



Agenda Item Summary Report

Meeting Date:
February 9, 2026

Submitted by:
Michelle Bailey Hedgepeth, Town Administrator

Item Title: INFORMATION MEMO | Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments (COG) Update | February 2026

This is an update on Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments (COG) Meetings and activities attended by the Town Administrator in February 2026.

**Work Session Item [X]
Council Meeting Item [X]**

Documentation Attached:

Recommended Action:

INFORMATION ONLY: This has been provided to the Council, and the community has been informed of the Council's and staff's actions.

SUMMARY: The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) **Chief Administrative Officers (CAO) Committee** convened on February 4, 2026, to receive updates on federal housing funding litigation, discuss regional coordination considerations related to ICE-associated events, and share emerging issues affecting jurisdictions across the National Capital Region (NCR).

1. HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) Funding Litigation and Continuity Update

COG Housing Program staff provided an overview of ongoing **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) FY 2025 Continuum of Care (CoC) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) litigation** and HUD's decision to reopen the **FY 2024–2025 CoC process**.

Key points included:

- The litigation has created **uncertainty around renewal grant timelines**, raising concerns about potential funding gaps for homeless services providers.
- HUD has reopened prior funding processes as a stopgap, but **long-term continuity into 2026 remains unclear**.
- The COG Board is actively engaged in **federal advocacy**, urging HUD to adopt continuity measures to avoid service disruptions and financial instability for local jurisdictions and nonprofit partners.

A copy of the **HUD CoC Funding Litigation and Continuity Update** discussed during the meeting is attached for Council's reference.

2. Regional Response Considerations Related to ICE-Associated Events

CAO Committee members discussed **mutual aid and regional coordination considerations** in light of recent ICE-related incidents in Minneapolis. While no specific NCR incidents were reported, the discussion focused on:

- Information-sharing protocols among jurisdictions
- Legal and operational considerations during federal enforcement actions
- The importance of consistent messaging, staff preparedness, and regional awareness

No formal action was taken; however, members agreed the topic may warrant continued discussion as circumstances evolve.

3. CAO Roundtable – Emerging Issues

Committee members shared brief updates on current and emerging challenges within their respective jurisdictions, including operational pressures, public safety coordination, and service delivery concerns.

4. Next Steps

COG staff summarized key takeaways and noted potential future agenda items, particularly related to **federal funding stability** and **regional coordination frameworks**.

The next CAO Committee meeting is scheduled for **March 4, 2026**.

Budgeted Item: Yes [] No [] NA Budgeted Amount: One-Time Cost: NA Ongoing Cost: NA	Continued Date:
Council Priority: Yes [] No []	Approved Date: