

# Smart Growth Subcabinet Public Forum

*Saturday, August 17, 2024 – 9:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.*

*MACo Conference, Ocean City, MD*

SGSC Public Forum is a hybrid meeting that is being recorded.

A transcript of the meeting will be posted on the [Subcabinet webpage](#).

# Hybrid Public Forum Details

- ▶ Zoom registration started on August 1 and is now closed for either in-person or virtual
- ▶ **Virtual Attendees**
  - Questions submitted by Wednesday, August 14, have been provided to the subcabinet in advance of the meeting
  - Questions received after August 14<sup>th</sup> will be added to the question log
  - Virtual attendees will not be able to make comments live during the meeting - they will have a listen-only option
- ▶ **In-person Attendees**
  - Public Comments will be taken live in the meeting room

# PUBLIC FORUM AGENDA

- 09:00 Welcome & Subcabinet Introductions
  - 09:15 Evolving from Smart to Sustainable Growth
  - 09:30 SGSC 2023-2024 Legislative & Agency Highlights
  - 10:00 Public Comments
  - 10:30 Subcabinet Closing Round & Comments
  - 10:45 Adjourn Meeting
- 
- 11:15 Governor's Closing Remarks at MACo

# SMART GROWTH SUBCABINET MEMBERS

- ▶ Planning Secretary **Rebecca Flora**, Chair\*
- ▶ Housing & Comm. Dev Secretary **Jake Day**, Vice Chair\*
- ▶ Agriculture Secretary **Kevin Atticks**
- ▶ Budget & Management Secretary **Helene Grady**
- ▶ Commerce Secretary **Kevin Anderson**
- ▶ Environment Secretary **Serena McIlwain**
- ▶ General Services Secretary **Atif Chaudhry**
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- ▶ Transportation Secretary Paul Wiedefeld (**Geoff Anderson**)
- ▶ Director of Maryland Energy Administration **Paul Pinsky**
- ▶ Assist Sec. of the DHCD Office of Neighborhood Revitalization: **Carol Gilbert**
- ▶ Governor's Deputy COS: Shaina Hernandez (**Tunji Adenkan** - virtual)
- ▶ National Ctr for Smart Growth at UMD: **Kathryn Howell** (ex-officio)
- ▶ Emergency Management Secretary **Russ Strickland\***

\*effective October 1, 2024

# Smart to Sustainable Growth

# SGSC PRIMARY DUTIES

## §9–1406 (h) (1) of State Government Article

- ▶ Provide a forum for discussion of interdepartmental issues relating to activities that affect growth, development, neighborhood conservation, and resource management;
- ▶ Work together using all available resources to promote the understanding of smart (sustainable) growth;
- ▶ Work together to create, enhance, support, and revitalize sustainable communities across the state;
- ▶ ***Meet at least biannually with county and municipal elected leaders and planning officials*** to discuss local government issues relating to activities that affect smart growth, development, neighborhood conservation, and resource management.

*In 1997, Governor Glendenning led the passage of one of the nation's first Smart Growth Acts from which Marylanders will benefit for generations to come.*

*Since then, Maryland has increased annual development that occurs within designated growth areas by 20% - contributing to the state's preservation of over 700,000 acres.*

# Smart to Sustainable Growth



*It is time to build on this foundation and expand our approach to growth because we know if we focus on **WHERE** we grow and **HOW** we grow, we'll win.*

*Our new, **Sustainable** Growth model does this by balancing Maryland's economic growth needs with our environmental responsibilities and our deep commitment to ensuring no one is left behind.*

[Governor Moore's Welcome to the Smart Growth Summit 2024](#)

# Smart Growth to Sustainable Growth

[HB225/SB309 Smart Growth Subcabinet and Repeal of the Office of Smart Growth.](#)

- ▶ Effective October 1, 2024
- ▶ Designates MDP Secretary as Chair and DHCD Secretary as Vice Chair
- ▶ Identifies MDP as the primary office
- ▶ Adds MDEM Secretary to the membership
- ▶ Adds Equitable and Resilient growth as new values
- ▶ Replaces Smart with Sustainable throughout
- ▶ Replaces Neighborhood “Conservation” with “VITALITY”

# Sustainable Growth Model

- ▶ Builds on the success of designated growth areas that:
  - Focused investment within existing communities and infrastructure SGSC Amendment
  - Reduced negative impacts of sprawl on the environment
  - Outcomes:
    - Over 700,000 acres preserved
    - Increased annual development in growth areas by 20%

- ▶ Expand our focus to other aspects of land use policies that influence the success of:
  - Economic growth
  - Availability and equitable access to housing and jobs
  - Public infrastructure investments
  - Climate change mitigation & adaptation strategies
- ▶ Outcomes: thriving communities that are resilient to ever changing conditions

# Sustainable Growth Model Implementation

Review, update, and enhance for clarity, efficiency, and effectiveness of programs & policies:

- ▶ Revisit the [Planning Visions](#)
- ▶ Update the Sustainable Communities Framework
- ▶ Update Comprehensive Plan Elements
- ▶ Create Sustainable Growth Performance Metrics
- ▶ Enhance collaboration across agencies



# Sustainable Growth Model – *activity initiated*

## 2024 Outreach:

- ▶ Sustainable Growth from Here Summit – May 2024
- ▶ MDP regional roundtables with planners – July/August 2024
- ▶ Ongoing agency workshops, presentations, and engagement



# SGSC 2023-2024 Legislative & Agency Highlights

# SGSC 2023-2024 Legislative Highlights

## ▶ 2023:

- [Preservation and Reuse of Historic Complexes Study](#): DHCD- team lead, *SGSC approved report and recommendations, 12-01-23*
- [Maryland the Beautiful Act SGSC Five-year Plan](#), DNR- team lead, *SGSC approved, 06-21-24*
- [Equitable and Inclusive Transit-Oriented Development Enhancement Act](#) : MDOT – team lead, *SGSC approved eligibility requirements and standards with comments, 07-19-24*

## ▶ 2024

- Smart Growth Subcabinet Act Amendment – effective 10/01/24
- Governor Moore’s 2024 Housing Package
- DHCD Departmental Just Communities Act

# Maryland Department of Natural Resources

# Greenspace Equity Program



- ▶ Established in 2023 through legislation. ([Chapter 487 of 2023](#))
- ▶ Provides grants to eligible applicants to enhance the public health and livability of overburdened communities and underserved communities by implementing projects to preserve, create, and enhance community greenspace.
  - Makes conservation more equitable
  - Meets community needs for greenspace
  - Supports on the ground partners

# Eligibility



- ▶ Who is eligible to apply?
  - A land trust or nongovernmental organization located or working in an overburdened community or an underserved community where a project is proposed to be implemented
  - A county or municipality
- ▶ Where can these projects occur?
  - In an overburdened community as defined in legislation
  - In an underserved community as defined in legislation
- ▶ Greenspace Equity Viewer
  - <https://dnr.maryland.gov/land/Pages/Greenspace-Equity-Program.aspx>

# Types of Projects



- ▶ Eligible projects - acquisition or capital development projects
- ▶ Property acquired with a grant through the program must remain in public open space/recreation use in perpetuity. Development projects must be operated and maintained for public use for at least 15 years.
- ▶ Specific examples: Community garden, community gathering open space area, community woodland, a green network (a system of greenspaces that are interconnected by linear corridors that facilitate the movement of people and wildlife); a park; a trail; an urban farm.

# Next Steps



- ▶ DNR received \$5 million in FY 2025 funding for the Greenspace Equity Program.
- ▶ The FY 2025 grant application round will open soon!
- ▶ For more information visit:  
<https://dnr.maryland.gov/land/Pages/Greenspace-Equity-Program.aspx>

# Maryland the Beautiful Act



- ▶ The Maryland the Beautiful Act (CH546) of 2023 established ambitious land conservation goals: conserve 30% of the state by 2030 (30 by 30) and conserve 40% of the state by 2040 (40 by 40).
- ▶ Through the combined efforts of state agencies, local governments, the federal government, and nonprofit land trusts, the first goal to conserve 30% of Maryland land was achieved in 2024, well in advance of the 2030 goal year.

# Maryland the Beautiful Act



- ▶ The Maryland the Beautiful Act required the Smart Growth Subcabinet to develop and publish the first five-year plan by July 1, 2024 to outline how to meet the goals in the legislation. The first Maryland the Beautiful Plan can be found on the Subcabinet's website.
  - <https://planning.maryland.gov/Documents/Our-Engagement/SGSC/2024-MD-the-Beautiful-SGSC-5-Year-Plan.pdf>
- ▶ An annual report on the state's progress is due December 1 of each year and the plan will be updated at least every 5 years.
- ▶ State agencies continue to work with partners to conserve 40% of Maryland by 2040.

# Maryland the Beautiful Plan (SB470)

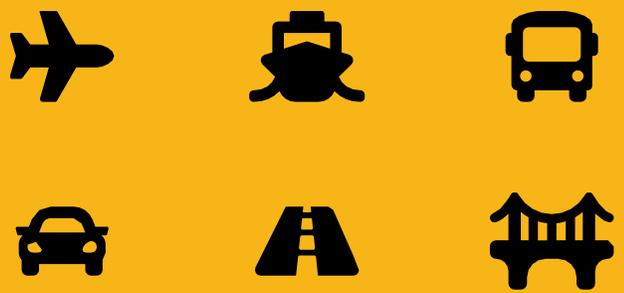


- ▶ The bill established the following state land conservation goals:
  - (1) by 2030, 30% of lands in the State be conserved and
  - (2) by 2040, 40% of lands in the State be conserved
- ▶ The bill also established the 40 x 40 Land Conservation Implementation Grant Program and the Local Land Trust Revolving Loan Program that may be funded in future fiscal years.

# Maryland Department of Transportation



# Equitable and Inclusive Transit Oriented Development Enhancement Act



# TOD Designation Plan Elements

## Land Use



Land use plan for mix of uses targeting meaningful densities

## Bike, Pedestrian, Complete Streets



Pedestrian, bicycle and personal mobility connectivity strategies

## Housing



Goals for housing production, density and affordability

## Action Plan



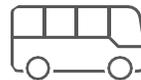
Action plan providing timeline, community engagement strategy, enabling projects, zoning, potential funding sources and commitments

## Parking



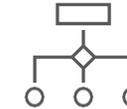
Rationalized parking strategy for the intended development

## Transportation Network



Strategy for connectivity to transit

## Cohesion



Consistency with local and regional land use and comprehensive plans

## Green Infrastructure



Strategies for incorporating green infrastructure and other environmental strategies

# Maryland Department of Housing & Community Development



Maryland

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING  
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

TURNING THE  
**KEY**



UNLOCKING  
MARYLAND'S  
POTENTIAL



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

[PLANNING.MARYLAND.GOV](http://PLANNING.MARYLAND.GOV)

Wes Moore – Governor | Aruna Miller – Lt. Governor | Rebecca Flora, AICP -  
Secretary

# Maryland's Housing Crisis: The Problem

Maryland, like every state in the nation, is facing a housing affordability crisis caused by a supply shortage, and driven by our state's failure to build at a sufficient pace.

Maryland is short **96,000** housing units. Over the last 10 years, Maryland has underproduced housing at a rate of **5,600** units per year on average.





# Fiscal Year 2025 Legislative Session

## Governor Wes Moore's 2024 Housing Package

- Housing Expansion and Affordability Act
- Renters' Rights and Stabilization Act
- Housing and Community Development Financing Act

## Departmental Bill

- Just Communities Act



# Session Implementation

Follow along as the department publishes guidance and resources for local officials, developers, community development organizations and others to implement the new laws.

- Go to the Turning the Key webpage at [dhcd.maryland.gov/TurningtheKey](https://dhcd.maryland.gov/TurningtheKey)
- Subscribe to the Turning the Key campaign distribution lists at [dhcd.maryland.gov/subscribe](https://dhcd.maryland.gov/subscribe)
- Follow us on social media @mdhousing on X, @marylandhousing on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn

## Subscription Topics

- Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) ⓘ
- Maryland Mortgage Program (MMP) ⓘ
- Community Development Administration Partner Lists ⓘ
- Newsletters
- Turning the Key: Unlocking Maryland's Potential ⓘ
  - Updates for County and Municipal Officials ⓘ
  - Updates for Law Enforcement and Legal Partners ⓘ
  - Updates for Development Teams ⓘ
  - Updates for Renters and Homeowners ⓘ
  - Updates for Banks, CDFIs, Financial Institutions ⓘ
  - Updates for Community Development Organizations ⓘ

Submit

Cancel

# Public Comments

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## PUBLIC COMMENT OPTIONS

- ▶ Meeting Advance Registration Questionnaire
- ▶ Virtual Participants – Chat Area (no voice available)
- ▶ In-person Participants – 1-minute maximum each

## SGSC RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

- ▶ Subcabinet Members will provide comments / reflection during our closing round
- ▶ MDP staff will prepare a summary of comments as a record of the meeting and work with Smart Growth Coordinating Committee on response methods
- ▶ Subcabinet will include comments as input to its workplan for 2024 and beyond

# SGSC Members – Closing Round

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\*effective October 1, 2024

***Thank you for joining us today!***

Smart Growth Subcabinet [Webpage](#) for More Information and Updates