COG News - May 2011

TPB Launches First Wheelchair Accessible Taxis in D.C.

On May 12, the Transportation Planning Board officially launched the full service of the District of Columbia's first wheelchair accessible taxicab pilot project, rollDC, in the outdoor plaza next to COG. rollDC includes a fleet of 20 accessible taxicabs, provided by Royal Cab and the Yellow Cab Company of D.C., to serve people with disabilities using wheelchairs in D.C. “Today we celebrate the launch of an important transportation option for people with disabilities,” said D.C. Councilmember Muriel Bowser, who serves as TPB Chair. “For the first time, D.C. has wheelchair accessible taxi service available – providing unlimited access to transportation 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for people using wheelchairs.” While the TPB led the implementation of the project, the Federal Transit Administration provided the $1 million New Freedom Grant; the D.C. Taxicab Commission provided $200,000 in matching funds; Yellow Cab Company of D.C. and Royal Cab dedicated private funds and other resources to the pilot project. The D.C. Office of Disabilities Rights provided guidance on the project. To read the press release and additional information, click here. To read a Washington Post story, click here. To watch a News Channel 8 video, click here.
Eleven Thousand Participants Set New Bike to Work Day Record

On May 20, 2011, 11,000 people participated in Bike to Work Day in the District of Columbia, suburban Maryland and Northern Virginia, setting a new record for the regional event. “This event has grown tremendously over the years and has helped increase the popularity of bicycling as a reliable and viable commuting option. Just six years ago there were less than 5,000 participants at 18 locations—this year that number has soared to 11,000 cyclists at 49 pit stops,” said COG Executive Director David Robertston at the NoMa Business Improvement District pit stop, one of eight new pit stops located in D.C. To read a Washington Examiner article on Bike to Work Day, click here. To view a Fox 5 story on preparing for Bike to Work Day (featuring COG planner Michael Farrell,) click here.

Homeless Enumeration Report Available Online

A Regional Portrait of Homelessness: 2011 Count of Homeless Persons in Metropolitan Washington is now available on COG’s web site. The full report includes data and narratives on each of the nine jurisdictions that participated in the count—the District of Columbia, Frederick County, Montgomery County, and Prince George’s County in Maryland, and the City of Alexandria, Arlington County, Fairfax
County, Loudoun County, and Prince William County in Virginia. To view the report, click here.

Social Media Updates

View photos and video from the Day at Nationals Park for area foster families on the Kids Need Families Like Yours Facebook page. The event was held on April 30, 2011 and sponsored by the Freddie Mac Foundation and COG.

To visit the Kids Need Families Facebook page, click here.

Upcoming COG Meetings/Events

Click title to view agenda and other information. To view the complete Events Calendar, including special events and meetings of policy and technical committees, click here.

May 25: 5th Annual NCR Interagency Chaplains Conference
June 8: COG Board of Directors
June 8: Nonprofit Roundtable Annual Meeting (in partnership with COG)
June 10: Region Forward Coalition Kickoff
June 15: Transportation Planning Board
June 22: Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee

About COG

For more than 50 years, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, known as COG,
has helped develop solutions to issues of regional importance. COG is an independent, nonprofit association comprised of elected officials from 21 local governments, members of the Maryland and Virginia legislatures, and members of the U.S. Congress. The Metropolitan Memo is sent to COG's membership of over 250 local, state and federal elected officials as well as regional stakeholders and citizens. To be added to the Metro Memo subscription list or make changes to your subscription, please contact Steve Kania.

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