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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Maryland Department of Planning to Hold Listening Session in Montgomery County to Discuss New State Development Plan

Citizens Encouraged to Attend Monday, April 16 Evening Meeting at the Montgomery County Government Center in Silver Spring

(April 12, 2018) Baltimore, MD – The Maryland Department of Planning (Planning) is currently engaging local officials, staff, and residents in the new state development planning process, *A Better Maryland*.

Planning will host a listening session next Monday, April 16 at 7:00 p.m. at the Montgomery County Government Center, located at 8787 Georgia Avenue in Silver Spring.

The purpose of the outreach and overall statewide dialogue is to connect with stakeholders and solicit feedback about the plan and how it can help local governments and state agencies better meet local planning needs.

“Governor Hogan signed an Executive Order in August 2017, providing a great opportunity for all of us to work together on a new state development plan,” said Special Secretary of Smart Growth Wendi Peters. “As we complete our initial round of listening sessions in every county and Baltimore City, the feedback we are receiving from citizens, local governments and other stakeholders is providing valuable insight and information for *A Better Maryland*.”

At the listening sessions, attendees view a short presentation and interact with planning staff and other stakeholders using an instant polling exercise and discussion questions.

The overall effort consists of a series of 24 outreach events in every Maryland county and Baltimore City. Planning will be scheduling additional follow-up meetings later this year to discuss the information gathered and next steps for the plan.

Stakeholders can also review the project purpose and methodology, find out about upcoming listening sessions, read summaries of session input, and complete a [survey](#) at the [***A Better Maryland.gov***](#) website. The website also includes notes and discussions from the prior listening sessions.

"We continue to receive phenomenal feedback as we complete our initial listening sessions," said Acting Secretary of Planning Rob McCord. "Each meeting has brought a unique local perspective and we encourage people to view comments from prior meetings around the State on the ***A Better Maryland*** website."

The survey remains open and is an excellent way for citizens to become involved if they cannot attend a listening session or they prefer to provide an online comment. The outreach is designed to provide convenient and frequent access to make engagement meaningful and consistent.

Planning is working closely with the public, local governments, state agencies and other stakeholders, the [Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission](#), the [Maryland Municipal League](#), and the [Maryland Association of Counties](#) to develop and maintain a productive dialogue throughout the effort.

For questions about ***A Better Maryland***, please contact Chuck Boyd, Director of Planning Coordination, (chuck.boyd@maryland.gov) at 410-767-1401.

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