is 100% federal.

Police Special Activities MPD \$1,175
 Contribution for special activity funds, SWAT training fund, and Problem Management and Recording System (PMARS).

Fire, Health, & Safety Symposium DC Fire & EMS \$1,000
 Registration for the 2019 Fire, Health and Safety Symposium which offers seminars, continuing educational credits, and the opportunity to network with other regional and national professionals.

Environmental Programs

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) DC DOEE \$44,700
 DC's share of funding for the regional air quality planning program under the regional body certified under the Clean Air Act to carry out these functions for the Washington metropolitan region. Supports DC and state air and transportation agencies and local environmental departments in developing plans and documentation for meeting Clean Air Act requirements for public health protection and supports local actions to improve air quality. Establishes limits on emissions from transportation sources used by the Transportation Planning Board (air quality conformity).

Clean Air Partners DC DOEE \$56,700
 DC's share of funding that supports a public-private partnership operating through COG. Clean Air Partners works to improve the health and quality of life of residents in the Washington metropolitan area in collaboration with the Baltimore Metropolitan Council. The partnership educates the public and businesses about health risks associated with poor air quality and encourages simple actions to protect public health.

Regional Environmental Fund DC DOEE & DPW \$71,400
 DC's share of funding for the regional program established in 1988 to support COG's climate, energy, solid waste and recycling, urban forestry, and other environmental programs under the auspices of COG's Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) and supporting technical committees. Includes establishment of regional climate and energy goals, strategies to facilitate deployment of renewable energy, and technology solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save energy.

Anacostia Watershed Restoration Program	DC DOEE	\$90,000
DC's share of funding for the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Agreement, entered into by DC, Maryland, Montgomery County and Prince George's County, in collaboration with federal and regional agencies and non-profit organizations. Funding supports COG's work to facilitate the restoration of the river and its tributaries through application of best practices and advanced stormwater management techniques. Also provides decision support to the Anacostia Watershed Steering Committee and subcommittees.		
Monitoring for Trash in District Waters	DC DOEE	\$104,200
Contract with COG to conduct monitoring for trash along waterbodies located in DC. Data is used to support analysis and development of trash reduction strategies and policies.		
Stream Restoration Monitoring	DC DOEE	\$99,300
Contract with COG to monitor and document areas of riverbank instability so DC DOEE can address stream restoration needs and results. Funding is 100% federal.		
Child Welfare	DC CFS	\$1,540
DC Department of Child and Family Services funding to produce a commemorative video of the District's 2019 "Foster Parent of the Year Award" recipient.		
Total Estimate for DC Fiscal Year 2020		\$9,797,477

4.
 - A. There were no investigations, studies, audits, or reports affecting the District at any time in 2019 or 2020.
 - B. There are no ongoing investigations, audits, or reports affecting the District.
5. Benefits to the District of Columbia in being a member of MWCOG include:

COG is the go-to forum, a hub of expert analysis, data, plans, and strategies helping practitioners be more effective and efficient in their home jurisdictions. Every month, over 1,500 officials and experts come to COG to share best practices and promote regional coordination. There is no place like COG for this level of coordination in our region. Elected officials, senior member jurisdiction staff, and planners alike convene at COG to tackle issues that affect DC and our region as a whole. Being a member of COG ensures that the city's point of view is heard and your leadership is at the table. COG membership enables access to more than 130 in-house experts on a range of technical fields in transportation, the environment, land use, housing, public safety, and more. COG expertise saves members money through research, consultants, regional analysis, and publications.

Transportation:

COG is home to the region's Metropolitan Planning Organization or MPO. COG staffs the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board or TPB, one of over 300 MPOs in the country. The TPB is charged with reviewing plans and programs that seek federal transportation funding. In addition to coordinating transportation across a multijurisdictional region, the TPB is the hub for expert analysis

and regional plans. DC's engagement with the TPB – staffed by COG, has been critical to receiving Federal Transportation funding.

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a 6-year financial program that describes the schedule for obligating federal funds to state and local projects. The TIP contains funding information for all modes of transportation including highways and HOV as well as transit capital and operating costs. State, regional and local transportation agencies update the program every two years to reflect priority projects in the Visualize 2045 long-range plan. The District of Columbia will receive over \$2 billion in funding in the 2019 – 2024 plan.

The Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (formerly just the Transportation Alternatives Program or TAP) allocates federal reimbursable aid for capital improvements considered alternative to traditional highway construction. The TPB works with the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia to coordinate each state's application process in the region. In FY2019 and FY2020, DC received seven grants totaling \$1,885,680.

The Transportation Land Use Connections Program (TLC) is funded with TPB planning funds to provide short-term consultant services to local jurisdictions for small planning projects that promote mixed-use walkable communities and support a variety of transportation alternatives. In FY2019-2020 the District received \$120,000 for consultant services for a Barry Farm – Anacostia Metro Feasibility Analysis and a Public Life Study at Florida and New York Avenues.

The Federal Transit Administration's (FTA's) Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program (Section 5310) provides funding for transportation for people with disabilities and older adults who have difficulty using public transit or need improved access to it. COG is the Designated Recipient for this program for the Washington DC-VA-MD Urbanized Area. In FY20 and FY 21, programming in the District totaled \$616,563.

Furthermore, COG recently completed a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant totaling more than \$50 million to make physical infrastructure improvements for bus transit in the region. Six of the projects were in DC totaling \$16.5 million.

The Street Smart campaign has made over 150 million media impressions, aired by 15 partner radio stations and through Metrorail and Bus ads. This campaign continues to highlight the ongoing need for pedestrian and cyclist safety. For 40 years, COG's Commuter Connections, has helped area workers get to their jobs more efficiently through car and van pools, offering the citizens of our region a better way to work and a guaranteed ride home.

Environment:

COG's work engages leaders in various environmental fields from water quality experts to urban foresters. COG and its member governments play key roles in planning and outreach to reduce air pollution. COG supports ongoing efforts to ensure a safe water supply and to revitalize local waterways through wastewater and stormwater planning. It promotes energy conservation, alternative energy sources, and green building and fleet policies to help reduce regional greenhouse gas emissions. COG also promotes recycling and supports efforts to enhance and preserve forestry resources and agriculture.

COG's Water Resources Program assists local government members, and affiliated wastewater treatment and drinking water utilities, with protecting, restoring, and conserving these resources. The

program also helps them address the policy and technical implications of various state and federal initiatives that have water quality and water resource implications for the region. COG's Regional Water Quality Management Program (RWQM) addresses a wide range of technical and policy issues that affect the tidal estuary portion of the Upper Potomac River and its tributaries, and that may have implications for the region's water quality and water resources. The Community Engagement Campaign, a partnership between COG and the region's water and wastewater utilities accomplishes several efforts, including regional Drug Take Back campaigns and the Protect Your Pipes Campaign. As part of the TapIt Program, people can fill up their water bottle with tap water at hundreds of locations across the region, reducing waste from plastic bottles.

COG, through the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC), coordinates regional air quality planning activities, reviews policies, resolves policy differences, and adopts air quality plans for transmittal to the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia. MWAQC members include area elected officials, environmental directors, and state air management and transportation officials. COG has also been providing regional air quality forecasts since the 1970s, and its Clean Air Partners program educates people on ways to reduce air pollution and protect their health.

COG's Climate and Energy Program is one of the nation's first initiatives to address heat-trapping emissions on a regional level. The program provides a roadmap and tools to communities seeking more sustainable options for growth and development. Communities in the region are implementing renewable energy, energy efficiency, purchasing green power, facilitating electric vehicle adoption, and other programs to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The region has met its 2012 goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions back down to 2005 levels. In 2019 the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy recognized COG and our member governments as one of four Regional and Metro-Scale Climate Leaders in the US. COG will continue to work with its regional partners to meet the 2020 goal of 20 percent below 2005 level and is in the process of setting 2030 goals.

Go Recycle campaign educates the public about the benefits of recycling, particularly in the workplace. It creates a regional impact that would be impossible for a single jurisdiction to achieve by promoting recycling on its own.

COG's Urban Forestry Program is one of planning and planting, actively enhancing the preservation of forestry resources in the region through projects and workshops with member governments policies and programs in cooperation with federal, state, and local forestry program partners. Through regional forest cover analysis, the program examines gaps in the forest canopy and forest habitat to target areas for reforestation and enhancement.

COG's Green Infrastructure Program examines regional green space and open space land cover types from urban pocket parks to urban agriculture; from small forest plots to large forestlands, meadow and farmland tracts. COG produced the first comprehensive regional green infrastructure land cover maps in 2004 using 1999/2000 Landsat imagery and produced an update in 2013 using 2011 imagery.

COG's Regional Agricultural Initiative seeks to provide information on the current and historical state of agriculture in metropolitan Washington, and to create a regional agriculture network to link farmers, consumers, and policymakers.

Homeland Security and Public Safety

COG brings police chiefs, fire chiefs, emergency managers, and other leaders together as part of its work to strengthen regional public safety coordination, homeland security planning, and emergency communication.

COG has played a key role to significantly increase the region's ability to protect against, prepare for, and respond to natural, manmade, and terrorist-related threats. COG helps strengthen regional homeland security and emergency preparedness through:

- Coordination of regional priority setting
- Facilitating regional mutual aid and other public safety agreements
- Supporting emergency communication and coordination
- Providing decision support through leveraging subject-matter experts
- Facilitating emergency training and exercises and after-action assessments
- Directly administering approximately 20 grants to strengthen the region's emergency preparedness
- Supporting the National Capital Region Homeland Security Executive Committee (HSEC)

Throughout its history, COG has championed public safety planning and coordination, such as its ongoing support of regional mutual aid agreements. These cooperative agreements allow police, fire, and other emergency resources to be shared across jurisdictional borders and have aided regional responses from the 1968 civil disturbances following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to the 9/11 terrorist attacks to presidential inaugurations.

In addition to strengthening emergency response, COG brings together first responders—including the region's police and fire chiefs—to address public safety issues at the regional scale, ranging from gangs to drunk driving to fire safety. COG's police committees are a venue for officials to share best practices and innovative law enforcement strategies. COG supports police, fire/EMS, and emergency management officials as they work on communications interoperability and training. COG also convenes other public servants dedicated to ensuring safe communities, such as corrections and animal services officials.

COG has helped enhance emergency communication among officials across the region in a variety of ways. After 9/11, COG created and maintains the Regional Incident Communication and Coordination System (RICCS), a 24/7 system that helps officials communicate during emergencies. COG coordinates regional conference calls for snow or other weather-related emergencies where leaders discuss conditions and make decisions on operating statuses, such as closing government offices. COG works to ensure reliable and uninterrupted 9-1-1 service as well as citizen warning systems and emergency text and email alert systems are also major priorities for COG and its members.

The District benefits from the COG Regional Incident Communications and Coordination System (RICCS). This 24/7 service coordinates emergency communications across text message, email updates, and conference calls. COG also hosts regional information-sharing and decision calls on the system to aid in regional coordination. COG hosted 16 calls in 2019 on emergency issues such as hurricanes and snow. There are currently 185 District officials signed up to receive RICCS notifications.

Direct Support to the District of Columbia:

- District Emergency Response System Program Management Office \$249,876 - The DCERS PMO is responsible for coordination, outreach, and reporting for the DC Emergency Preparedness Council, DCERS Steering Committee and the District projects it oversees. Deliverables include the development and maintenance of the Strategic Plan, as well as a corresponding Playbook for the District. Using the plans as a guideline, the DCERS PMO will further assist with priority development, capability building, grant project prioritization, project plan development, and data collection and reporting.
- District Incident Management Support Team Program \$645,437 - The purpose of this project is to expand and sustain the Incident Management Program that was implemented by the District of Columbia Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA) in 2015. Expansion of the program will include full certification of all Incident Management Support Team (IMST) members currently participating in the Program. This task order also seeks to build in a sustainment component that will provide Train-the-Trainer courses and evaluator workshops to build a cadre of certified trainers that is able to sustain the long-term training requirements.
- District Consequence Management Team Exercise Series \$195,681 - The purpose of this task is to the design, development, conduct, and evaluation of a series of six (6) exercises which will be targeted at members of the District Consequence Management Team (“CMT”). The exercise series will consist of a blend of notice and no-notice discussion based, and/or limited operations-based exercises.
- District Preparedness Technical and Production Services Support \$98,277 - The DC HSEMA develops hundreds of products (e.g., policies, press releases, plans, reports, maps, training courses, exercises, etc.) each year. These products are created and delivered to our key stakeholders and partners using various platforms. The goal of this project is to establish a standby production and technical support services task order which will be used on an ad hoc basis in support of these deliverables.

Regional Projects Benefiting District of Columbia:

- Bomb Squad Robotic Equipment \$1,807,866 - The purpose of this project is to purchase explosive ordinance disposal equipment. This is necessary to maintain the region’s ability to handle simultaneous incidents involving explosive devices in a safe and expeditious manner. The items will provide the means for the bomb technicians to avail themselves of various platforms and options to engage in render-safe procedures based on the item(s) to be mitigated. Per HSEC decision making process, COG will facilitate not only the procurement of the robotic equipment, but also additional regionally deployable EOD robot accessories.
- Bomb X-Ray Systems \$499,654 - The Bomb X-ray system purchase is the last of a multi-year procurement to bring all National Capitol Region Bomb Squads up to the same capability for the detection and disposal of explosives. This is necessary to maintain the region’s ability to handle simultaneous incidents involving explosive devices in a safe and expeditious manner. The items will provide the means for the bomb technicians to avail themselves of various platforms and options to engage in render-safe procedures based on the item(s) to be

mitigated. This platform is also interoperable to allow expanded capability when more than one Bomb Squad is responding to an incident.

- Complex Coordinated Attack Regional Symposium \$106,904 - The symposium objective is to share information across a wide audience about ongoing gaps and lessons learned from recent national and international incidents. In addition to an introductory session on lessons and gaps from live incidents, the symposium will provide (1) a summary of CCA-related projects across the region and their current status (2) lessons learned during the CCA Working Group (3) A look forward at upcoming projects and needs (4) subject-specific analysis lessons learned and NCR projects.
- Situational Awareness Dashboard \$412,295 - The current NCR Situational Dashboard initiative builds upon previous phases of this project. The project was conceived to assist in consolidating and managing information from multiple data sources and to enhance a partners' ability to comprehend and share data, and identify events requiring attention. This project will provide maintenance and sustainment including some enhancements to further regional integration. Regional expansion will allow NCR partners to coordinate and act upon information collaboratively, and accurately report results to decision makers and the general public.
- Metrorail Station Emergency Response Exercise Series \$235,636 - This project is to develop and conduct three multi-jurisdictional exercises. This project will include the development and conduct of two (2) tabletop exercises and one (1) full-scale exercise, focusing on the a security incident involving the loss of one mode or a loss of all modes of WMATA transit services, utilizing the Metrorail Emergency Response and Evacuation Plan Rail Specific Annexes, provide regional evacuation support within the National Capital Region, and the development of After-Action Reports (AAR's) for each exercises as defined in the US Department of Homeland Security – Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP).

Community Planning:

To shape more livable and prosperous communities, a key focus of the Region Forward Vision, the Council of Governments promotes regional cooperation on planning, the economy, and housing options for all residents. COG informs area decision-makers with population, employment, and housing forecasts, and shares best practices and data on affordable housing and homelessness. COG proposes strategies to support sound land use and high-quality development in Activity Centers—the locations that can best accommodate the region's growth. COG and its members also coordinate on public health and child welfare programs.

COG's Regional Planning and Analysis Program works collaboratively to support local, state, and federal planning activities. The program is responsible for developing long-range regional planning goals and integrating planning policies around land use, transportation, housing, and the environment. Long-range forecasts provide data necessary for analyzing the effects of growth, developing policy responses to regional issues, ensuring air quality conformity of transportation plans, and determining the demand for public facilities. COG's Cooperative Forecasting Program provides regularly updated population, household, and employment forecasts for use in planning and modeling activities at COG, the Transportation Planning Board, and other state, regional, and local agencies.

COG supports local land use planning and Activity Centers by analyzing growth, providing technical assistance, and sharing best practices for placemaking and development. And since transportation and land use are closely linked, COG Department of Community Planning and Services staff work with their COG Department of Transportation Planning counterparts to support better planning through efforts such as scenario planning and the Transportation and Land Use Coordination Program.

COG shares housing data, best practices, and tools to help encourage the production and preservation of more affordable housing. Through strategic partnerships, COG and its members build greater awareness of the region's affordable housing needs. COG also supports the housing needs of the region's most-vulnerable population, homeless individuals and families. COG, area governments, and homeless services providers conduct an enumeration of the region's homeless and formerly homeless population every year to assess the scale of the issue and progress on local efforts to end homelessness.

COG's Health Program supports the region's Health Officials Committee by developing relationships with regional programs that impact public health. The program focuses on tracking regional health trends, promoting health in all policy making, and responding to specific public health concerns and emerging issues—including preparing for and coordinating during health emergencies.

COG's Child Welfare Program helps find loving homes for these foster children. COG works with local and state child welfare agencies to bolster foster and adoptive parent recruitment and retention initiatives through its Kids Need Families online resource and the Families Like Yours Campaign. COG partners with NBC4 Washington on Wednesday's Child, a television segment that features children who are waiting in foster care to be adopted. For youth who have aged out or are at risk of aging out of foster care, COG has launched the Trailblazer Project which provides critical support to students attending college, university or trade school.

Cooperative Purchasing:

COG Cooperative Purchasing Program reduces costs through economies of scale created through volume buying. By taking advantage of the combined purchasing power of participating jurisdictions, volume buying saves jurisdictions and their taxpayers money. The program also promotes sharing information among area purchasing officials and encourages continuing education for procurement professionals throughout the region. Through the Chief Purchasing Officers Committee, participating agencies, school boards, authorities, and commissions cooperatively bid on more than 20 different purchases, resulting in larger volume and better unit pricing. Members also have the opportunity to use the COG Rider Clause to join thousands of existing contracts and avoid the need to do in-house bidding.

Currently, cooperative purchasing opportunities are available for gasoline and diesel fuel, alternative fuel vehicles, hand-held radios, road salt, ice melt, office supplies, public safety equipment, wastewater treatment chemicals, health and public safety training, and more. The District of Columbia is currently benefiting from the following COG cooperative contracts:

- Road Salt
- Ice Melt
- Health & Wellness Program Services

- Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (participation expected in 2020)
6. The top five priorities for the Council of Governments in 2020 include (order not indicative of importance of priority):
- 1) Addressing the region's housing needs by connecting land use and transportation in high capacity transit station areas – in September 2019 the COG Board of Directors concluded a year-long effort with local planning and housing directors to address the region's housing needs by adopting Regional Housing Targets. The targets set goals for the amount of housing needed within the region, the location of new housing around high-capacity transit, and the cost bands of the additional households. When achieved, the targets are expected to address the region's housing need from an economic competitiveness and transportation infrastructure standpoint by improving affordability and bringing housing and jobs closer together. To build on the success of this milestone, efforts to realize the above targets will be necessary at local, regional, and state levels and will have to focus on many aspects of community development. This year, COG will focus on connecting Land Use and Transportation in High Capacity Transit Station Areas to optimize the region's complex land use and transportation system in a manner that will favorably address traffic congestion and support increased accessibility throughout the region.
 - 2) Climate Change Mitigation – addressing climate change continues to be a priority for COG. COG first created a Climate and Energy Action Plan in 2010 to help work toward shared GHG emission reduction goals. This year the Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee will develop the 2030 action plan to align the region with international best practices for climate planning and action. Recognized as one of the four regions in the United States leading the way on mitigating climate change, COG will work with the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy to learn from other global leaders with the long-term goal of reducing emissions by 80 percent by 2050. COG will also participate in the Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI), a regional collaboration of 12 Mid-Atlantic and Northeast states, including Maryland and Virginia, and the District of Columbia, working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector. COG staff are engaging with the TCI regional team to develop the tri-state MOU and encourage a robust and equitable program design.
 - 3) Advancing Racial Equity – COG will continue to work to support our member jurisdictions in advancing racial equity within their local government policies and practices. In September 2019 COG partnered with the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) to launch an inaugural Regional Local Government Racial Equity Learning Cohort with over 100 government staff from 11 jurisdictions. The 10-month training program is focused on strategies that normalize conversations about race, operationalize new policies and cultures, and organize policy change and reform to achieve racial equity within local government. In September 2020 year two of the Introductory Cohort will begin allowing jurisdictions to further expand their internal capacity to advance racial equity. COG will also launch a second year Implementation Cohort focused on continued development and application on individualized racial equity action plans. COG's Racial Equity Work Group meets on a monthly basis as a forum to discuss racial inequities in our region,

and the most impactful ways to address it in our local governments. In transportation, each year, COG analyzes tract-level Census data to identify Equity Emphasis Areas of communities with disproportionately high concentrations of low-income and/or minority populations in the region. The data is used in transportation planning to identify and evaluate whether planned projects will disproportionately impact communities of color, including the accessibility and mobility impact for each area. In 2020 the COG Health Officials Committee will be engaging policymakers and government officials in various disciplines on way to use the data and findings from the report to develop strategies to remedy these disparities.

- 4) Transportation planning through Visualize2045 - COG, through the TPB, is staffing the implementation of Visualize 2045, which includes the region's transportation plans through 2045 to help decision makers and the public visualize and prepare for the region's transportation future. Visualize 2045 is a new kind of long-range transportation plan for the region. It shows 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 focuses on regionally significant road and transit projects, but also highlights bicycle and pedestrian projects and key land-use issues facing the region. There are three main elements to the plan. The federal requirements, what the region must do. The financially constrained element, what the region can do. And the seven aspirational initiatives, what the region aspire to do.

- 5) Growth - Growth - COG is focused on helping plan for the future growth of people and jobs in the region, and its relationship to environmental protection. According to COG's cooperative forecasts, 1.5 million new people and 1.1 million new jobs are expected in the region by 2045. Much of this growth will occur in the District. The District will continue to have the largest number of jobs of any jurisdiction. The region's 141 Activity Centers, 25 of which are in the District, are part of the solution to managing this growth helping accommodate this growth by concentrating employment, transit, and mixed-use development in communities. As Amazon's second headquarters prepares to come to Arlington, COG will continue to help the region prepare to accommodate the increase of people and jobs, and the demand on our systems and infrastructure. A special focus regarding growth are the implications for environmental quality. COG has long been a leader in coordinating regional policy for protection of the Anacostia watershed, Potomac River, and Chesapeake Bay. Area wastewater treatment plants, including the Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant in the District of Columbia now achieve some of the highest standards anywhere in the United States. Managing stormwater runoff remains an expensive challenge. The District of Columbia is among the region's leaders with its Clean Rivers Project, stormwater credit trading program, and green infrastructure solutions. The region must maintain water supply infrastructure to meet future growth, with COG working closely with DC Water and other providers to meet this need. Protection of public health as impacted by air pollution also represents an ongoing growth challenge, with a particular need to meet the 2015 ozone clean air standards. COG also focuses on climate change, actively supporting

actions at the national, regional and local level. The District of Columbia is a leader such as with its recently enacted CleanEnergy DC Omnibus Amendment Act of 2018.