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



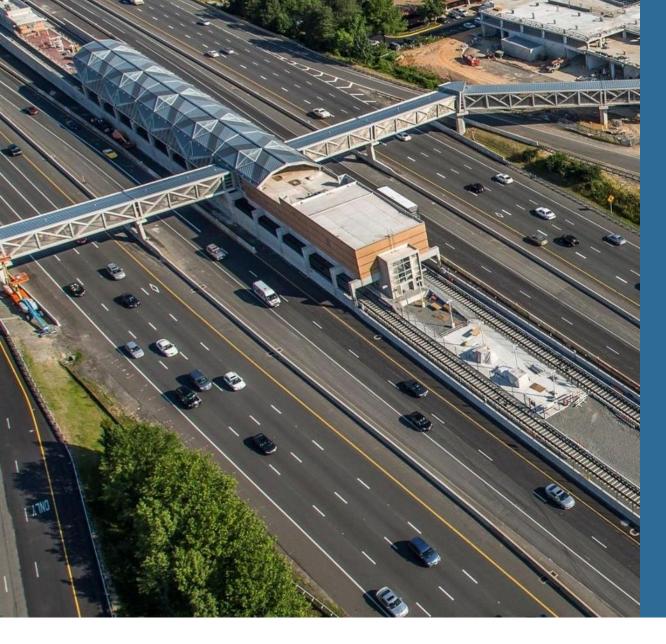


COG by the Numbers

- 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





Connected Region: Transportation Planning

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











Connected Region: Transportation Planning

- The TPB also approves a 4yr 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





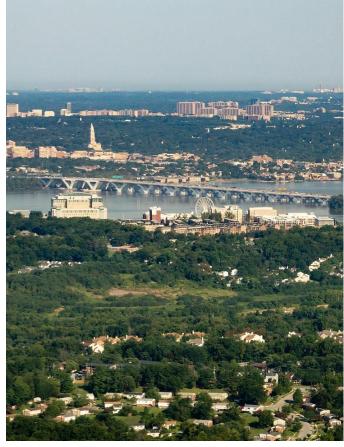




Thriving Region: Community Planning and Services

- 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



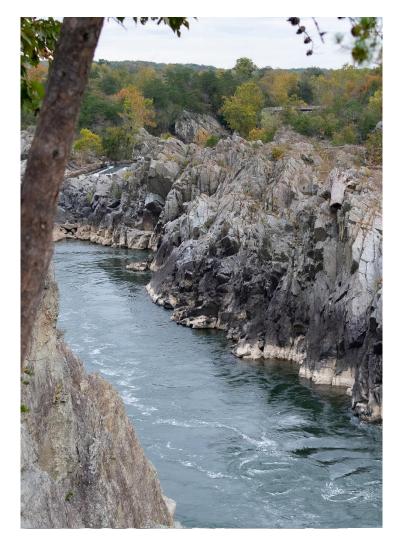


Aerial photo (Chesapeake Bay Program/Flickr)

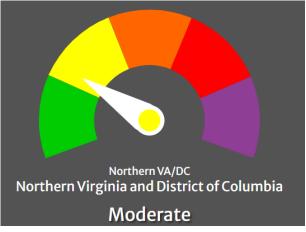


Healthier Region: Environmental Programs

- 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

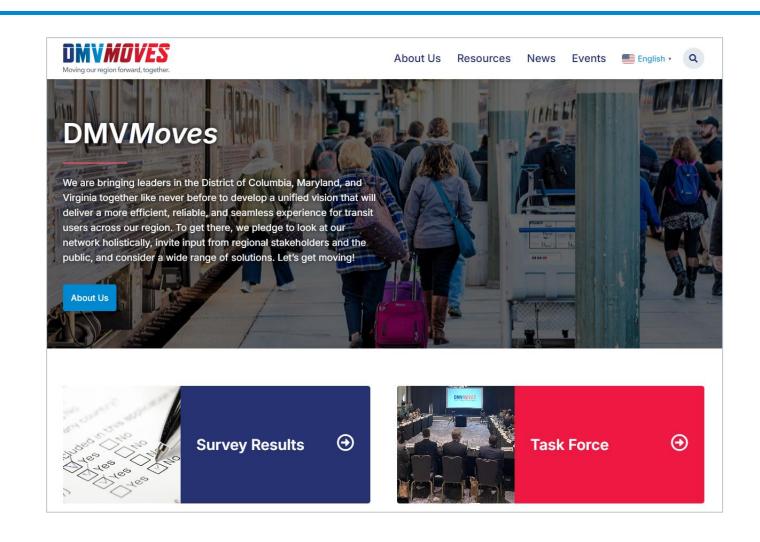
Fiscal Year	Project Name	COG/TPB Program	Funding Amount
2026	Northern Prince George's East-West Bikeway (NPGEWB)	TLC	\$80,000
2025	River Road Protected Bike Lanes Project - 30% Design Phase	TLC	\$60,000
2025	Study of Proactive Approaches to Transportation Safety	RRSP	\$40,000
2025	Campus Bikeways Project: 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

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

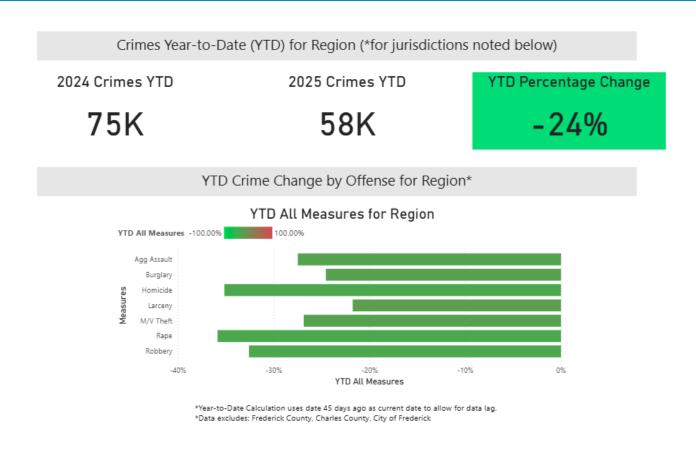




Well-informed Region: Data for Decision-makers

COG staff are a trusted source of regional information:

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





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

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



The Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV MSA has a higher concentration of federal employment than any other MSA in the United States. This data point shows the amount of federal employment in the MSA over time.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics (CES), Not Seasonally Adjusted.



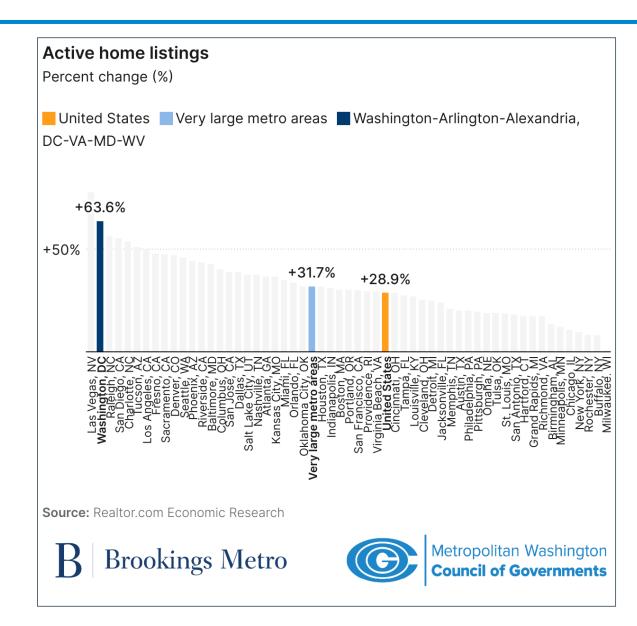
United Region: DMV Monitor

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

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.



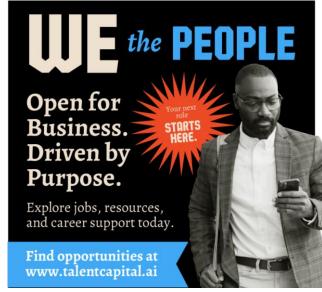


United Region: Talent Capital

talentcapital.ai

- First-of-its-kind, Al-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.

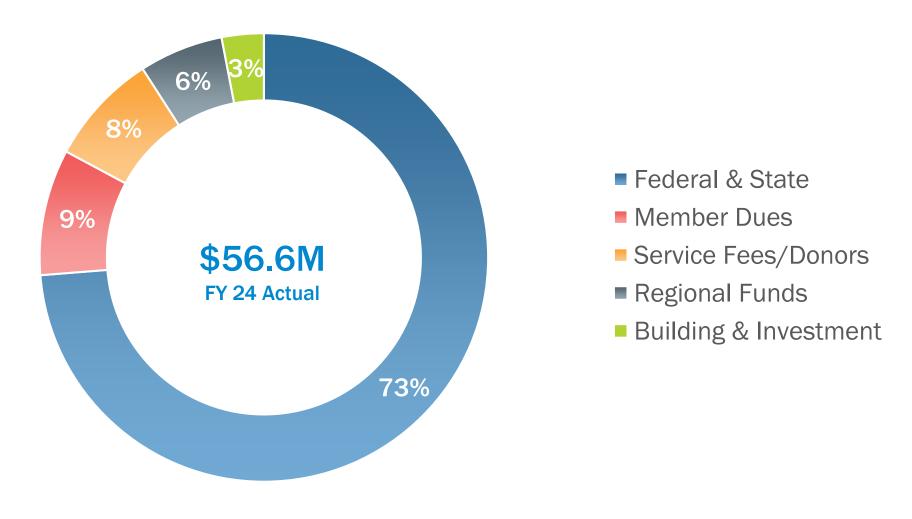








COG Revenue by Source





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	
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Total Member Dues and Regional Fees	\$1,566,351	



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