

# Greater Washington 2050

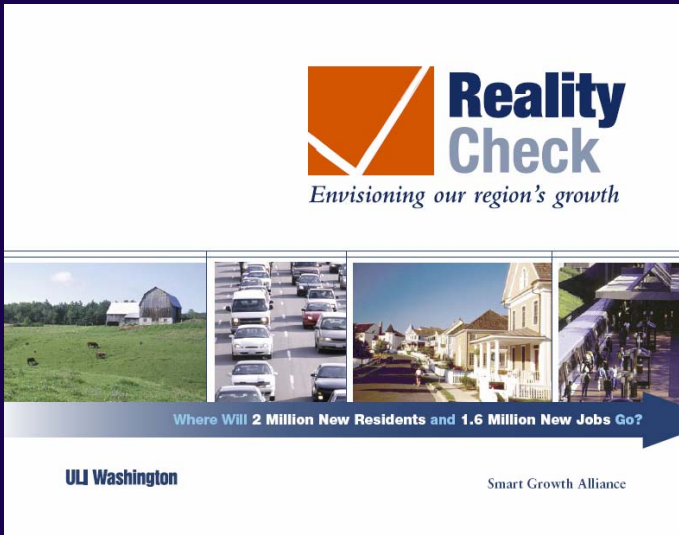
A proposal prepared by  
**Metropolitan Development Policy Committee**  
*Greater Washington 2050 Work Group*

COG Board of Directors Meeting

September 12, 2007

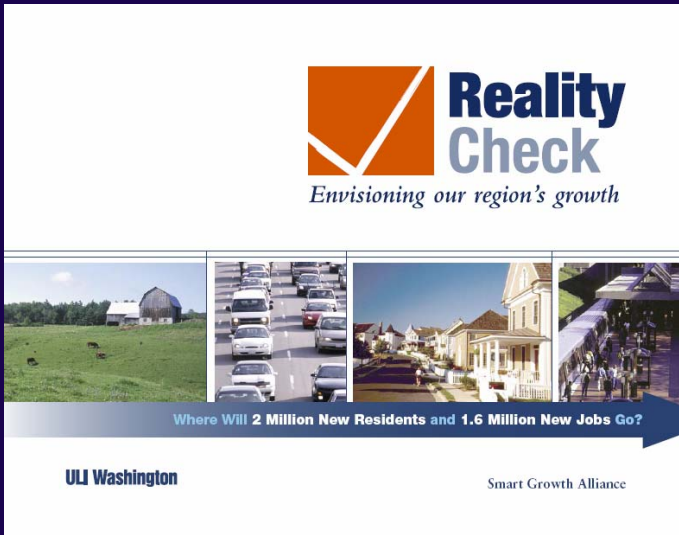


# Reality Check on Growth



- February 2005 – ULI Washington, Washington Smart Growth Alliance, COG and others co-sponsor 1-day event
- 300 Participants - 1/3 Government, 1/3 Business, 1/3 Civic
- COG's Cooperative Forecasts of jobs, people and housing were the baseline growth assumptions
- Participants asked to “re-allocate” 1.6 million jobs and 2 million people using LEGOs to represent jobs and housing

# Common Principles Identified by Participants at Reality Check



- *Preserve and Protect open space*
- *Focus development near transit stations*
- *Maintain jobs-housing balance*
- *Concentrate development along transportation corridors*
- *Concentrate development around existing town centers*
- *Create mixed use nodes*
- *Develop east side of region*
- *Offer more housing choices*





# Greater Washington Board of Trade Potomac Conference 2006 Winter Meeting

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- **Topic: “A Conversation About Our Region’s Future” follow on to February 2005 Reality Check**
- **145 Leaders from private, non-profit and public sectors**
- **Overview of lessons learned from other regions who are implementing visioning programs**
- **Reviewed Greater Washington growth projections and implications including federal perspective**



## IF WE HAD A VISION:

“What would you expect will be different in 5, 10, 20 or 50 years if we had a visioning process?”

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- Improved transportation/mobility
- Regional balance (in housing, jobs and schools)
- Improved environmental quality
- Better regional land use planning



GREATER WASHINGTON  
Board of Trade

POTOMAC  
CONFERENCE

JULY 2006

## Envision Greater Washington

Moving Our Region Forward. Together. Now.



**2006** - COG, the Board of Trade and the Community Foundation convened to make recommendations on a proposal to launch a regional visioning campaign, known as Envision Greater Washington.

### Issues Raised include:

- Traffic congestion
- High housing prices
- Loss of open space
- Maintaining quality of life
- Better schools
- Economic opportunities

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE:

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments | Greater Washington Board of Trade | Community Foundation for the National Capital Region



# Greater Washington 2050

April 2007

– **COG Board briefed on outcomes and recommended next steps on Envision Greater Washington:**

- *What elements or activities would be carried out? How will it be funded? How will progress be measured?*
- *How can the region avoid reinventing the wheel?*
- *Does the region need more planning, or instead focus on advancing vision and plans we already have?*
- *What will be different, better or measurable as a result?*

– **COG Board adopted Resolution R34-07 charging MDPC with advancing this effort and to identify specific actions that can be quickly implemented to address:**

- *Stronger multi-sector, multi-jurisdictional and citizen engagement*
- *Leveraging existing plans and visions*
- *Public choice through understanding of consequences of growth scenarios*
- *Commitment to action and outcomes*



# Greater Washington 2050

## MDPC Recommended Actions

- 1) Rename the initiative – “*Greater Washington 2050*”
- 2) Strengthen MDPC to enhance linkages to existing COG policy committees
- 3) Establish a *Greater Washington 2050 Committee* with broad COG policy committee participation to:
  - oversee the initiative for 2 years
  - develop a *Greater Washington 2050 Compact*

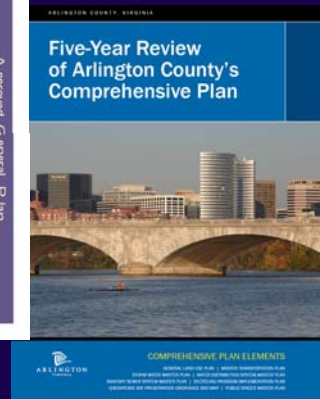
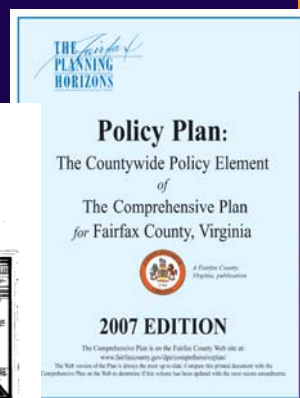
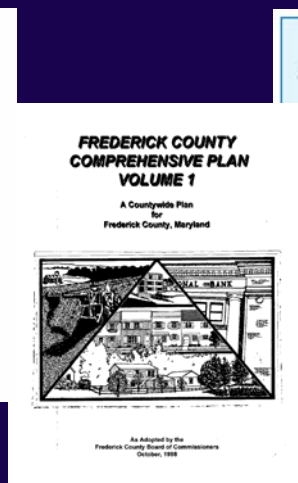
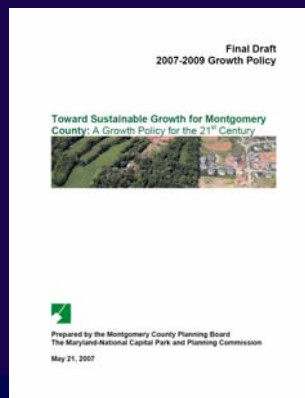
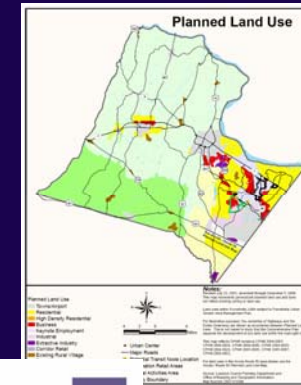
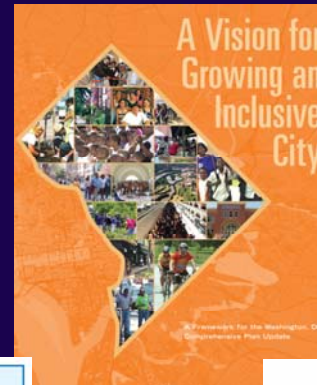




# Greater Washington 2050

## MDPC Recommended Actions, continued

- 4) To guide development of the *Compact*, complete a review of existing goals, plans and “visions” to address
- land use
  - economic growth
  - environmental quality
  - transportation
  - affordable housing
  - population and demographics
  - health
  - climate and energy



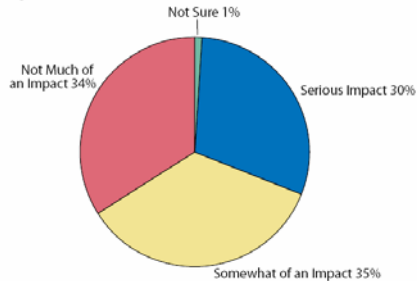
# Greater Washington 2050



## MDPC Recommended Actions, continued

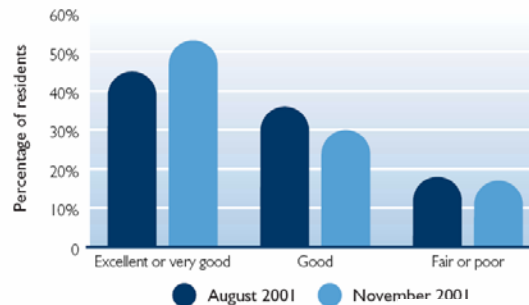
- To assist with Action 4 and with the development of the Compact, the MDPC recommends that COG undertake a scientific survey to determine citizens' attitudes concerning growth and quality of life issues in the Washington region

Percentage of Residents in the Greater Washington Region Who Say Traffic Congestion Impacts Their Quality of Life



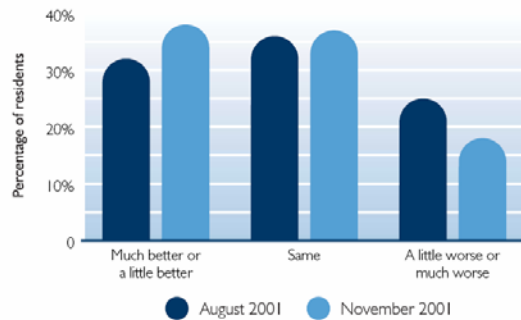
Source: Greater Washington Region Adult Population Survey, August 2001.

Rating the Greater Washington Region as a Place to Live: August 2001 and November 2001



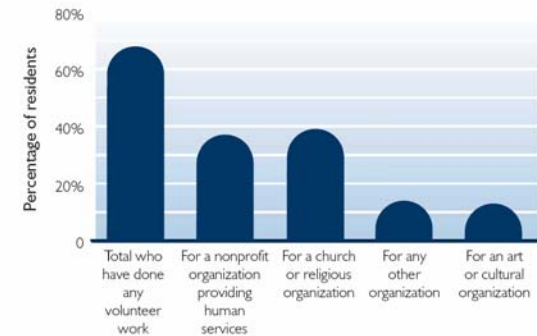
Source: Greater Washington Region Adult Population Survey, August 2001

Rating the Effectiveness of the Region's Leadership in Addressing Regional Problems, Compared with Leaders in Other Areas, August 2001 and November 2001



Source: Greater Washington Region Adult Population Survey, August 2001 and November 2001

Percentage of Residents Who Have Volunteered in the Past Twelve Months in the Greater Washington Region, 2001



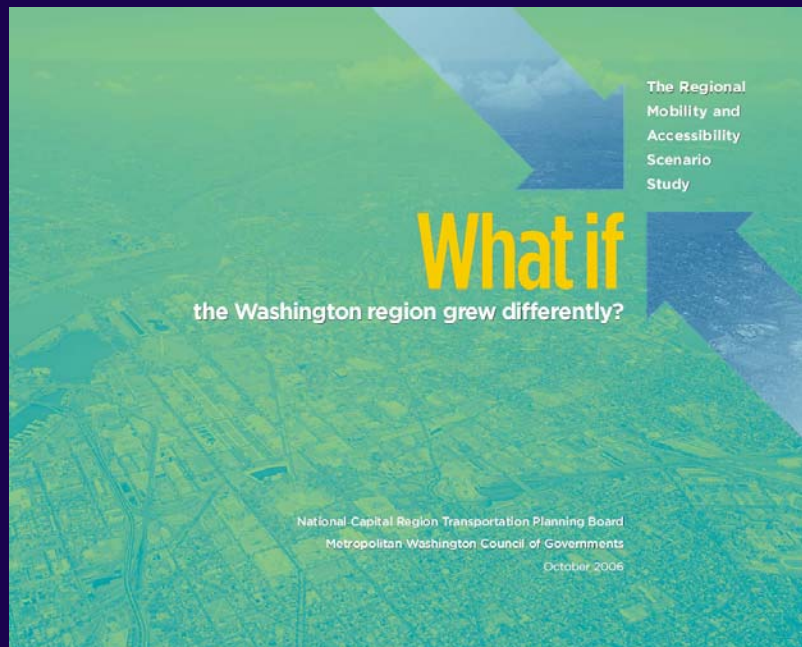
Source: Greater Washington Region Adult Population Survey, August 2001



# Greater Washington 2050

## MDPC Recommended Actions, continued

- 6) Expand on work of TPB Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study by developing other measures of effectiveness such as air quality, water quality, affordable housing



### Jobs Out & Households In Scenarios

**What if people lived closer to their jobs?**

**The Challenge:**  
The length of the average commute is growing as housing continues to boom in outer jurisdictions while jobs remain concentrated in the region's core and inner suburbs.

**The Scenarios:**

- "Jobs Out" shifts 82,000 new jobs (11% of forecast growth) to outer jurisdictions.
- "Households In" shifts 84,000 new households (23% of the forecast growth between 2010 and 2030) to inner jurisdictions.
- Transit networks (beyond what is currently assumed to be planned and funded) were tailored to both scenarios (thick lines on the maps).

### Region Undivided Scenario

**What if there were more development on the eastern side of the region?**

**The Challenge:**  
People on the eastern side of the region are commuting long distances to jobs in the west due to uneven development patterns.

**The Scenario:**

- Shifts 57,000 new households (16% of forecast growth) and 114,000 new jobs (15% of forecast growth) from west to east (red areas on the map).

### Transit-Oriented Development Scenario

**What if more people lived and worked closer to transit?**

**The Challenge:**  
70% of new jobs and 80% of new housing in the coming decades will not be located in "transit station areas" (half mile from rail, quarter mile from bus).

**The Scenario:**

- Locates 125,000 new households (35% of forecast growth) and 150,000 new jobs (19% of forecast growth) closer to transit stations—within a half-mile radius (represented by red areas on the map).

### More Households Scenario

**What if more people who work here lived here?**

**The Challenge:**  
New housing is not keeping up with job growth. Many commuters are living outside the immediate region—as far away as West Virginia and Pennsylvania.

**The Scenario:**

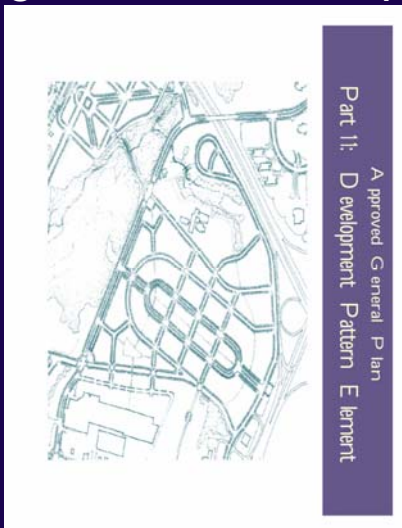
- Adds 216,000 new households beyond the number in current land use plans. The households would be added in or close to regional activity centers to balance forecast job growth (represented by red areas on the map).



# Greater Washington 2050

## MDPC Recommended Actions, continued

- 7) Upon completion, COG member local governments will commit to the *Greater Washington 2050 Compact* including basic tenants of:
  - long-range planning of at least 40 years
  - timely implementation of the goals of the Compact
  - creative financing of public infrastructure and enhanced governmental services to achieve the goals
  - development of inter-jurisdictional projects and agreements where necessary to achieve the goals
  
- 8) Develop a series of metrics to assess progress in achieving the goals of the *Compact*.



**Objectives**  
The General Plan makes a clear distinction between the character of the Developed Tier and that of the Developing Tier and the Rural Tier. Within the Developed and Developing Tiers, a policy overlay for Centers and Corridors focuses on specific areas where more intense development is encouraged to take advantage of public investments in transportation facilities. Although there will be some overlap, the intent of each Tier and the opportunities for the future in each Tier require different orientations and strategies.

The General Plan establishes objectives or benchmark measures that will be used to gauge the success of its implementation. Table 1 summarizes the county's objectives and their relationship to each of the Tiers, the Centers and the Corridors. The sections that follow describe the county's policies and strategies to achieve these objectives.

*This General Plan establishes objectives or benchmark measures that will be used to gauge the success of its implementation.*

**Table 1: General Plan Objectives**

Objectives	Tiers			Centers and Corridors
	Developed	Developing	Rural	
<b>Development Patterns</b>				
Capture a designated percentage of the county's building and growth by 2025 within each Tier.	>33%	< 66%	< 1%	
Capture a designated percentage of each Tier's housing growth by 2025 in Centers or Corridors.	>50%	>20%		
Incorporate appropriate pedestrian, bicycle and mass transit-oriented features in all new development within Centers and Corridors.				•
Protect a countywide average of 1,000 acres per year of agricultural, strategic forest, or other sensitive lands through the use of the Rural Capex Program, county-based aquifer, and other conservation programs.	•	•	•	
<b>Environmental Infrastructure</b>				
Protect, preserve, enhance and/or restore designated green infrastructure components by 2025.	•	•	•	•
Protect and enhance water quality in watersheds by at least a minimum, maintaining the 2007 condition ratings of all watersheds countywide.	•	•	•	•
Meet or exceed the following forest and tree cover goals within each Tier and countywide by 2025.	20%	30%	60%	

Prince George's County Approved General Plan 27

Objectives	Tiers			Centers and Corridors
	Developed	Developing	Rural	
Provide an assessment of environmental issues related to land use through the provision of environmental education and/or monitoring programs.	•	•	•	•
<b>Transportation Systems</b>				
Increase average automobile occupancy by 25 percent by 2025.	•	•	•	•
Reduce average commuter vehicle miles traveled countywide by 25 percent by 2025.	•	•	•	•
Increase the proportion of transit trips by 25 percent by 2025.	•	•	•	•
Reduce private automobile dependency, particularly for single-occupant vehicle (SOV) trips.	•	•	•	•
Site and plan new development and revitalization to generate transit ridership that helps achieve the cost recovery targets established by the county Five-Year Transit Master Plan (TMP).	•	•	•	•
Increase public funding of transportation infrastructure in the Developing Tier.	•			
Increase public funding and attract and encourage more private funding of transportation infrastructure in Developing Tier Centers and Corridors.				•
Encourage and increase the proportion of private sector funding of needed transportation infrastructure in the Developing and Rural Tiers outside of Centers and Corridors.		•	•	
Incorporate appropriate pedestrian, bicycle and transit-oriented design (TOD) and transit-supporting design (TSD) features in all new development within Centers and Corridors.				•
Plan new development to help achieve the objectives of the Countywide Trails Plan and Equistay Addendum.	•	•	•	•
Ensure funding to achieve the objectives of the Trails Plan and State Priority List.	•	•	•	•
Increase trail funding by one percent of the total county transportation budget including developer funding. Give priority to trails that function as a transportation facility or as links to other transportation facilities.	•	•	•	•

Prince George's County Approved General Plan 28



# Greater Washington 2050

## MDPC Recommended Actions, continued

- 9) The *Greater Washington 2050 Committee* develops a Communications Plan to disseminate the understanding of the *Compact*, including enhanced outreach on the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study.
  
- 10) Reach out to the Baltimore and Richmond regions to collaborate on a bold 21st century investment plan to address:
  - *environmental quality*
  - *energy efficiency*
  - *climate change*
  - *sprawling development*
  - *transportation challenges*

*One near-term opportunity is the transportation reauthorization bill expected in 2009 and the potential to address climate, national security, energy, freight, high-speed passenger and commuter rail, and transit issues of our rapidly growing region.*



# Greater Washington 2050

## Next Steps

- If general support exists for *Greater Washington 2050*, Committee members will develop an initial project schedule and budget for discussion by MDPC in September and subsequent Board action later this year.
- Several recommended actions may be implemented by leveraging existing work activities, budget resources and staff.
- Several proposed activities may require additional financial resources to expand or accelerate current work program activities and actions not in currently adopted work programs and budgets.



# Greater Washington 2050

## Next Steps

- MDPC recommendations are unlikely to be achievable without some additional resources; however, the scale and direction are anticipated to be significantly less than Envision Greater Washington project.
- Supplemental funds may be available from invited stakeholders, government grants, or foundations.
- COG would likely organize this effort to leverage existing staff activities with contractor or consultant support for day-to-day project management under COG supervision.
- Anticipated that COG will launch this initiative in January 2008.

