



Concentrating Growth Workgroup – 2012 Work Plan

Activity 1: Identify a sound approach to rural growth centers

Description: The Subcommittee will examine the following questions:

1. How can we best reconcile rural Maryland's right to economic opportunity with statewide goals to concentrate growth?
2. Traditional "growth boundary" approaches used for urban areas may not work as well in rural areas – is there a better approach?
3. Density criteria have not been well received in rural Maryland as a growth management tool – is there a better approach?
4. Can we create a new, rural growth paradigm that focuses instead on infrastructure, transportation corridors, and "sense of place"?
5. What are best practices for creating villages, hamlets and similar rural commercial centers?

Intended Accomplishments: A written report and presentation to the Commission, including new legislative, policy or funding proposals if warranted.

Intended Completion Date: October 1, 2012

Activity 2: Advocate for increased funding of key revitalization programs

Description: In its 2011 report the Workgroup proposed, and the Commission endorsed, increased State funding for the Sustainable Communities Tax Credit, Community Legacy, Neighborhood Business Works, Community Investment Tax Credit, and Local Government Infrastructure Financing. These programs incentivize infill and redevelopment in existing growth centers around the State. In consultation with Chairman Laria, the Workgroup members have advocated for these programs during the 2012 General Assembly Session.

Intended Accomplishments: Increased funding for the five programs.

Intended Completion Date: April 9, 2012 for this General Assembly Session, with continued advocacy in future Sessions.