



# Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments 2014 Board of Directors Work Plan

22 JURISDICTIONS 5+ MILLION PEOPLE 300 ELECTED OFFICIALS

## Key Elements of the 2014 Work Plan

### REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Long-term commitment to capital investment and maintenance of our regional infrastructure is vital to achieve the goals of a prosperous, accessible, livable and sustainable National Capital Region. COG's core competencies as well as a number of the Region Forward goals and targets include a wide range of infrastructure systems including transportation systems, water systems, communications, healthcare, housing, as well as parks & recreation. There are also other infrastructure systems such as education that are critical to our region's future success.

### LAND USE & TRANSPORTATION COORDINATION

In the beginning weeks of 2014, the COG Board of Directors and the Transportation Planning Board approved Place + Opportunity: Strategies for Creating Great Communities and a Stronger Region and the Regional Transportation Priorities Plan (RTPP). COG will lead a new outreach effort in the months ahead to present these interconnected plans to its policy boards and committees, member governments and private sector partners.

### REGION FORWARD COALITION

In 2013, COG and the Coalition advanced several initiatives that brought together land use and transportation, such as the COG annual retreat, an Economy Forward event at the National Press Club and the completion of Place + Opportunity and the RTPP. In 2014, the COG Board will ask the Coalition to broaden its focus further and weave in other COG core competencies that address Region Forward's goals.

FEBRUARY 12, 2014

ONE REGION **MOVING FORWARD**

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



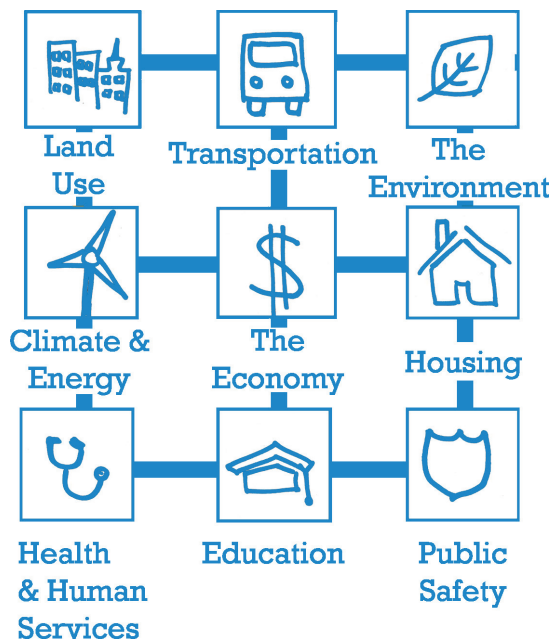
[www.regionforward.org](http://www.regionforward.org)

## › REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Long-term commitment to capital investment and maintenance of our Regional Infrastructure is vital to achieve the goals of a prosperous, accessible, livable and sustainable National Capital Region. COG's core competencies as well as a number of the Region Forward goals and targets include a wide range of infrastructure systems including transportation systems (roads, mass transit, aviation, bicycles, and related systems), water systems (drinking water, wastewater, stormwater), energy (electricity, natural gas, transportation fuels), communications (telephone, internet, emergency response), healthcare (hospitals, medical facilities), housing, as well as parks and recreation. There are also other infrastructure systems such as education that are critical to our region's future success.

Throughout 2014, the Board of Directors and staff will work to highlight the critical importance of investment in our region's infrastructure and work to align COG's infrastructure related programs to help fulfill the goals and targets of Region Forward.

- At each meeting of the Board of Directors there will be a focus on infrastructure. During the first half of 2014, programs directly related to COG's core competencies will be highlighted at Board meetings; this may lead to policy initiatives, guidance and direction that will lead to future policy, as well as a focus on information needed by decision-makers to help make the best informed decisions for their jurisdictions as well as on a regional basis. In the latter half of 2014, emerging or new infrastructure areas will also be discussed by the Board.
- The summer COG retreat will be an opportunity to take a comprehensive look at lessons learned on infrastructure and help define a major fall infrastructure event's goals and outcomes that will engage stakeholders, the media and general public in a conversation on the region's vital infrastructure and the critical needs for investment and maintenance.
- Also to be examined throughout the year will be financing tools such as infrastructure banks, public-private partnerships, and other innovative best practices. Partnerships with other organizations and experts in financing will be utilized to help provide the Board with the most significant strategic information.
- All infrastructure related goals, targets and indicators will be reviewed and specific priorities identified for 2014; most likely areas of focus include transportation as the Regional Transportation Priorities Program is implemented; environmental programs, notably infrastructure related actions required for achievement of Region Forward Chesapeake Bay goals; and other priorities identified by the Board as it considers the range of infrastructure sectors during the year.



**INVESTMENT & MAINTENANCE OF OUR INFRASTRUCTURE IS CRITICAL TO OUR REGION FORWARD GOALS & TARGETS**

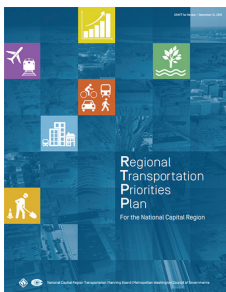
## > LAND USE & TRANSPORTATION COORDINATION

In the beginning weeks of 2014, the Council of Governments Board of Directors and the Transportation Planning Board approved Place + Opportunity: Strategies for Creating Great Communities and a Stronger Region and the Regional Transportation Priorities Plan. Together these two plans serve as a roadmap for activity centers and transportation priorities throughout the region. To advance their implementation, COG will lead an outreach effort in the months ahead presenting these interconnected plans to its policy boards and committees, member governments, and private sector partners, such as the Board of Trade and Urban Land Institute. COG will also reach out to Board members and subject matter experts, who can champion these strategies in their local jurisdictions.



- **Place + Opportunity: Strategies for Creating Great Communities and a Stronger Region:**

This report was approved by the COG Board of Directors on January 8, 2014. Place + Opportunity is an initiative to strengthen and enhance Activity Centers throughout metropolitan Washington. Activity Centers – the places that will accommodate much of the region’s growth in the coming decades – attract residents, businesses, and visitors to the area, and are critical to ensuring the region’s future competitiveness and success. The report, carried out by COG, city and county planning directors, and a team of local and national experts, presents a variety of strategies to inform government leaders and stakeholders on planning and development decisions.



- **RTPP: Regional Transportation Priorities Plan:** This plan was approved by the Transportation Planning Board (TPB) on January 15, 2014. The RTPP reflects over a decade of TPB planning activities, including the TPB Vision and Region Forward. The RTPP has been developed to identify regional strategies that offer the greatest potential contributions toward addressing regional challenges, and to support efforts to incorporate those strategies into future updates of the financially Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP). The Plan calls for maintaining the region’s existing system of roadways and transit first, strengthening public confidence and ensuring fairness, and finding better, more efficient ways to move people throughout the region.

## > REGION FORWARD COALITION

In 2010, the Council of Governments and its member governments approved Region Forward, our vision for a more prosperous, accessible, livable, and sustainable metropolitan Washington. The COG Board charged the public-private Region Forward Coalition to oversee the implementation of the vision and much of the group’s early work focused on land use and Activity Centers. In 2013, COG and the Coalition advanced several initiatives that brought together land use and transportation, such as the COG annual retreat, an Economy Forward event at the National Press Club, and the completion of Place + Opportunity and the RTPP. In 2014, the COG Board will ask the Coalition to broaden its focus further and weave in other COG core competencies that address Region Forward’s goals.

- **Positioning Region Forward:** Region Forward aligns COG’s many programs, including transportation, the environment, planning, public safety and health, but there are opportunities to better promote our vision. WMATA recently embedded Region Forward into its own strategic plans. COG will build on this example to better engage business, nonprofit, thought leaders, and the media about our vision, goals, and objectives and seek additional key regional partners’ strong support of Region Forward.
- **Strategic Realignment:** Taking Region Forward to the next level will require greater collaboration amongst COG’s departments, policy boards and committees. To foster this collaboration the Board will receive regular briefings that highlight and promote synergies and integration.