



*Local governments working together for a better metropolitan region*

February 22, 2010

*District of Columbia*

*Bladensburg\**

*Bowie*

*College Park*

*Frederick*

*Frederick County*

*Gaithersburg*

*Greenbelt*

*Montgomery County*

*Prince George's County*

*Rockville*

*Takoma Park*

*Alexandria*

*Arlington County*

*Fairfax*

*Fairfax County*

*Falls Church*

*Loudoun County*

*Manassas*

*Manassas Park*

*Prince William County*

*\*Adjunct member*

Honorable Adrian Fenty  
Mayor, District of Columbia  
John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mayor Fenty:

I am pleased to share with each Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) member, *Region Forward – A Comprehensive Guide for Regional Planning and Measuring Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. This ambitious report, almost two years in the making, was approved by the COG Board in January 2010 and places the National Capital Region in the forefront of metropolitan areas nationally and globally.

Your support is critical to translating the goals and regional targets that are at the heart of the *Region Forward* effort into a regional action agenda for COG, area governments and community stakeholders.

The COG Board of Directors asked that each of COG's 21 member local governments take action to endorse the *Region Forward* voluntary compact. COG is hoping that each jurisdiction will endorse the voluntary compact by resolution or other appropriate act in March, allowing COG to recognize government and stakeholder leadership at a spring 2010 event kick-off event.

This initiative was led by COG's Greater Washington 2050 Coalition and involved many public officials and other stakeholders. The final report, goals, targets and voluntary compact reflect the input from presentations to local government boards and councils, as well as business and community organizations. Finally, the draft report generated almost 400 comments from the public, many of which were incorporated into the final document approved by the COG Board in January. In short, *Region Forward* is grounded in more engagement and support than perhaps any COG effort in recent years.

What Action is Needed Now?

- Please docket for approval or take other action to endorse the *Region Forward's* Greater Washington 2050 voluntary compact (p. 55 - 62 of the enclosed report). A sample resolution is enclosed that you may modify as needed.
- Action is requested in March, if possible. COG anticipates hosting a spring 2010 kickoff event showcasing area jurisdictions that have endorsed the compact and this initiative. The work by COG will commence in July 2010 at the start of Fiscal Year 2011.
- If it would be useful, COG staff would welcome the opportunity to brief your jurisdiction on the *Region Forward* effort and the voluntary compact. COG has enclosed a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document that summarizes several of the key issues and questions associated with *Region Forward*.

Approval of *Region Forward* by the COG Board placed the National Capital Region in the vanguard of metropolitan areas tackling tough issues like growth, economic development, and sustainability. Endorsement of the voluntary compact by area jurisdictions is absolutely critical to our success and I hope you will take affirmative action on the compact soon.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact David Robertson, COG's executive director at 202-962-3260 or [drobertson@mw cog.org](mailto:d Robertson@mw cog.org). Thank you for your continued support for COG.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'KRB' with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kwame R. Brown  
Chairman, COG Board of Directors

Enclosures

- *Region Forward – A Comprehensive Guide for Regional Planning and Measuring Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*
- *Region Forward, Frequently Asked Questions*
- *Region Forward, Sample Resolution*