It is a universal goal to live a healthy and meaningful life.

Whether such a life is within reach for all residents—

— no matter who they are or where they live—

—is a measure of our strength as a region.
Today, in Greater Boston, there's a strong tie between race and wealth. There's one between health and wealth, too.

Middle-income households are healthier than those living in or near poverty but they are less healthy than those with higher incomes.

This could be seen clearly in the COVID-19 crisis.

But this was only one example.
The median net worth of African American households in Greater Boston is $8 compared to $247,500 for white households.

While only 6% of whites live in poverty in Greater Boston... nearly 25% of Latinx individuals... and over 15% of Asians live in poverty across the region.

Black youth asthma hospitalization rates in Greater Boston are nearly 6x higher than white youth hospitalization rates...

Latinx are more than 3x higher.

Today's people of color carry the legacy of a long history of racial oppression.

This includes descending from families who were barred from opportunities to build wealth and stability over generations and continuing racial inequalities.

Low wages and minimal worker protection...

...make it hard for employees to achieve economic stability.

When jobs don't pay decent wages, workers can't afford healthy food and appropriate housing and they suffer more stress.

The way we fund education means wealthier school districts are better funded than poorer districts - where there are often more people of color. This extends disadvantage into the future.
Improve neighborhoods: A community’s built and natural environments affect the health of its residents. So do its social ties.

More than 60% of people’s health can be traced to what their neighborhoods are like.

Invest in public health infrastructure.

Create more ways for those who have experienced economic inequities to build wealth and assets.

Fund preventative health.

Center healthcare on patient outcomes.
As the region recovers and rebuilds, we have opportunities to grow and create like never before.

Let's shape our region together!

MetroCommon is Greater Boston’s new policy and land use plan. For more information, please visit MetroCommon.mapc.org. For information about the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, please visit MAPC.org.

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