



GreaterWashington2050

E-Update No. 5 – August 1, 2008

Dear Greater Washington 2050 Coalition Members and Friends:

The weather has been hot so far this summer, but it hasn't slowed the work of **Greater Washington 2050**, which has continued to meet in June and July and even has Task Force meetings planned for August! It has been six months since the launch of the Coalition in February and members are mindful that Greater Washington 2050 was intended as a fast-moving, outcome-focused effort of about 18 months. The forecast for the balance of the summer is busy and hot!

July 18 Meeting Outcomes

- Each of the four Coalition Task Forces (Planning Principles, Planning Tools, Compact, and Communications/Outreach) reported on their respective work to begin to shape Greater Washington 2050 products and outcomes. Task Force members also broadly discussed how their particular areas of focus interrelate. Each Task Force agreed to pursue a dual strategy in approaching its work—Task Force work AND periodic joint meetings and collaboration with other Task Forces.
- The Coalition initially discussed commissioning a regional survey at its first meeting as a tool to accurately gauge public perception on many of the growth and other challenges facing families, communities and the region as a whole. The survey idea was set aside as the Greater Washington 2050 effort used its first few meetings to learn about initiatives in other regions. Now, the Coalition has agreed that the time is right to launch a regional survey that will provide insight into public attitudes and support for the likely regional principles and actions that will be advanced by Greater Washington 2050 in 2009.
- COG has supported a wide-ranging alternative growth scenarios work program through its National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) for several years. Even the most aggressive of the five scenarios examined only resulted in modest reductions in traffic congestion and pollution. TPB is now working on “composite” scenarios that take elements of the previous scenarios to see if new alternatives yield improved outcomes. The Planning Tools Task Force will examine the scope of a proposed scenarios workshop and outcomes, benefits and costs to help shape the work of Greater Washington 2050.

Next Full Coalition Meeting/Please Mark Your Calendar

Date/Time: Thursday, September 25; 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Location: COG First Floor Training Center

Proposed Coalition Activities on September 25

Continued progress reports by the four Task Forces.

- The Principles Task Force is expected to present a draft of its broad, regional aspirational goals for Coalition discussion and review.
- The Compact Task Force will discuss the scope of the possible Compact, including periodic assessments of local and regional progress on adopted principles, as well as possible project-specific assessments.
- The Planning Tools Task Force is exploring the timing, cost and benefits of holding a scenarios workshop. Task Force representatives and/or COG staff will report on progress.
- The Communications/Outreach Task Force will present a proposal for the Coalition to commission a regional survey and timetable for implementation, as well as communications and outreach strategies to reach younger area residents.

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

August – Task Force meetings (see web site for schedule)

Thursday, September 25 – Full Coalition Meeting

Friday, October 24 – Full Coalition Meeting

November – To be determined

All full Coalition meetings are scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m. and end by 12:00 noon and will be located at COG. Dates for the balance of 2008 will be announced at future meetings.

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

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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.