

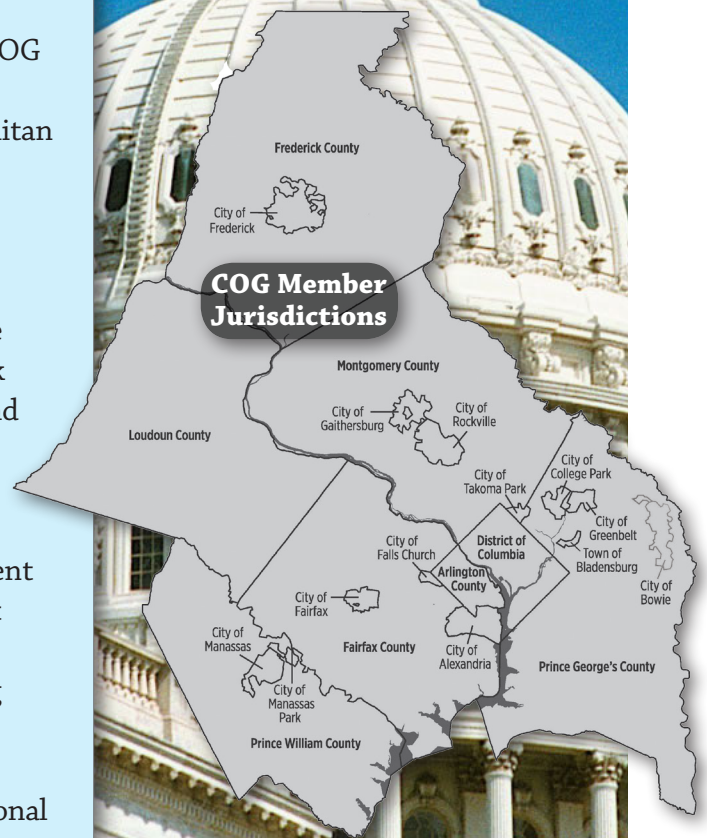
# 2011 Federal Legislative Priorities

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments | Adopted March 2011

This document outlines the key federal legislative priorities of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) and its local government members for our region. These priorities are meant to inform the National Capital Region congressional delegation, Congress, and the Administration as they consider and implement national policy. They will serve as a guide for more specific action and advocacy by COG in the coming year.

COG is the regional council for the National Capital Region with more than 250 local, state and federal elected officials representing 21 local governments. COG also hosts and supports the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board, our region's metropolitan planning organization (MPO) and the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee, the tri-state air quality planning organization.

COG is a forum for addressing regional issues and the voice for its member governments, who together, seek to create a more accessible, sustainable, prosperous and livable National Capital Region. COG has effectively worked with its federal partners in Congress and the Executive Branch to promote and advance our mutual interests for over 50 years. From working with President Lyndon Johnson to create a local air pollution act that became a model around the nation to encouraging a full build-out of the Metro rail system and prioritizing regional coordination on homeland security following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001; COG is a recognized leader on issues of significance in the National Capital Region.



## One Region Moving Forward

[www.mwcog.org](http://www.mwcog.org)



[www.regionforward.org](http://www.regionforward.org)

## ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Promote the HUD-DOT-EPA Sustainable Communities partnership and fund Livable Communities planning grants.
- Invest in programs and regional pilot projects, like the regional industry cluster initiative, that promote innovation and entrepreneurship to spur job creation.

## ENVIRONMENT

- Support policies and tools that provide local governments with greater flexibility in meeting EPA's Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements for the Chesapeake Bay.
- Promote alternative, renewable energy sources and implement a comprehensive national climate adaptation program.
- Fund DOE's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants that includes specific roles and opportunities for regional council participation.
- Request that EPA adopt national rules to reduce pollution to help states and localities meet new federal air quality health standards.

## HOMELAND SECURITY

- Fully fund Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grants which provide critical capacity building resources to metropolitan areas.

## TRANSPORTATION

- Support and fully fund the federal-state Metro funding agreement (\$150 million for capital and preventive maintenance, matched by D.C./Maryland/Virginia); Metro is the nation's largest transit system without a dedicated revenue stream and 40 percent of its peak period customers are federal employees.
- Reform and authorize surface transportation legislation.
- Provide a substantial increase in funding to address the current underinvestment in the nation's