

Governance Initiatives

Some of the projects described in Chapter 4 could advance today with existing tools and authorities available to the public and private sectors. For example, federal and private building owners can make energy efficient improvements to their buildings, and GSA has the authority to redevelop buildings and land for which it is responsible. To advance other projects will require new or amended authorization in the form of policy or legislative action. In addition, several key infrastructure and development projects will require significant coordination across multiple stakeholders and a forum for that coordination to take place. These include:

- › Managing and paying for district-wide infrastructure projects including water, energy and roads.
- › Coordinating the multiple transportation modes at L'Enfant Station.
- › Organizing public and private development activity within the Ecodistrict to ensure that the District of Columbia and federal government's broader goals are achieved.

While there are a variety of governance models that could serve as a coordinating body, such as a redevelopment agency or a special purpose entity for infrastructure development, three governance initiatives are recommended for the SW Ecodistrict:

- › Developing a partnership agreement between the federal and District governments that outlines individual commitments.
- › Creating a governance entity similar to a business improvement district, passing legislation that will specify special authorities or actions necessary to carry out the recommendations, or a combination of these two strategies. .
- › Expanding the authorities of the Union Station Redevelopment Corporation to include coordinating multi-modal activity at both Union Station and L'Enfant Station.

Each of the suggested individual governance initiatives are described in detail on the following pages:

DEVELOP A PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DISTRICT AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The *SW Ecodistrict Plan* will only succeed if the federal government and the District of Columbia are committed to its vision and take actions to advance its recommendations. A partnership agreement would serve as a good faith commitment by both. Many federal and District of Columbia agencies helped to develop the plan recommendations, and each plays a critical and distinct role in successfully implementing the recommendations. A partnership agreement would provide a tool for coordination and outline individual commitments to achieve the *SW Ecodistrict Plan* recommendations, such as zoning or development regulations, or federal contributions to district-wide projects.