

Region	Type	Representatives	Areas of Responsibility								Notes	Geography	Estimated Population (most recent available)	
			Transportation	Growth Management / Land Use	Housing	Wastewater	Transit	Parks	Solid Waste	Environment/Water Resources				Arts/Culture/Aging/Other
Atlanta: Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC)	COG/MPO, membership based	39-member board: county commission chair from each member county, mayor and 1 council member from Atlanta, one mayor from each member county and 2 mayors from Fulton county, one member from the GA Dept of Community Affairs, 15 citizen members selected by the board's elected officials	P	P							P/O	Also serves as the Area Agency on Aging, providing services and policy guidance. Provides technical assistance to local governments to help them in developing local comprehensive plans (which are not required). Also reviews "developments of regional impact" - large scale developments and other projects that are likely to impact neighboring jurisdictions to ensure that all affected communities have the opportunity to voice concerns and make suggestions.	10 member counties, City of Atlanta	~4.6 million
Boston: Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)	Regional Planning Agency (Boston Region MPO is the MPO for this region), created in state law	Board and Council - 101 municipal representatives on the Council, 21 gubernatorial appointees, 9 state officials, and 3 City of Boston officials.	P	P	P		P	P			P	Works to develop regional and sub-regional plans. Contracts or grants to local governments to develop comprehensive plans. Plays a large advocacy role. Also covers areas like Arts & Culture and Public Safety.	101 municipalities	~4.5 million
Chicago: Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)	Regional planning agency (political subdivision) with an MOU with the MPO. Created by the IL legislature in 2004.	15 voting members distributed among the counties proportionately, appointed by the mayors and chief elected official of the county, 5 members appointed by the mayor of Chicago. 2 non-voting gubernatorial appointees. Exec. Director from the MPO.	P	P	P	P	P				P	Integrating land use and transportation planning, responsible for forecasting regional and community growth, develops model ordinances and agreements that may be enacted by local governments. May comment on local plans and may provide technical assistance. Coordinated regional advocacy.	7 counties, 284 communities	~8.8 million
Denver: Denver Region Council of Governments (DRCOG)	MPO & Regional Planning Association; voluntary non-profit organization	One elected representative from each member jurisdiction in the Council; 58 jurisdictional members, 3 gubernatorial non-voting appointees, and 1 non-voting member representing the Regional Transportation District (transit agency)	P	P			P				P	Develops and adopts TIP, but otherwise creates a regional framework with voluntary actions for local governments. Does not have statutory authority to require local governments to be members or to follow its plans. Had previously been the regional water quality planning agency, but was removed from that role in 2011.	More than 50 local governments covering 10 counties	~3 million
Portland: Metro	Regional Planning Agency & MPO, created in state law	Elected across the region, represent geographic districts that do not coincide with political/jurisdictional boundaries. 6 councilors and 1 president serve 4-year terms. Metro Auditor is also elected and conducts performance audits of Metro's programs and oversight of annual financial statements.	P	P	P	P	P	P/O	P/O		P/O	Regional framework and functional plan guides compliance activities by local governments (city, county). Management of urban growth boundary. Guides growth to specific areas within the region (sub-city nodes, districts), and predicates investment on compliance with standards. Develops model ordinances related to its responsibilities which local governments must adopt/implement.	3 counties, 25 municipalities	~1.5 million
Seattle: Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC)	Regional planning agency and MPO. Inter-jurisdictional agreement.	General Assembly comprised of more than 80 local governments and agencies, including 4 counties, cities and towns, ports, state and local transportation agencies, and tribal governments within the region. Elected officials of the General Assembly elect a 32-member Executive Board who is empowered to make decisions.	P	P							P	Focus on regional growth, transportation, and economic development. State law requires coordination and consistency among planning efforts where there are common borders or related regional issues, and sets the framework for regional review of local comprehensive plans, including certification of transportation elements in those plans.	4 counties, 73 cities and towns	~4.2 million
Twin Cities: Metropolitan Council	Regional planning agency & MPO, created in state law	16 member representing geographic districts, plus a chair at large - all gubernatorial appointees	P	P	P/O	P/O	P/O	P			P	Growth management, control of sprawl, coordination of local planning activities. Local plans must be sent to the Council for review and authorization before being placed into effect. Local sewer plans must be approved by the Council before implementation. Coordination and funding of the regional park system; parks implementing agencies must send master plans to the Council for review and approval prior to implementation.	7 counties, 181 cities and townships	~3.1 million