REGIONAL COUNCILS: 
THIS MONTH IN PHOTOS

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (DC)

Late last year, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Climate Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) met to celebrate 10 years of local, regional, and state successes toward attaining climate and energy goals. During the meeting, members discussed the history and accomplishments of CEEPC, heard from George Mason University Professor Jim Kinter and former CEEPC Chairs Jay Fisette, Roger Berliner, and Penny Gross about what will be needed to address climate change in the future, and discussed new goals, strategies, and actions to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases for the next 10 years.

Local and regional success stories give regional leaders great hope for future progress as we move toward increasing the region’s resiliency and meeting our greenhouse gas emission reduction goals. By the end of 2020, CEEPC will develop its next Climate and Energy Action Plan to help further guide regional efforts toward meeting these goals.

Above, from left to right: Penny Gross, Supervisor Fairfax County, Virginia; Daniel Sze, Council Member, City of Falls Church, Virginia; Mary Lehman, Former Supervisor, Prince George's County, Maryland and former chair of MWCOG’s Climate Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC); Jay Fisette, Former Supervisor, Arlington County; and Roger Berliner, Council Member, Montgomery County Council, Former CEEPC Chair.
Late last year, Eastgate Regional Council of Governments was awarded a $10.85 million infrastructure grant. The grant was announced in a reception including U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao.

During an event celebrating the award, Chao commented that the Smart2 project “was a great example of the intent of the BUILD grants, bringing together public-private partnerships to move a community [forward].” Secretary Chao also went out of her way to point out the innovative way the group approached the application, and the collaborative effort of the team, even calling out the group for its persistence and determination.

“We were pleased to have the opportunity to personally thank our state and federal legislators for their support of our project. We’re looking to develop a scope and schedule for the various phases by early next year, with the goal of some type of construction late 2019 or early 2020,” Eastgate director Jim Kinnick said.

Eastgate staff and members also had the opportunity to meet with Ohio Senator Rob Portman.
Eastgate staff and members with Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao.

Eastgate staff and members with Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH), center.
MIAMI VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL (OH)

Last month, Miami Valley Regional Planning Council staff participated in a Transportation YOU event at the Dayton STEM School on January 24, 2019. This event was part of the Women’s Transportation Seminar (WTS). High school and middle school students queried staff regarding being a transportation planner, how science and math apply to the job, and more specific questions related to local projects. Transportation YOU is a hands-on, interactive, mentoring program that offers young girls ages 13-18 an introduction to a wide variety of transportation careers and is a joint initiative with the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Pictured below to the left is Ami Parikh, Transportation Project Manager, and Veena Madineni, Traffic Engineer for LJB Inc. and Director of the Transportation You Committee for the Southwest Ohio chapter of WTS.
Southeast Michigan’s unique location on an international border leads to interesting opportunities. In January, SEMCOG’s Executive Committee heard an update on the new Gordie Howe International Bridge that will connect Detroit to Windsor, Ontario, Canada by the end of 2024. The update was introduced by Joe Comartin, Consul General of Canada in Detroit, and details were provided by Heather Grondin, Vice President of Communications and Stakeholder Relations, Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority.

MetroPlan Orlando joined partners at Best Foot Forward as they moved closer to bringing the Triple E -- Engineering, Enforcement, Education -- pedestrian safety approach to Seminole County. A meeting with law enforcement, government, and community partners was held recently to lay out the basics of the program and next steps for implementing. Seminole will complete participation across MetroPlan Orlando’s 3-county region. Best Foot Forward began in 2012 in Orange County, where it is credited with improving driver yield rates to pedestrians. It moved to Osceola County in 2018.
MetroPlan Orlando is placing video cameras temporarily on several Orange County roads to measure bicycle and pedestrian traffic. Data the cameras collect will help compare movements on high-crash corridors that have bike lanes to similar roads without bike lanes. The Miovision cameras will run for approximately 48-60 hours on each corridor.