



GreaterWashington2050

E-Update No. 8 – February 17, 2009

Dear Greater Washington 2050 Coalition Members and Friends:

The work of the Greater Washington 2050 Coalition continues to take shape and interest is building in its proposed outcomes. More and more stakeholders agree that as the region faces perhaps the most significant economic challenge in many years, it is more important than ever that the region is positioned to succeed --- both now and in the future. The National Capital Region that emerges from the current economic downturn must be capable of strengthening its quality of life and prospering in the first half of the 21st Century --- and that is where Greater Washington 2050 can pay an important role!

January 29 Meeting Outcomes

- The Principles and Compact Task Forces have worked together to continue to “fine tune” the principles as they are being used to build a regional compact that will define goals for the National Capital Region, the roles of COG, local governments and other partners and stakeholders, and how the region will measure progress, accountability and success. Coalition members concluded that the name ultimately chosen for the product that COG, its member governments, and other stakeholder will be asked to embrace may evolve from the current “compact”, which to some meant requiring statutory authority, widely acknowledged as a difficult and perhaps not useful.
- The Planning Tools Task Force continued to draw rave reviews for its very successful *Scenarios Thinking Workshop* on November 20. The Task Force shared the first draft of the workshop outcomes --- “Big Moves”. Coalition members agreed that the “Big Moves” summary provided an excellent platform for Greater Washington 2050 advocacy and public, business or community stakeholders seeking to make a compelling argument for the kind of forward thinking that has been at the core of Greater Washington 2050. The Coalition recommended that the “Big Moves” summary serve as the foundation for an aggressive outreach on Greater Washington 2050, perhaps as early as Spring 2009.
- In the past few days hundreds of Washington area residents have been contacted by telephone by OPINION WORKS, a survey firm selected by COG with oversight by the Communications and Outreach Task Force to conduct the Greater Washington 2050 Coalition’s new survey on regional connections, measures of civic engagement, qualities of the region, and priorities for the region. The Coalition believes the survey results will be eye-opening and will shape the Greater Washington 2050 compact, performance measures, and outreach strategy.
- Coalition Chairman (and newly elected Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors) Sharon Bulova took the first step in what promises to be a busy Spring and Summer outreach calendar on February 11 when she briefed the COG Board of Directors on the Coalition’s work to date and the likely direction of its work and outcomes. The Board thanked Chairman Bulova for her leadership and looked forward to seeing the results of the survey and early drafts of the compact and other key products.

Next Full Coalition Meeting/Please Mark Your Calendar

Date/Time: Friday, February 27; 9:45 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Location: COG Third Floor Board Room

More information on the four Coalition Task Forces, including members and schedules can be found on the web site, www.greaterwashington2050.org. If you are interested in serving on a task force and have not yet signed up, please go to the web site or contact the staff resource listed below.

Future Meetings/Please Mark Your Calendar

Thursday, March 26, 9:45 a.m. to 12:00 noon, Coalition meeting

Friday, April 24, 9:45 a.m. to 12:00 noon, Coalition meeting

Looking Ahead - Where Is This Going?

The Coalition is expected to wrap-up this phase of its work in June and to present a comprehensive draft report and recommendations to the COG Board of Directors for review, comment and extensive public outreach in July. Following stakeholder and public feedback, the Coalition will meet in the Fall 2009 to make any changes to its draft report and recommendations. The COG Board is expected to take final action on the Coalition's recommendations in November 2009. The Coalition's recommendations will be incorporated in more robust and externally-focused work by COG and other stakeholders, with greater transparency and accountability to the public. While still a work in progress --- the Greater Washington 2050 Coalition's products and outcomes are beginning to take shape!

More Information

The Greater Washington 2050 web site is up and running! Check out www.greaterwashington2050.org for information and presentations from previous meetings, reports and studies of interest, links to best practices and coming soon, a place to post comments and suggestions and dialogue with your fellow regional leaders.

Greater Washington 2050 Contacts

Paul DesJardin, Greater Washington 2050 Manager

202-962-3293

pdesjardin@mwcoq.org

Dave Robertson, COG Executive Director

202-962-3260

[drobertson@mwcoq.org](mailto:d Robertson@mwcoq.org)

Hon. Sharon Bulova, Greater Washington 2050 Coalition Chair

Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

703-324-2321

What is Greater Washington? - Recap

Greater Washington 2050 is a new regional initiative to improve the quality of life for Washington area residents in the next 50 years by fostering stronger regional awareness, leadership and action. Led by COG and a coalition of public, business, civic and environmental stakeholders, Greater Washington 2050 will build on what many people now believe is an opportunity for convergence on big issues of growth, transportation and the environment, in part owing to concerns about the impacts of climate change and energy availability and cost. Greater Washington 2050 will shape agreement on broad regional goals, identify actions large and small that can help achieve goals, measure progress, and promote stronger civic engagement.

David Robertson

Executive Director

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

202-962-3260 T

202-962-3208 F

drobertson@mwcog.org