



To: Jon Laria, Chair, Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission  
Maryland Sustainable Growth Commissioners

From: Gerrit Knaap, PlanMaryland Workgroup Chair

Subject: Status Report on PlanMaryland Workgroup

Since the last Commission meeting, the Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission PlanMaryland Workgroup met with representatives from two state agencies to discuss each department's progress on its PlanMaryland implementation strategies – meeting on September 26 with Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) representatives and on October 30 with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). Please refer to the attached summary notes from these meetings.

The Workgroup has met with the following seven state agencies to discuss their implementation of PlanMaryland:

Department of Business and Economic Development	(January 11, 2013)
Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation	(March 4, 2013)
Department of Housing and Community Development	(April 8, 2013)
Maryland Higher Education Commission	(July 1, 2013)
Department of Natural Resources	(August 29, 2013)
Maryland Department of Transportation	(September 26, 2013)
Maryland Department of the Environment	(October 30, 2013)

Arrangements are being made to meet with the Department of Budget and Management, along with MDP, to discuss their PlanMaryland Implementation Strategies, and particular the use of the PlanMaryland Map in the capital budget review process.

The Workgroup members agreed that no additional State agency meetings should be scheduled until the Workgroup drafts a PlanMaryland Progress Assessment Report (PAR) that summarizing its observations regarding the first set of State agency Implementation Strategies. The Workgroup Chair and MDP staff will be meeting in December to prepare the PlanMaryland PAR outline, which will be circulated to the Workgroup, before the report is drafted.

Participants:

Workgroup: Gerrit Knaap, Greg Bowen, Don Halligan, Todd Lang, Brian O'Malley, Andrea Roethke, Candace Donoho, Les Knapp, Kim Brandt, and John Papagni

Other State Staff: Roger Venezia, Marty Baker, Mike Haley, Joe Tassone, Peter Conrad, and Chuck Boyd

## **I. Discussion with Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) on its PlanMaryland Implementation Strategies.**

Don Halligan facilitated the discussion of MDOT's implementation of PlanMaryland. He and other representatives of MDOT highlighted the department's progress on MDOT's six Implementation Strategies:

- **Project Evaluation/Checklist**

MDOT is strengthening its project selection and review processes:

- Using the Chapter 725 Implementation through Capital Program Project Information Forms (PIFs), and Priority Letters – Project Justification
- Smart Growth Review Process includes a Priority Funding Area Review, consistency assessment with the 12 Visions, and possibly PlanMaryland implications

- **Planning Area Evaluation & Integration**

MDOT is work to improve its data collection, performance measures, and other analytics. They are looking to see how PlanMaryland Planning Areas and Sustainable Communities can be integrated into the planning process to enhance multi-modal opportunities and address land use/travel concerns. MDOT is exploring use of its discretionary programs to focus on sidewalk and bicycle retrofits and using the Community Safety and Enhancement Program and the Bikeways Program in designated Sustainable Communities. MDOT is also working to enhance its coordination and review of Heritage Areas, Transportation Alternatives, Recreational Trails, Bikeways, and Community Legacy and SGIF projects.

- **Technical Analysis/Decision-Support Tools**

MDOT continues to

- Enhance its MD Statewide Transportation Model (MSTM) to include regional economy/commodity flows and associated travel demand;
- Promote Transit-Oriented Development in proximity to state transportation facilities;
- Test its Model of Sustainability and Integrated Corridors (MOSAIC);
- Pursue vertical integration and inter-operability needs assessments; and
- Promote Capital Projects Prioritization through use of decision support tools.

- **Maryland Transportation Plan Development**

MDOT just released the draft 2035 Maryland Transportation Plan (MTP) for public review and comment. The MTP has incorporated the Planning Visions and the PlanMaryland framework into the document, as well as including a regional mapping approach with specific strategies for each area.

- **Policy – Complete Streets**

SHA established a “Complete Streets Policy” in July 2012 that requires SHA and partners to consider all modes/users. This policy has been presented to MPOs, Planning Directors, and several other groups. New Bicycle Design Guidelines have also been established that now require all projects (e.g. resurfacing) to include bicycle lanes. The Complete Street Policy also addresses Transit-Oriented Development and bicycle and pedestrian Priority Areas.

- **State/Local Interagency Sustainability Planning – Special Area/Corridor Pilot Program**

MDOT has been working on the Baltimore County Carbon-Neutral Corridor project using an inter-agency approach to examine potential benefits and trade-offs. Similar efforts are being explored for Transit-Oriented Development, such as “Green Streets and Complete Streets,” and other Potential Pilot Programs, such as Multimodal Accessibility Framework, and Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Areas.

One Workgroup member recognized MDOT’s desire to include regional mapping and strategies into the draft MTP, but was concerned that the strategies should not get too specific and should remain as general as possible, while still being effective. Others observed that the MTP should strengthen its references on the issue of workforce access to jobs and connecting to economic investments. It also was suggested that greater coordination with DLLR may be needed and possibly incorporating an economic development strategy into the plan.

Participants:

Workgroup: Gerrit Knaap, Greg Bowen, Todd Lang, Marty Baker, Candace Donoho, Les Knapp, Kim Brandt, and John Papagni

Other State Staff: Jeff Fretwell, Joe Tassone, Peter Conrad, and Chuck Boyd

## **I. Discussion with Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) on its PlanMaryland Implementation Strategies.**

Jeff Fretwell facilitated the discussion of MDE's implementation of PlanMaryland and highlighted the following efforts:

- As part of the PlanMaryland implementation process, MDE evaluated 105 departmental plans, programs and procedures and determined that 29 of them have a comparatively significant impact on growth, development and land preservation in Maryland. MDE's implementation strategies focused on these activities.
- MDE identified five goals to focus its Implementation Strategies:
  - Concentrate development and redevelopment in communities where there is existing and planned infrastructure.
    - MDE has several strategies related to departmental programs (i.e. Water Resources Program, Water Quality Financing Administration, Wastewater Permits Program, Water Supply Program, Stormwater Management Program) that MDE is using to encourage concentrated development. Some notable accomplishments are:
      - MDE has incorporated smart growth assessments a routine part of its review of county W&S Plan updates and amendment reviews.
      - MDE has evaluated the existing Water Quality Financing priority ranking and found it is consistent with PlanMaryland and no further refinements are planned at this time.
      - MDE continues to ensure that all requests for new/increases in permit discharges for growth are consistent with W&S Plans, which in turn must be consistent with county comprehensive plans.
      - MDE has been working with a stakeholder group on the possibility of developing a water appropriation fee, but no recommendation has been reached and there is little support for a fee at this time. However, without additional financial resources the progress fulfilling the recommendations of the Wolman Commission will remain challenging.
      - MDE and Bay Cabinet Agencies are developing an Accounting for Growth (AfG) Program to account for new and increased loads of pollutants that have no allocation in the WIP. An AfG Workgroup has help MDE reach consensus on many contentious issues. The Workgroup's report was published in August.
  - Preserve and protect environmentally sensitive land and water resources
    - MDE is currently in the process of reviewing the Water Quality Protection Tier II Anti-degradation regulations.
  - Mitigate and adapt to climate change
    - MDE has released the final Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction Plan in July. MDE and other state agencies will be working to implement the GHG Reduction Plan to reduce CO2 emissions through various strategies.

- Promote healthier communities
  - MDE will continue to implement and improve its programs for lead poisoning. MDE has developed Environmental Justice public participation fact sheet and will be enhancing the EJ portion of the MDE's website. MDE continues to implement and improve Maryland's Clean Air Plan for Ozone Nonattainment.
- Encourage sustainable practices
  - MDE currently provides technical assistance to MD businesses regarding environmental management, pollution prevention, lean & clean manufacturing, on-site pollution prevention, and energy efficient pilot projects. MDE is working on a "zero waste" strategy to eliminate 85% of all solid wastes in Maryland by 2030.

The Workgroup acknowledged the effectiveness of MDE's comprehensive status report/presentation and noted that this status report made it easy to track their Implementation Strategy progress.