

REGION FORWARD COALITION

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Region Forward Coalition Vice Chair

Presentation to the COG Board of Directors
October 10, 2018

Policy Committee Overview

Mission: Established as a multi-jurisdictional and multi-sector advisory committee of the COG Board of Directors to:

- oversee the implementation of Region Forward and help create a more prosperous, accessible, livable, and sustainable metropolitan Washington
- act as the principal policy advisor to the COG Board on comprehensive long-range regional planning and implementation programs

Membership includes representatives from:

- COG member local governments
- state and federal government
- stakeholder groups, including business organizations, non profit groups, philanthropic organizations, advocacy, and community-based organizations, civic and nonprofit partner organizations



2018 Focus and Priorities

- Taking the Region Forward targets pulse while considering how equity and inclusion can be weaved into the Region Forward vision, main goals included:
 - Dedicate each meeting to one of the four Region Forward pillars: Prosperity, Sustainability, Accessibility, and Livability
 - Measure progress toward Region Forward goals by updating targets
 - Identify targets to help illuminate and support equity and inclusion
 - Highlight and generate discussion about creative and inventive policies, practices, projects that help metropolitan Washington achieve the goals laid out in Region Forward

2018 Accomplishments

- Coalition convened quarterly and covered four major topics:
 1. **Prosperity**, including a sneak peak at the *2018 Kogod Millennial Index* by Dawn Lejon and Erran Carmel with American University
 2. **Sustainability**, including a briefing on opportunities and challenges of Regional Food Systems by James Barham with USDA Rural Development
 3. **Accessibility**, including a briefing on strategies for reusing vacant office buildings by Ryan Touhill with Alexandria Economic Development Partnership and Meghan Van Dam with Fairfax County
 4. **Livability**, including release of the Virginia Commonwealth University health opportunities report commissioned by the COG Health Officials Committee
- Region Forward Targets and Equity Work Session - will develop a shared understanding of social equity and inclusion, consider existing Region Forward targets, and how equity can be weaved into the Region Forward vision

Looking Ahead

- To support the Region Forward Compact by engaging in dialogue about programs and policies that can help shape a more accessible, sustainable, prosperous, and livable region, specific topics may include:
 - a) Sharing results of the Region Forward Targets and Equity Work Session
 - b) Highlighting tools, policies, and incentives to meet the region's short-term and long-term housing needs
 - c) Re-assessing the housing targets
 - d) Examining other subjects as they arise

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