

# METRO FORUM: FUND IT – FIX IT, A CALL TO ACTION

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Chuck Bean  
COG Executive Director

League of Women Voters of the National Capital Area & Coalition for Smarter Growth  
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Metropolitan Washington  
Council of Governments

# COG: The Hub for Regional Partnership

- Independent, nonprofit association.
  - 24 local governments
  - 300+ local, state & federal elected officials
- Each month, 1,500+ officials come to COG to:
  - Make connections
  - Share information
  - Develop solutions to the region's major challenges





49% of residents bachelor's degree or higher.



*Bon Appetit* Restaurant City of the Year



Parkland: ~190,000  
Museums: 75  
Works of Art: 135 M



Innovation Hub; 2<sup>nd</sup> only to Silicon Valley



2<sup>nd</sup> most walkable metro area in U.S. (GW, Smart Growth America)



#1 in U.S. for entrepreneurs (Kauffman)



Jobs: 3.2 M



GRP: ~\$500 B



3 major airports



Presence of foreign governments, consulates.



Population: 5.4 M

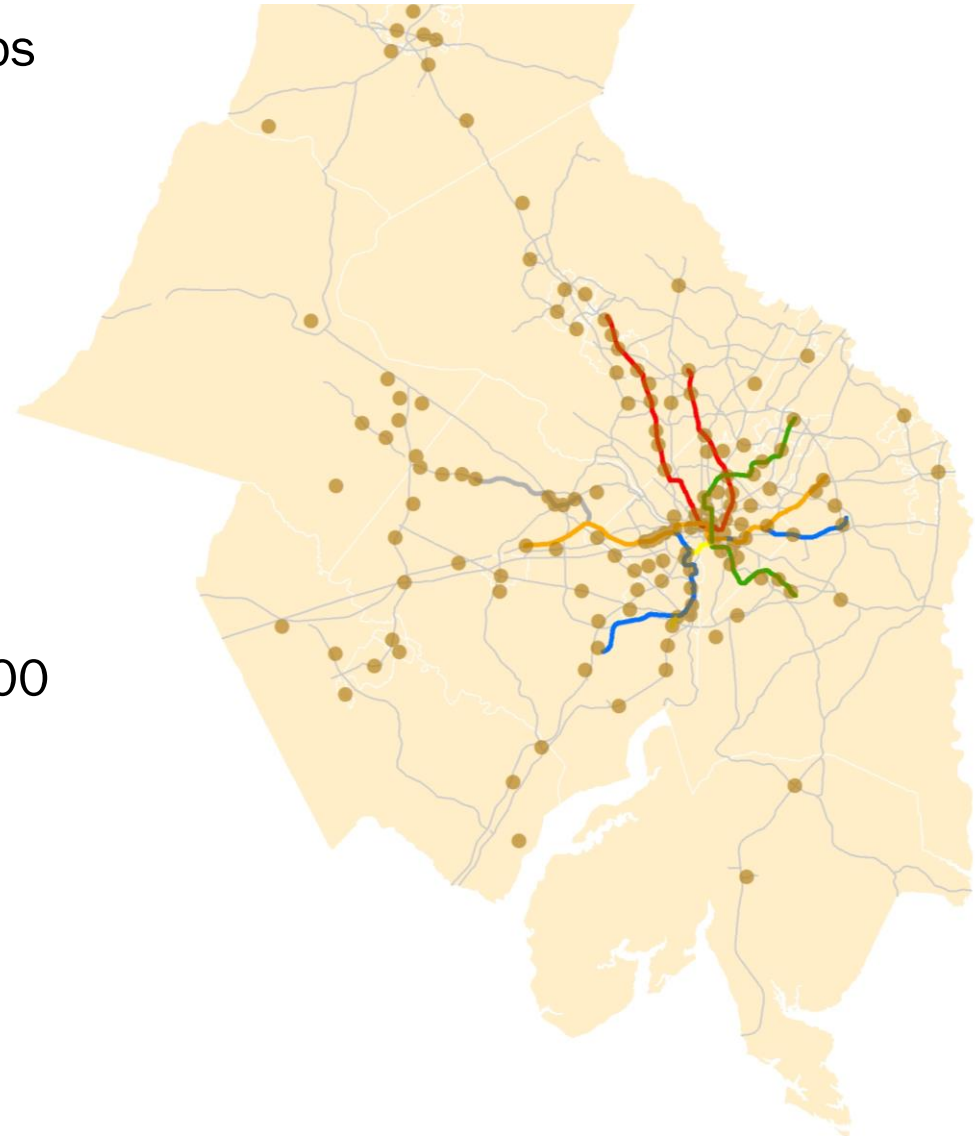


Home to 23 colleges & universities.



# Regional Growth & Activity Centers

- 1.5 M new people, 1.1 M new jobs between 2015-2045
- 141 activity centers
  - Mixed-use
  - Places targeted for regional growth
  - Transit-oriented
  - Nine percent of region's 3,000 square miles



# Value of Metro to the Region

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- Spurs economic activity, jobs, incomes
- Creates more efficient land use
- Community and environmental benefits
- Reduced traffic congestion
- Property tax revenue generated within  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile of stations is approximately \$3.1 billion annually



# COG's Work with Metro

- Underground Communications Systems
- Metrorail Safety Commission
- Transit-oriented development around Metro
- Funding for Metro
  - COG Chief Administrative Officers Technical Panel
  - COG Metro Strategy Group

(ep\_jhu/Flickr)



# COG's Statement of Principles on Metro Funding

Goal is a world class Metro system that is safe, efficiently managed, and maintained in a state of good repair

Bridging the gap in long-term capital needs is the funding priority.

Reform of governance and operations optimally would be accomplished without reopening the WMATA compact

Need a dedicated funding source(s) that are earmarked to Metro and fully bondable

Local and state contributions should be predictable with an annual growth rate of no more than 3%

Operating and maintenance funding needs should be addressed through application of management best practices and reforms

The jurisdictions, states, business community and stakeholders will collaborate to accomplish these goals by FY2019

The federal government needs to recognize its fiscal responsibility to America's transit system and the federal workforce



## Chuck Bean

COG Executive Director

cbean@mwcog.org

Twitter: @chuck4theregion, @MWCOCG

[mwcog.org](http://mwcog.org)

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777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20002



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