



Council of Governments
2011 Strategic Plan

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments is a regional organization composed of 21 local governments in the National Capital Region, plus area members of the Maryland and Virginia legislatures, the U.S. Senate, and the U.S. House of Representatives.

Founded in 1957, COG is an independent, nonprofit association supported by financial contributions from its participating local governments, federal and state grants and contracts, and donations from foundations and the private sector.

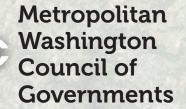
The COG Strategic Plan was first adopted by the Board of Directors in 1999. It was updated once previously, in 2004.

ADA and Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Alternative formats of this publication are available upon request. Phone: 202.962.3300 or 202.962.3213 (TDD). Email: accommodations@ mwcog.org. Please allow seven working days for preparation of the material.

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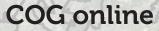
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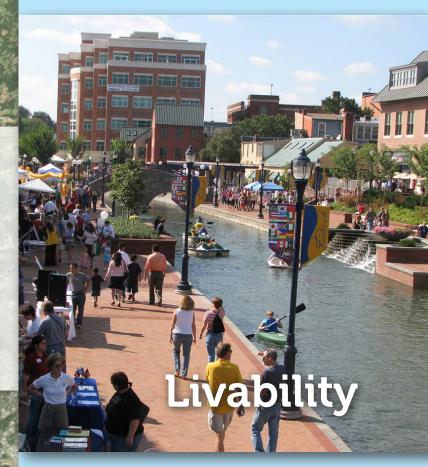
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www.mwcog.org www.regionforward.org

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MWCOG or by searching for "Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments" or "Region Forward."





Metropolitan Washington



Region Forward is our Vision. It's a commitment by COG and its 21 member governments, who together seek to create a more accessible, sustainable, prosperous, and livable National Capital Region.



#### Livability

Vibrant, safe, and healthy neighborhoods

Make the production, preservation, and distribution of affordable housing a priority...

Healthy communities with greater access to quality health care...

Provide access and delivery of quality social services...

Safe communities for residents and visitors...

Partnerships that manage emergencies, protect the public health, safety, and welfare...



## Accessibility

Walkable, mixed-use communities with housing and transportation choices

Transit-oriented and mixed-use communities emerging in Regional Activity Centers...

A broad range of public and private transportation choices...

A transportation system that maximizes community connectivity and walkability...

A variety of housing types and choices...

Visit **www.RegionForward.org** to learn more about these goals.



## Sustainability

Healthy air, water, and land, abundant renewable energy, a smaller carbon footprint

Maximize protection and enhancement of the Region's environmental resources...

The enhancement of established neighborhoods of differing densities with compact, walkable infill development...

Preservation and enhancement of our Region's open space, green space, and wildlife preserves...

A significant decrease in greenhouse gas emissions...

Efficient public and private use of energy Regionwide, with reliance upon renewable energy and alternative fuels...



#### **Prosperity**

Resilient economy and a pre-eminent knowledge hub

A diversified, stable, and competitive economy...

Minimize economic disparities and enhance the prosperity of each jurisdiction...

Fully recognize and enhance the benefits that accrue to the region as the seat of the National government...

Provide greater access to the best education at all levels...

Make our Region a pre-eminent knowledge hub through educational venues, workforce development, and institutional collaboration...

COG's **Mission** is to make Region Forward happen by being a discussion forum, expert resource, issue advocate, and catalyst for action.

## forum



COG convenes area governments and other stakeholders to identify, discuss, and resolve critical regional issues.

COG acts as an honest broker and is dedicated to decision-making through fair processes.

#### resource



Planning & Forecasting

COG produces information and data for member governments, regional stakeholders, and the public through the recruitment and retention of highly qualified staff.

COG uses traditional and new media to communicate regional issues, trends, information, data, and activities.

#### advocate



Economic Development

COG, on behalf of its member governments, advocates before state and federal agencies, state legislatures, and Congress.

COG actively pursues reliable funding sources to support existing programs and new initiatives.

# catalyst



COG fosters partnerships to create innovative solutions to emerging regional challenges.

Region Forward