



LEADING THE REGION 2018

GPCOG
GREATER PORTLAND
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

And here's what *sustainable prosperity* sounds like, imagined as our region's future by our members and our partners:

"The Greater Portland and Lakes Region is thriving economically, socially, and environmentally. We have a diverse local economy that builds on the region's natural assets and traditions, hosts a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem, and provides opportunities to people in all parts of the region. Communities have diverse housing, transportation, and communications choices to meet the needs of all ages. Our world-renowned rivers, lakes, coast, forests, and farms are protected and continue to be a key part of daily life, drawing many new residents to the region. Residents are prospering and have an inherent sense of regional pride and identity."

To make this vision a reality our region requires leadership. So for the next five years, and beyond, the Greater Portland Council of Governments has been charged by our members to lead our region towards sustainable prosperity.



We begin from strong foundations, with community values of integrity, perspective and cooperation central to our work. We incorporate civic engagement, good governance and stewardship into everything we do. And our almost 50-year experience serving our region has made us:

A trusted, neutral convener and facilitator

A respected catalyst for regional consolidation, collaboration, and initiatives

A valued informational resource to municipalities

A unique conduit for funding.



Our new Plan calls on GPCOG to step forward and lead, not by acting alone, but rather by helping us all come together so together we can discover our shared values and articulate what we want our future to be, including the shape of our communities, our environment, and our economy.

GPCOG is a member service organization. Our communities receive value when they invest in our work, and our new Strategic Plan emphasizes the importance of maintaining our current level of great member service, while also setting specific goals for new value for our members, and reaching even higher levels of operational excellence. *So our Plan identifies three strategic priorities:*

1. Provide Responsive Services to Strengthen Cities and Towns:

Flexibly serving our members as new challenges like opiate misuse arise,

Facilitating consolidation and efficiency where it's desired,

Expanding our successful cooperative purchasing program which already saves member communities substantial funds,

Attracting new grants and other funding opportunities so our members can hold down property taxes and still provide essential services, and

Building a strong peer network for municipal leaders so our communities' leaders can support each other, and learn together.

2. Lead the Region toward Sustainable Prosperity:

Our members' top strategic priority is to organize the voice of the region and mobilize our members to speak out as an effective force for supporting investments and policies that advance sustainable prosperity. In order for the region to thrive and have adequate resources, we need to be organized and clearly articulate what matters most for our future.

Developing a regional vision and plan to define where we're going, and how to get there. Our large and diverse region, tied together by a shared economy, transportation network, and exceptional quality of place needs to build a regional vision and plan for how to grow while preserving what makes the region so special.

Developing and communicating data so our members and the public can make better, more informed choices about their future. Clear and accurate data is needed to help municipal officials make informed decisions, develop a vision, and support the region's desire to speak in a collective voice.

Planning and making transportation investments that best support our economy and our communities – today and tomorrow, and

Catalyzing investments by leveraging public, private and philanthropic partnerships in areas like:

- Small business loans,
- Redevelopment of vacant properties,
- Food manufacturing, and
- Sustainable energy solutions.



3. Operate with Excellence:

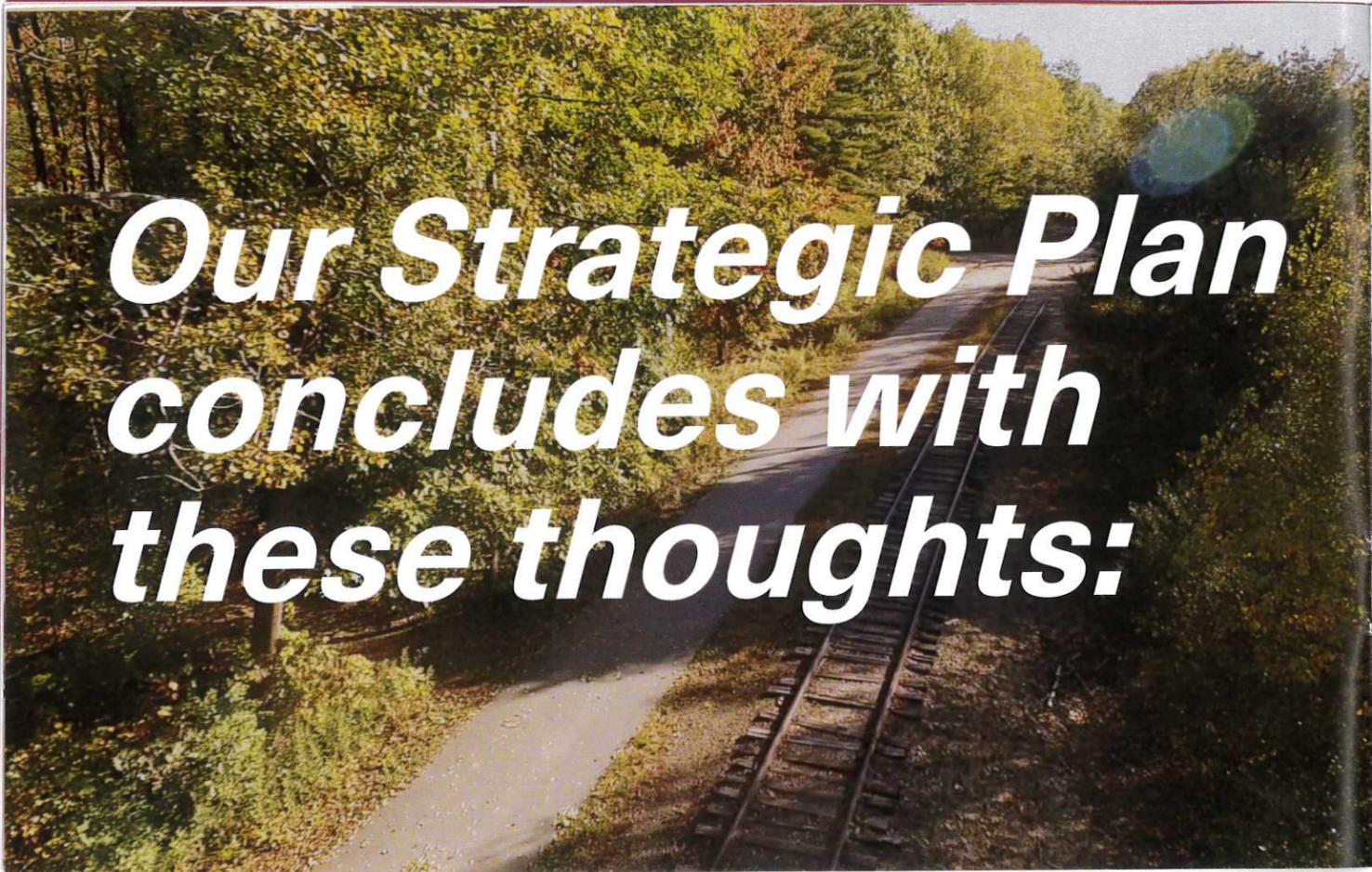
Creating a learning organization that never stops discovering new information, new techniques, and new opportunities that we can share with our members and partners,

Building a team that works together toward the Plan's unified vision,

Developing organizational systems that more efficiently and effectively support our work,

Educating and communicating with our members, our partners, our peers and the entire region, and

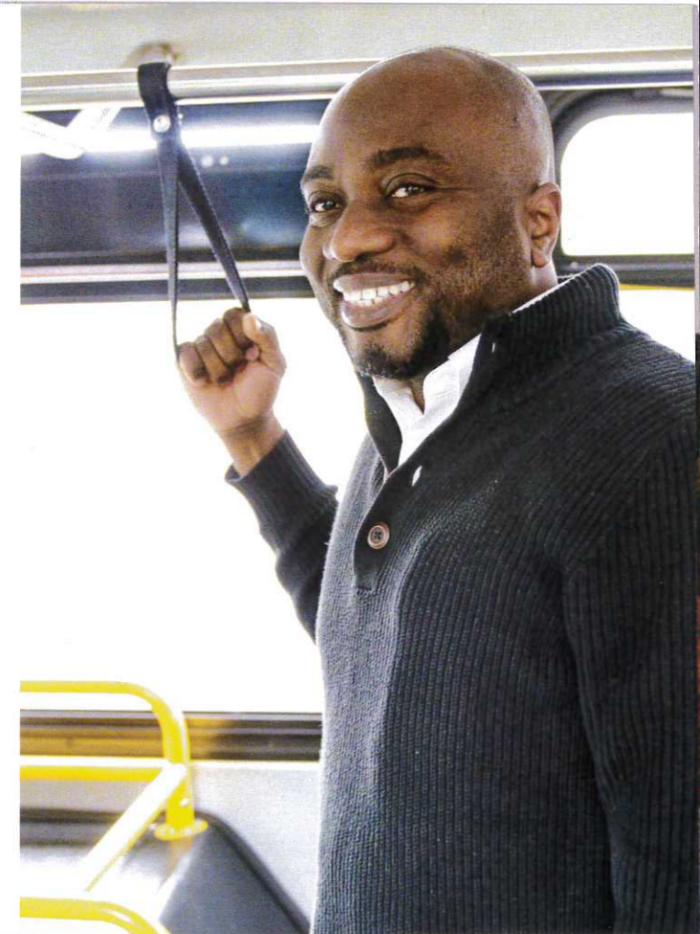
Creating accountability for ourselves and our region.



***Our Strategic Plan
concludes with
these thoughts:***

GPCOG is uniquely positioned to positively impact the future of every one of our member communities, and by extension the entire state of Maine ... Our plan reflects the priorities of our communities. It meets the needs of today and tomorrow. And it offers us the opportunity to effectively engage our region in finding successful solutions to issues that we cannot hope to solve on our own.

We hope you agree, and that you'll be our partner on this exciting journey!





*Helping Communities
Thrive and Prosper in
the Greater Portland
and Lakes Region*



Bridgton

Cape Elizabeth

Casco

Chebeague
Island

Cumberland

Cumberland
County

Durham

Falmouth

Freeport

Frye Island

Gorham

Gray

Harrison

Long Island

Naples

New Gloucester

North Yarmouth

Portland

Pownal

Raymond

Scarborough

Sebago

South Portland

Standish

Westbrook

Windham

Yarmouth



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