

# BUILDING BRIDGES FOR A STRONGER REGION

---

Clark Mercer  
COG Executive Director

Prince George's County Council  
October 28, 2025

# Why Regionalism?

Because issues don't stop  
at the lines on a map



# COG by the Numbers

- Nonprofit association founded in **1957**
  - Brings area leaders together to address regional issues and plan for the future
  - **125+** professional staff
- Our membership:
  - **24** local governments
  - **300** local, state & federal elected officials representing about **6M** people
  - City/county managers, police/fire chiefs, transportation planners, housing/planning directors, environmental experts, and more





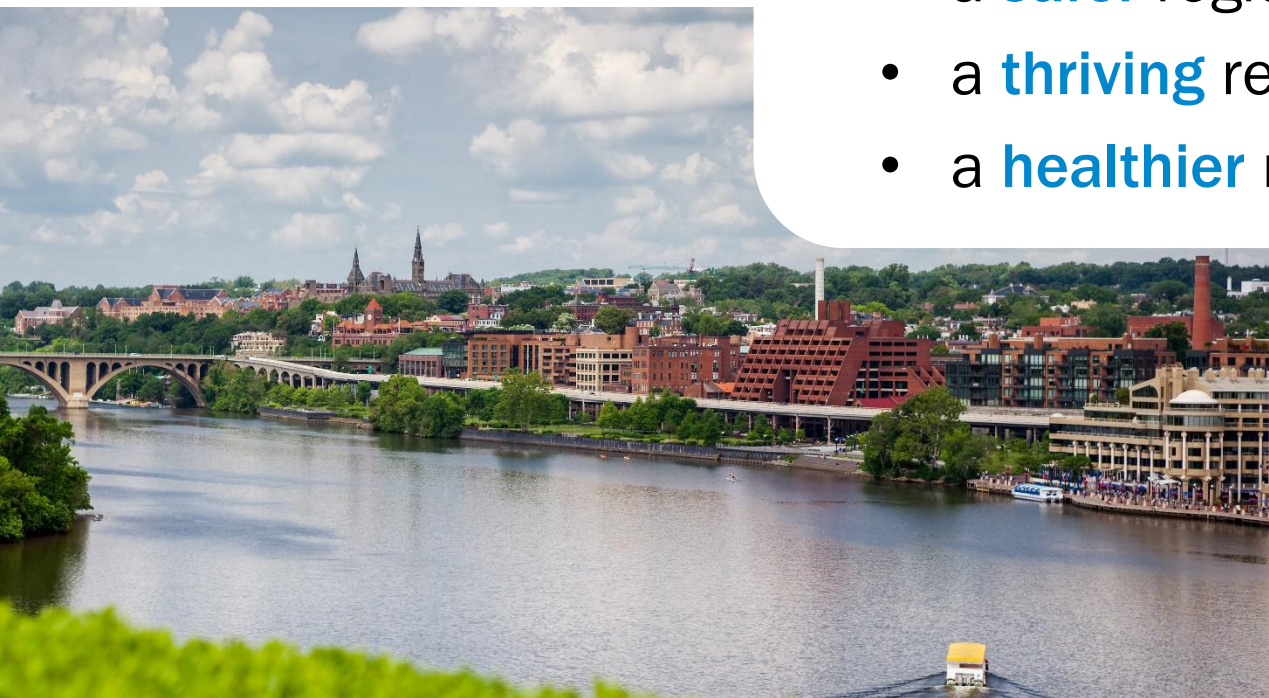
## COG is home to the region's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

- Transportation Planning Board (TPB), one of 300+ MPOs in the nation
- Ensures major transportation projects receive federal funding and approvals
  - Projects must be included in the TPB's Visualize plan, the National Capital Region Transportation Plan



Working together, we're creating:

- a **connected** region
- a **safer** region
- a **thriving** region
- a **healthier** region



# Connected Region: Transportation Planning

- Visualize 2050 transportation plan under development
- Commuter Connections
- Street Smart safety campaign



**UNWIND TOGETHER  
CARPOOL TOGETHER**

Share the ride and save. FREE carpool ridematching even if you commute just a few days a week!

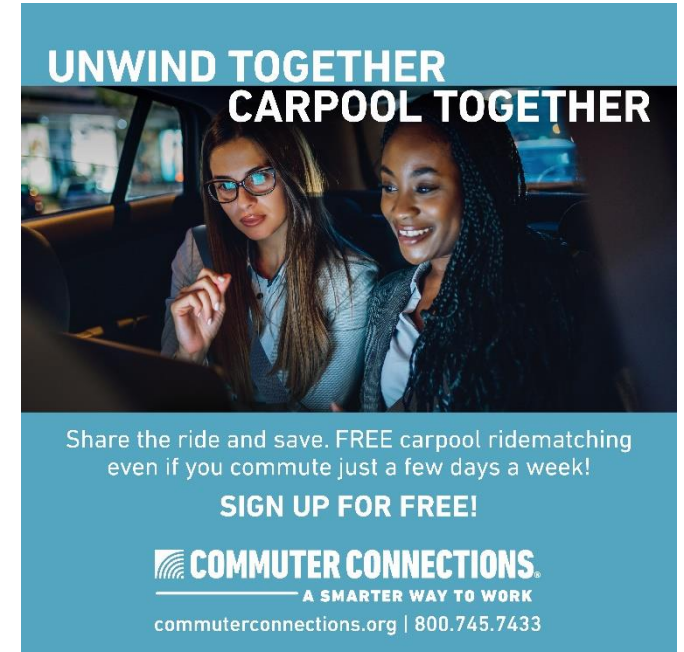
**SIGN UP FOR FREE!**

 **COMMUTER CONNECTIONS.**  
A SMARTER WAY TO WORK  
commuterconnections.org | 800.745.7433

 **BIKE  
TO WORK DAY  
THURSDAY  
MAY 15, 2025**

# Connected Region: Transportation Planning

- The TPB also approves a 4-yr TIP plan for jurisdictions to receive federal matching funds
  - FY20-23, more than **\$65M** in funding to Prince George's
- Enhanced Mobility grants
  - FY20-23, **\$2.9M** in funding to Prince George's



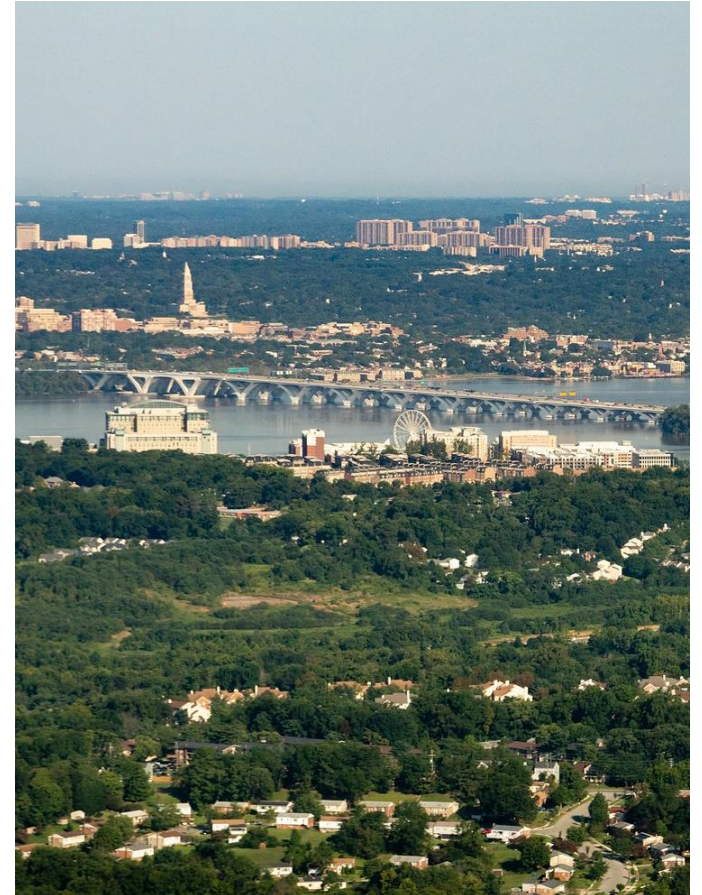
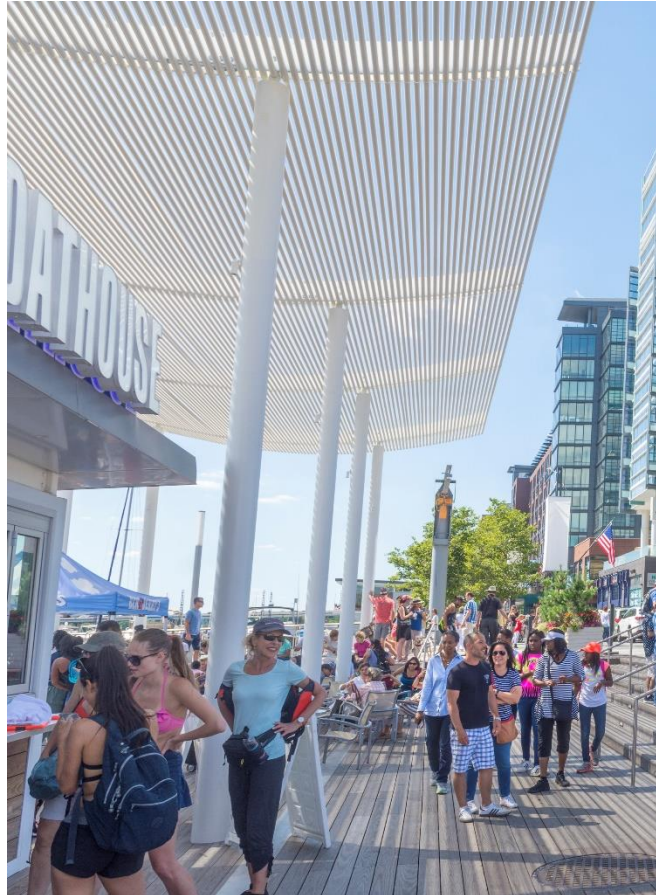
# Safer Region: Homeland Security and Public Safety

- COG supports **28** public safety programs and projects funded through jurisdictions or grants
- Mutual aid
- Crime data dashboard
- Winter weather coordination



# Thriving Region: Community Planning and Services

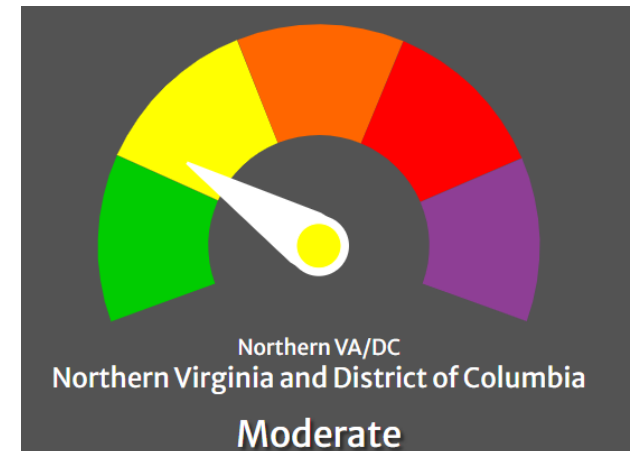
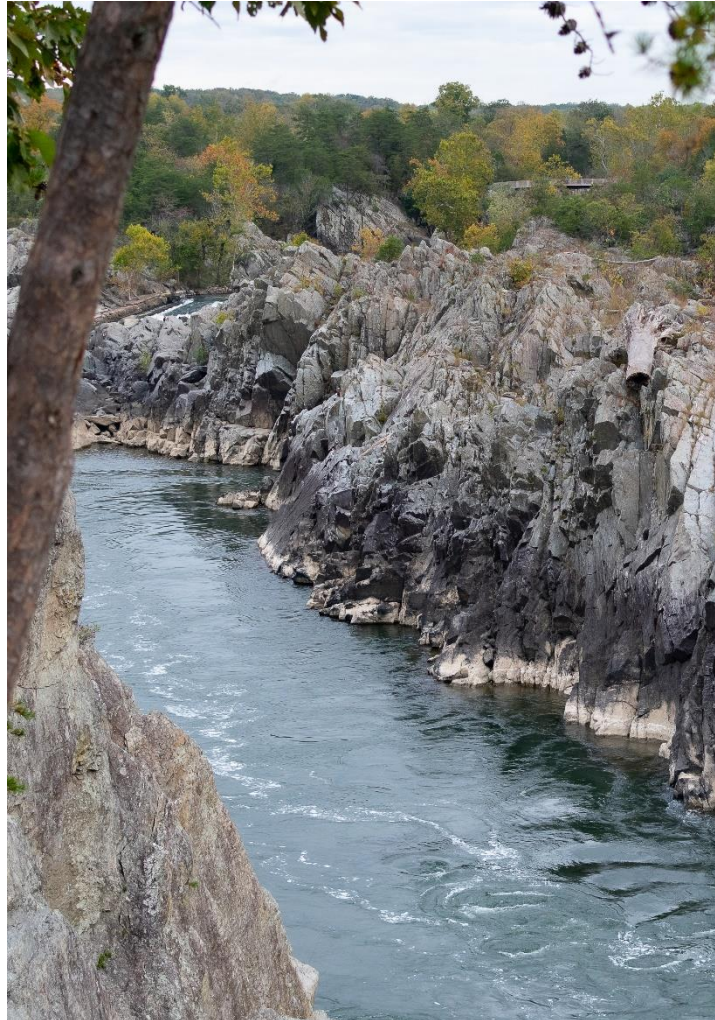
- Growth forecasts
  - **1.4M** more people and **1M** more jobs by 2050 according to Round 10 forecasts
- Economic development
- Housing
  - **\$300K** Housing and Urban Development grant through COG
- Homelessness



Aerial photo (Chesapeake Bay Program/Flickr)

# Healthier Region: Environmental Programs

- Air quality planning/alerts
- Chesapeake Bay/Potomac River/Anacostia River Restoration
- Water supply/security & drought monitoring
- Climate planning
  - Electric vehicles, solar, tree canopy
- Food system resilience



## COG/TPB Technical Assistance/Grants: Prince George's County

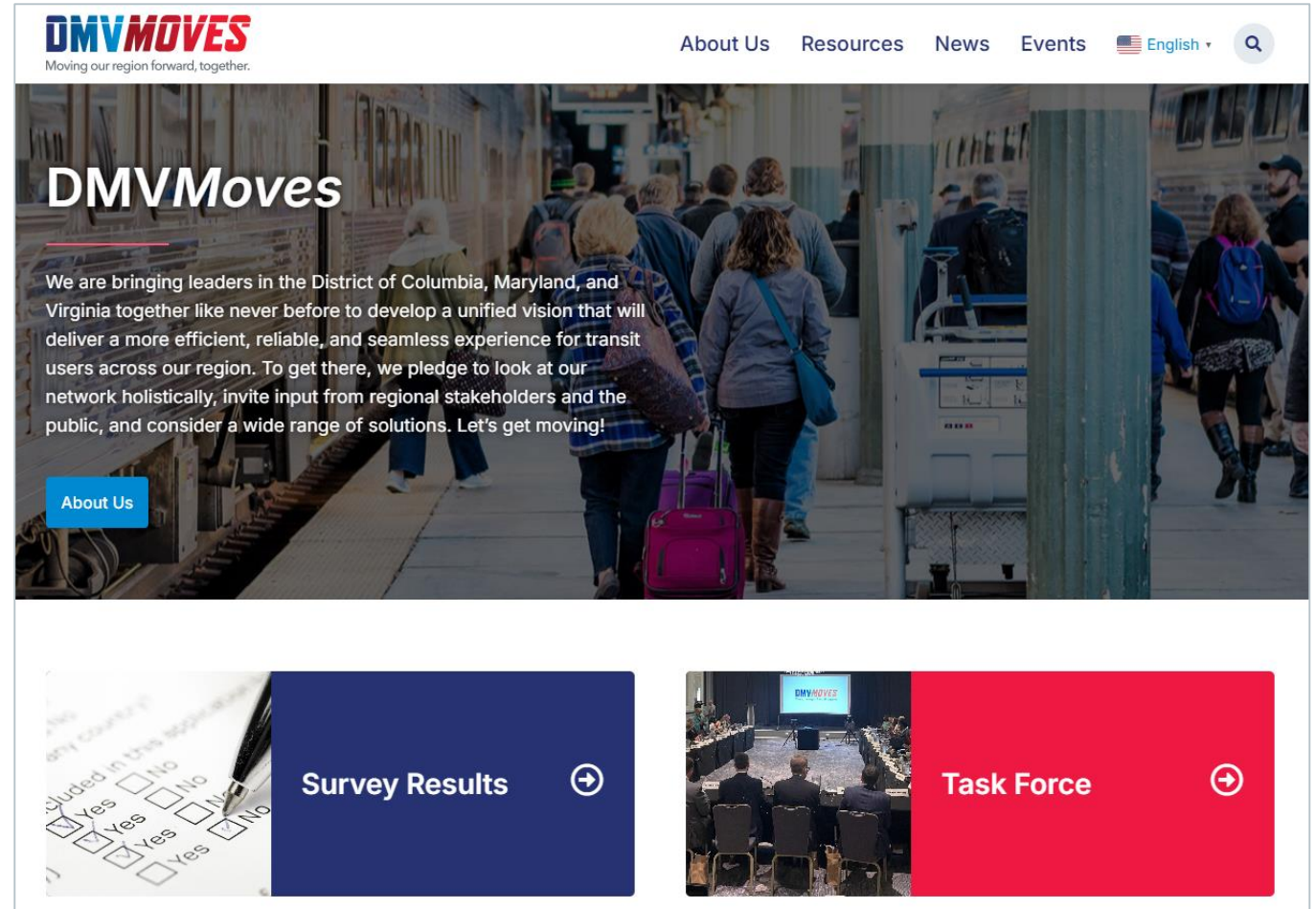
| Fiscal Year | Project Name                                               | COG/TPB Program | Funding Amount |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 2026        | Northern Prince George's East-West Bikeway (NPGEWB)        | TLC             | \$80,000       |
| 2025        | River Road Protected Bike Lanes Project - 30% Design Phase | TLC             | \$60,000       |
| 2025        | Study of Proactive Approaches to Transportation Safety     | RRSP            | \$40,000       |
| 2025        | Campus Bikeways Project: Alumni Drive Corridor             | TAP             | \$1,764,000    |
| 2024        | Bus Stop Safety and Accessibility Study                    | TLC             | \$80,000       |
| 2023        | Roadway Safety Audits for Wheeler Road & Brooks Drive      | RRSP            | \$60,000       |
| 2023        | Multimodal Upgrades to Walker Mill Road                    | RRSP            | \$60,000       |

# World-Class Region: A Unified Vision for Transit

DMVMoves initiative  
co-led by COG/WMATA

[dmvmoves.org](https://dmvmoves.org)

- Transit providers
- Business, labor, and community orgs
- Developing a unified vision and sustainable funding model for the region's transit network



# Well-informed Region: Data for Decision-makers

COG staff are a trusted source of regional information:

- Newsletters, daily media clips  
[mwcog.org/subscribe](https://mwcog.org/subscribe)
- Economic dashboard
- Transportation maps, databases, visualizations
- Commuting and travel trends
- Drought reports
- Crime dashboard

Crimes Year-to-Date (YTD) for Region (\*for jurisdictions noted below)

2024 Crimes YTD

75K

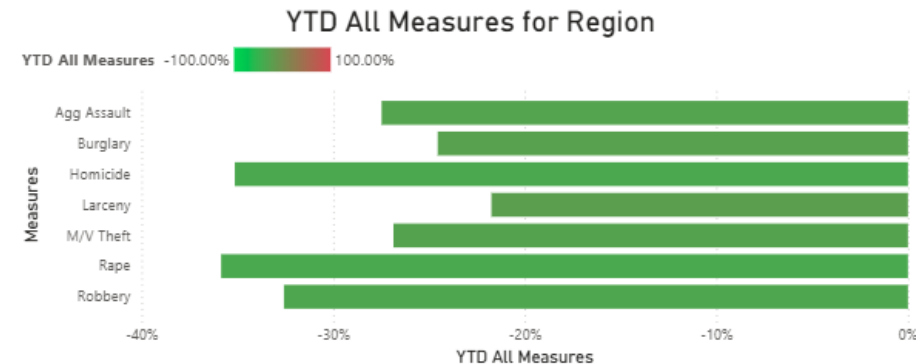
2025 Crimes YTD

58K

YTD Percentage Change

-24%

YTD Crime Change by Offense for Region\*



\*Year-to-Date Calculation uses date 45 days ago as current date to allow for data lag.

\*Data excludes: Frederick County, Charles County, City of Frederick

# Efficient Region: Ensuring Best Use of Tax Dollars

COG Cooperative Purchasing Program:  
Members save money & time through bulk  
purchasing and contracting opportunities

Prince George's County participation:

- Gasoline, diesel, and heating fuel cooperatives; savings of **\$250-300K** per year
- Salt – estimated savings of **\$80K** per year

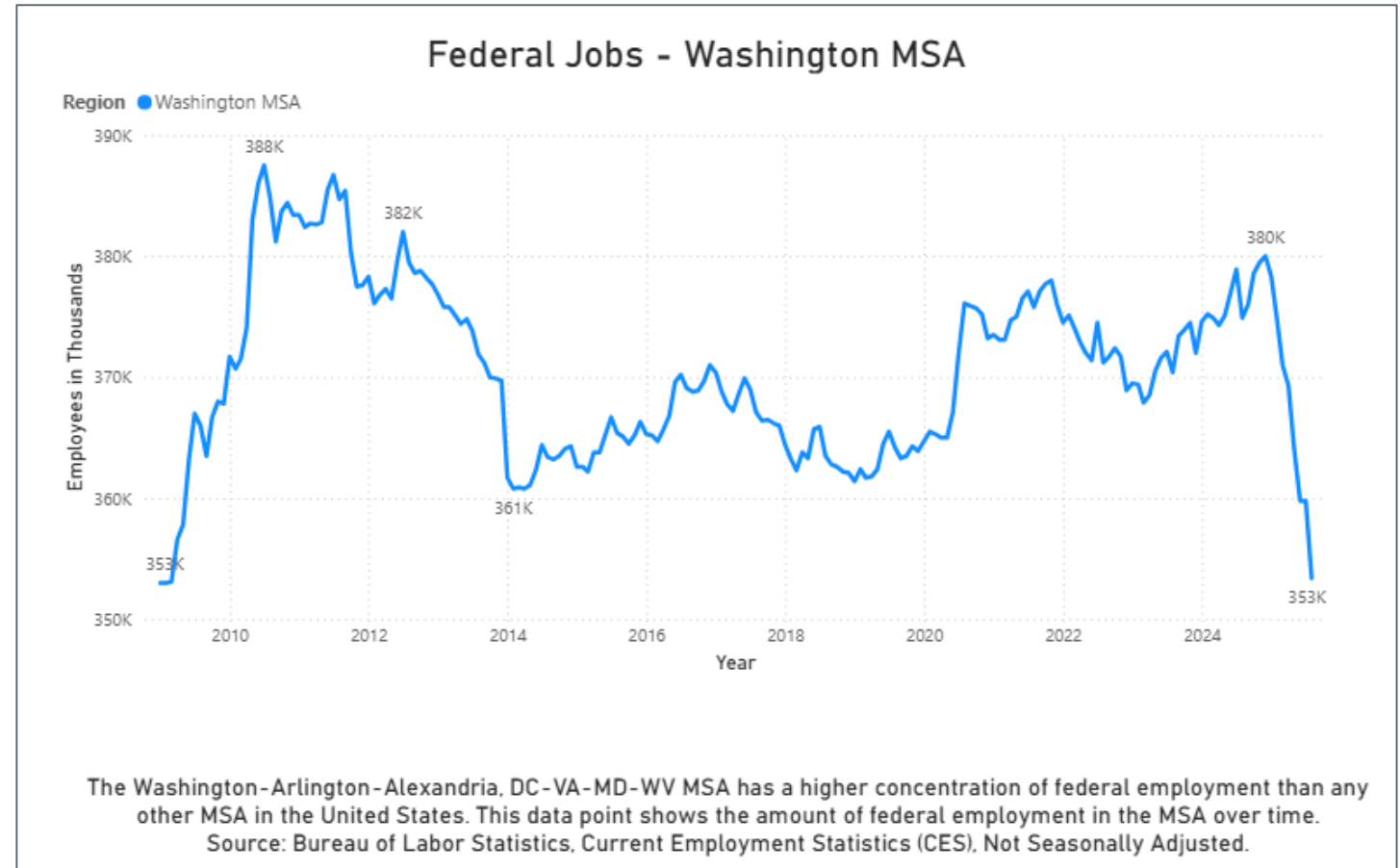


Firefighters wearing SCBA (Arlington County Fire Department)

# United Region: Federal Workforce Resources & Data

COG Federal Workforce  
Resources and Data web page  
[mwcog.org/federalworkforce](http://mwcog.org/federalworkforce)

- Local/state government and non-profit resources
  - Workforce development, medical care, housing and food assistance, and more.
- Employment events
- Federal workforce data dashboard



# United Region: DMV Monitor

Tracking the economic and social effects of federal restructuring and other policies.

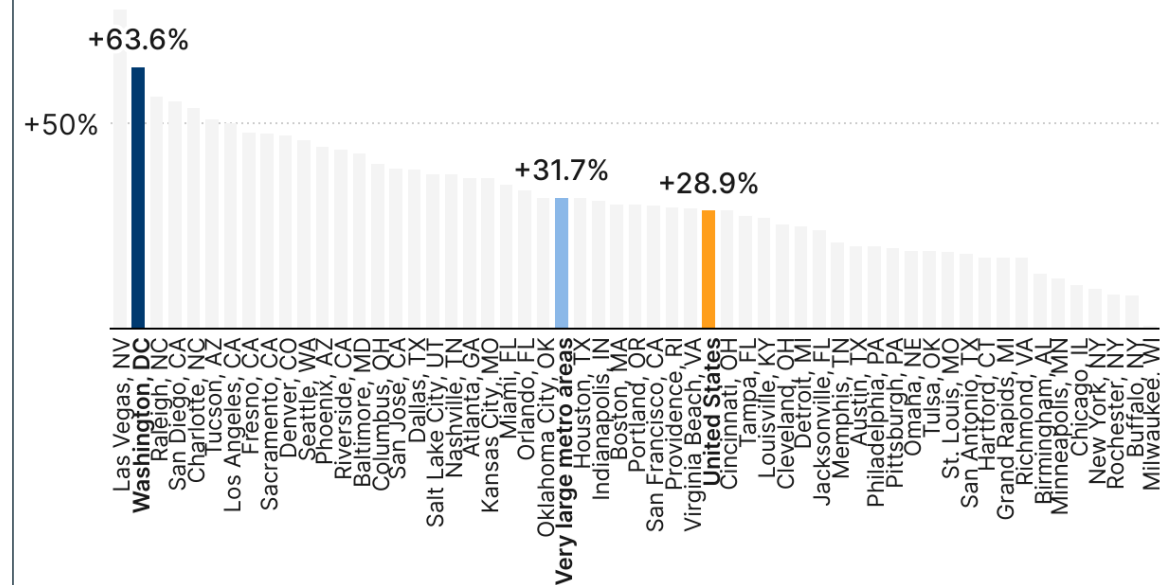
[brookings.org/dmvmonitor](https://brookings.org/dmvmonitor)

- The region's unemployment rate has increased at a significantly higher pace than the nation's.
- Venture capital flows into the region have slowed dramatically since Jan 2025, while continuing to grow nationally.
- The number of homes for sale in the region is up by 64% year over year.

## Active home listings

Percent change (%)

United States Very large metro areas Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV



Source: Realtor.com Economic Research

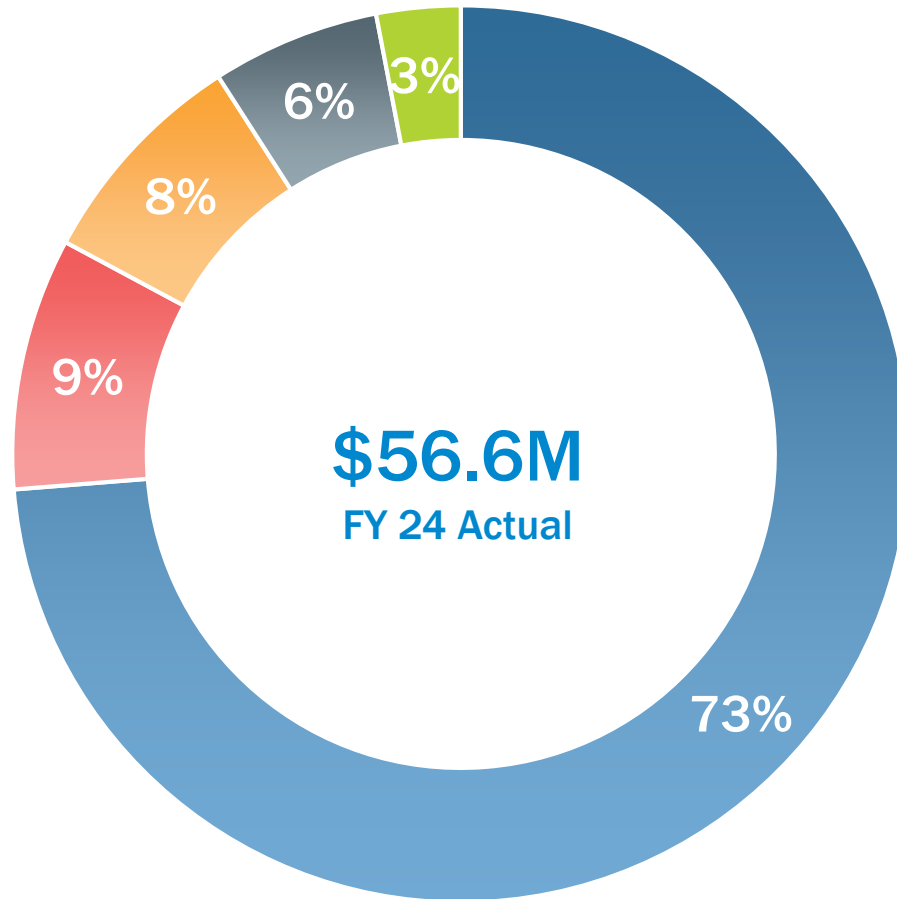
# United Region: Talent Capital

## [talentcapital.ai](https://www.talentcapital.ai)

- First-of-its-kind, AI-powered platform offering free job matching, career training, reskilling, certifications, and coaching.
- Initiative of Greater Washington Together – regional collaboration including COG, business organizations, philanthropic partners, and universities.



# COG Revenue by Source



- Federal & State
- Member Dues
- Service Fees/Donors
- Regional Funds
- Building & Investment

## Member Dues/Regional Funds: Prince George's County

| Prince George's County                     | FY 2026            |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------|
|                                            |                    |
| Member Dues                                | \$879,200          |
|                                            |                    |
| Regional Water Fund                        | \$375,819          |
|                                            |                    |
| Regional Environmental Fund                | \$159,872          |
|                                            |                    |
| Regional Public Safety Fund                | \$111,561          |
|                                            |                    |
| Regional FARM Fund                         | \$39,899           |
|                                            |                    |
| <b>Total Member Dues and Regional Fees</b> | <b>\$1,566,351</b> |

## Clark Mercer

COG Executive Director  
cmerc@mwkog.org

[mwkog.org](http://mwkog.org)

---

777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20002