

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, NE
WASHINGTON, DC 20002**

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS REGARDING RACIAL EQUITY AS A FUNDAMENTAL VALUE

WHEREAS, the work of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments has been guided by the overarching goals of Prosperity, Accessibility, Livability, and Sustainability as espoused in COG's *Region Forward Vision* for the region; and

WHEREAS, local governments are increasingly committing to intentionally consider equity when making policies or delivering programs and services; and

WHEREAS, "Equity" is a fundamental value defined as the commitment to promote fairness and justice in the formation of priorities, policy, and programs; and

WHEREAS, equity is achieved when all people are fully able to participate in the region's economic viability, contribute to the region's readiness for the future, and connect to the region's assets and resources; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors recognizes the history of racism in our country and how it has led to current day disparities in education and job attainment, housing, and healthcare, as well as disproportionate incarceration rates for Black and Brown members of our communities; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors recognizes that racial inequities have become institutionalized in the policies and practices of many agencies, governmental and otherwise; and

WHEREAS, COG has acted in support of equity analysis and decision-making, including the Transportation Planning Board's Equity Emphasis Areas; and, COG has initiatives that focus on racial equity such as the Regional Racial Equity Cohort, the work of the Health Officers Committee on health equity, and the regional initiative to develop a Fair Housing plan, but recognizes that a more intentional focus on equity is needed; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors condemns racial discrimination and commits to being non-racist, and significantly, also commits COG to actively oppose racism and be anti-racist;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT:

- 1) The Board affirms that our work together as the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments will be anti-racist and will advance equity; and
- 2) The Board affirms that Equity will be woven into COG's *Region Forward Vision* to ensure a more prosperous, accessible, livable, sustainable, and equitable future for all area residents and throughout COG's analyses, operations, procurement, programs, and priorities.

The Board instructs the Executive Director to ensure the practical application of these values.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT the foregoing resolution was adopted by the COG Board of Directors July 8, 2020

**Janele Partman
COG Communications Specialist**