



## GreaterWashington2050

*Coalition E-Update No. 1, February 26, 2008*

### **Dear Greater Washington 2050 Coalition Members and Friends:**

More than 25 diverse regional leaders assembled at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) on Thursday, February 21 to kickoff an exciting new regional initiative – **Greater Washington 2050**. Thank you for agreeing to serve on the Greater Washington 2050 Coalition. If you were able to attend this important launch, thank you and we hope that you will continue to support and guide this work; if you were unable to attend, don't worry, there will be plenty of opportunities to stay involved going forward.

### **What is Greater Washington 2050?**

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.

### **February 21 Meeting Outcomes**

Greater Washington 2050 Coalition Chairman Sharon Bulova (Fairfax County) and COG Board Chairman Michael Knapp (Montgomery County) outlined proposed activities, followed by a facilitated discussion led by Gerrit Knaap of the University of Maryland. Ami Liu from the Brookings Institution highlighted its “Blueprint for American Prosperity – Unleashing the Potential of a Metropolitan Nation.” Coalition members broadly supported:

- Finding areas of agreement in planning in the National Capital Region.
- New regional alternative growth scenarios that show changes today can affect future outcomes.
- A new regional compact, perhaps modeled on the “Mile High Compact” adopted in the Denver region and aggressive measures of progress and implementation.
- A communications plan that seeks the input of area residents, including young people who will be the leaders in 2050, and ensures that Greater Washington 2050 actions and initiatives have impact on individuals, families, communities and the region as a whole.

### **Next Meeting/Please Mark Your Calendar**

**Date/Time: Friday, March 28; 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon**

**Location: COG, 777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20002**

- Lessons learned from other regions --- how can stakeholders find convergence on broad regional goals and objectives, and how can agreement on goals translate into public support and government action?
- Preliminary report by a communications work group on models and technologies that have proven effective in engaging the public and groups not easily reached through meetings and surveys.

### **Future Meetings/Please Mark Your Calendar**

**Friday, April 25**

**Friday, May 23**

**Thursday, June 26**

**Friday, July 18**

All 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**

Background information on Greater Washington 2050, a list of Coalition members, reports and presentations, and useful web links can be found on the COG web site, [www.mwcog.org](http://www.mwcog.org).

### **Greater Washington 2050 Staff Contacts**

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### **Thoughts on the Future**

*"It's tough to make predictions, especially about the future."* Yogi Berra