# Activity Center Strategic Investment Plan Phase 1: Introduction to State of Place<sup>™</sup>

Last fall, COG and its partners launched the Activity Center Strategic Investment Plan, a new tool for implementing *Region Forward* through investments in Activity Centers. This document summarizes the first phase of this project.

What is State of Place<sup>™</sup>? The State of Place<sup>™</sup> Index is a rating and diagnostic tool that measures the walkability of a community. It provides a means of quantifying features of the built environment that make a place walkable and vibrant.

**How is it measured?** The State of Place<sup>™</sup> is based on street level data collected through on-the-ground surveys. The survey addresses key aspects of the built environment, such as density, aesthetics, and public space, by measuring features such as the presence of pedestrians, sidewalks, street trees, benches, building facades, mix of land uses, etc.

Why is it important? Places that are highly walkable are correlated with indicators of livability and stronger real estate market performance. The State of Place™ quantifies the added economic benefit that these qualities provide. Places are grouped into classes or levels of walkability based on their State of Place™ scores.

How will it be used in this project? The Project Team is evaluating Activity Centers using State of Place™ as well as key indicators of economic performance to determine the strengths and opportunities of each center. The result of this analysis will be an Investment Typology–a tool to guide stakeholders in identifying the type, timing, and scale of investments needed to strengthen and enhance each Activity Center.



### State of Place™ Groupings

# High Walkability

Communities have good urban form and access to many amenities.

# Moderate Walkability

These communities are have the foundation and capacity to offer more to their residents and visitors in the foreseeable future.

Capitol Hill

Clarendon

Downtown DC

**Downtown Frederick** 

**Dupont Circle** 

**Foggy Bottom** 

Georgetown

**Judiciary Square** 

King Farm

King Street

**Mount Vernon** 

**National Harbor** 

Penn Quarter/Chinatown

South West Federal - Center

Virginia Square

West End

Anacostia

Bethesda

**Ballston** 

Braddock

**Capitol Riverfront** 

Carlyle

Columbia Heights

Columbia Pike Town

Center

Courthouse

**Crystal City** 

Downtown Takoma Park

East Frederick Rising

Gaithersburg Central

Gaithersburg Crown Farm

Germantown

**Glover Park** 

Historic Fairfax City

H Street/Atlas District

Gaithersburg Kentlands

Logan Circle

NoMa

**Pentagon City** 

Potomac Yard

**Reston Town Center** 

Rockville

Rosslyn

Shirlington

Silver Spring

South West Waterfront

U Street/Shaw

**Urbana Town Center** 



## Limited Walkability

Communities have good bones and are characterized by auto oriented mixed - use

### **Auto Oriented**

The State of Place™ in these areas is low, indicating that these areas have the most to gain from placemaking investments.

Bailey's West

Beauregard

**Bowie Town Center** 

**Branch Ave** 

Brunswick

**Congress Heights** 

**Downtown Manassas** 

**Dulles Town Center** 

Falls Church

Fort Totten

Herndon

Huntington / Penn Daw

Glenmont

**Greenbelt Metro Station** 

Kensington

Landmark Van Dorn

Langley Park

**Largo Town Center** 

Leesburg

M Square Research Park

Manassas Park

Metropolitan Grove

Minnesota Ave.

**New Carrollton** 

Prince George's Plaza

**Reston East** 

Rhode Island Avenue

Metro

Saint Elizabeth's

Twinbrook

Vienna Transit Station

Area

Walter Reed

West Hyattsville

Wheaton

White Flint

Van Dorn Transit Area

Addison Road Metro

Beacon/Groveton CBC

Bladensburg Town Center

**Dulles West** 

Francis Scott Key Mall

**Ivy City** 

Landover Road Metro Area

**Navlor Road** 

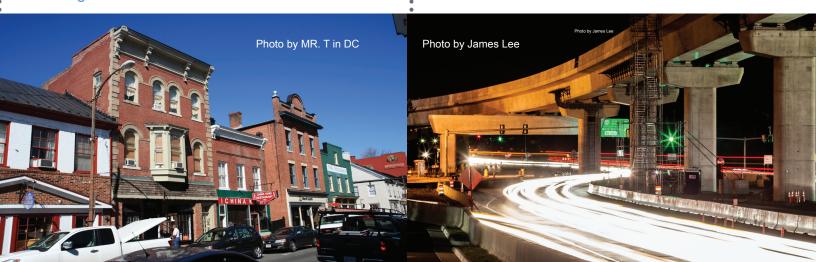
North Woodbridge

Springfield

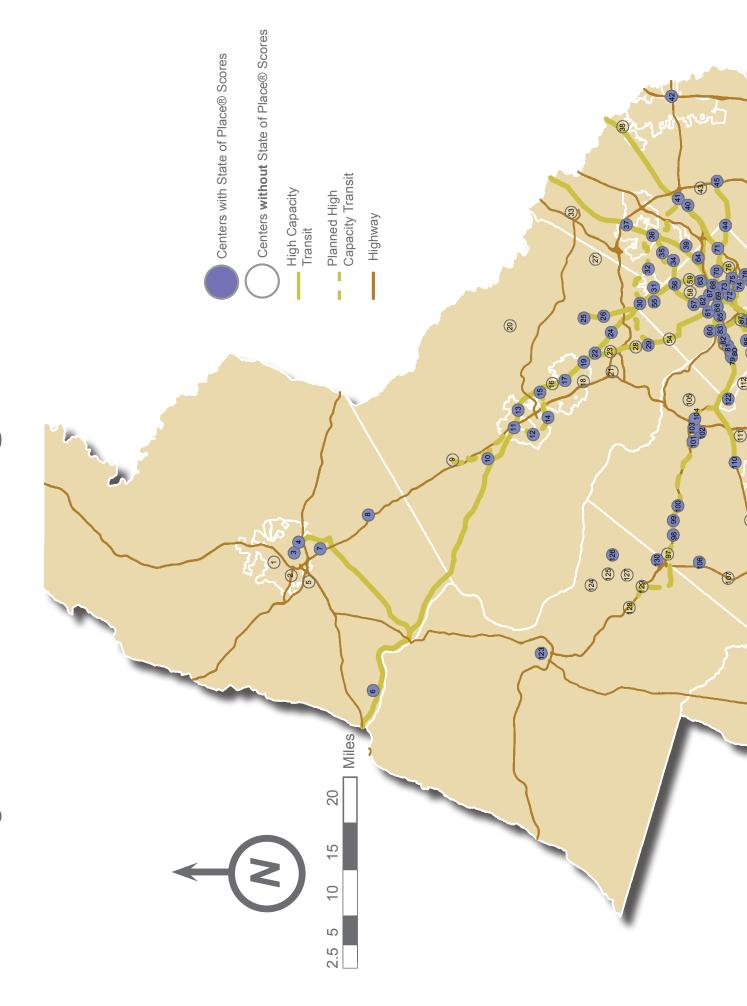
Route 28 South

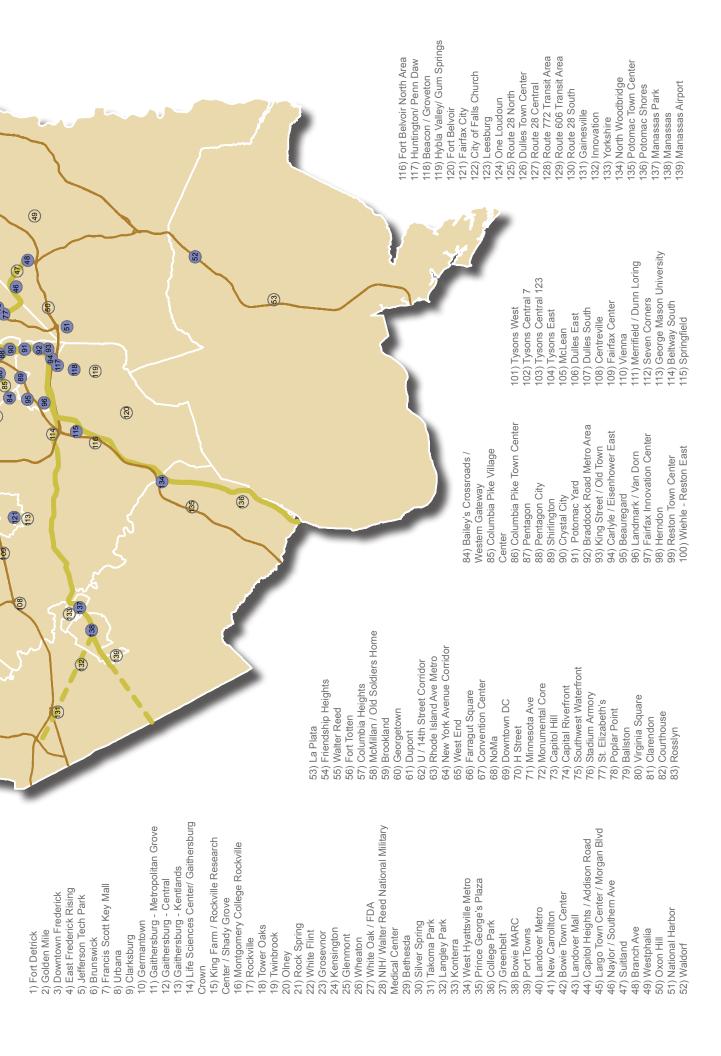
**Tysons** 

Waldorf



# Activity Centers Strategic Investment Plan





### **Next Steps**

For the Strategic Investment Plan Steering Committee

- Conduct economic analysis for each Activity Center
- Generate an Investment Typology using State of Place™ and economic findings
- Produce profiles for each center and detailed recommendations for investments

Produced for the Region Forward Coalition January, 2013. For more information about the Coalition please visit regionforward.org

