Regional Governance Models
Common models - definitions

- **Councils of government (COG):** Voluntary member organization of local governments that plays a coordinating role and/or addresses regional issue(s)

- **Metropolitan planning organizations (MPO):** Designated to carry out the federal metropolitan transportation planning process and requirements

- **Regional development authority (RDA):** Generally designated to coordinate the economic development of a region. Typically allowed for and defined under state statutes and responsibilities and roles vary from state to state and from agency to agency.

- **Regional planning agency (RPA):** Voluntary or set in statutes, formed to address issues that transcend regional boundaries. Policy areas can vary from narrow single-topic agencies to comprehensive planning agencies
Regional governance in practice

Voluntary

Combination of the two

State and federal delegated authority

COG

JPC

RDA

RPA

MPO

SPA
Peer Region Examples

- Portland – Metro
- Denver – Denver Region Council of Governments
- Boston – Metropolitan Area Planning Council
- Chicago – Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
- Seattle – Puget Sound Regional Council
- Atlanta – Atlanta Regional Council
- Twin Cities – Metropolitan Council
# In the Field, a Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Representatives</th>
<th>Transportation</th>
<th>Growth Management / Land Use</th>
<th>Housing</th>
<th>Wastewater</th>
<th>Transit</th>
<th>Parks</th>
<th>Solid Waste</th>
<th>Environment / Water Resources</th>
<th>Arts / Culture / Aging / Other</th>
<th>Geography</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Portland: Metro</td>
<td>Regional Planning Agency &amp; MPO, created in state law</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>P/ O</td>
<td>P/ O</td>
<td>P/ O</td>
<td>P/ O</td>
<td>P/ O</td>
<td>3 counties, 25 municipalities</td>
<td>~1.5 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twin Cities: Metropolitan Council</td>
<td>Regional planning agency &amp; MPO, created in state law</td>
<td>16 member representing geographic districts, plus a chair at large - all gubernatorial appointees</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>P/ O</td>
<td>P/ O</td>
<td>P/ O</td>
<td>P/ O</td>
<td>P/ O</td>
<td>P/ O</td>
<td>P/ O</td>
<td>P/ O</td>
<td>7 counties, 181 cities and townships</td>
<td>~3.1 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Denver: Denver Region Council of Governments (DRCOG)</td>
<td>MPO &amp; Regional Planning Association; voluntary non-profit organization</td>
<td>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)</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>P/ O</td>
<td>More than 50 local governments covering 10 counties</td>
<td>~3 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston: Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)</td>
<td>Regional Planning Agency (Boston Region MPO is the MPO for this region), created in state law</td>
<td>Board and Council - 101 municipal representatives on the Council, 21 gubernatorial appointees, 9 state officials, and 3 City of Boston officials.</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>101 municipalities</td>
<td>~4.5 million</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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