



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

From: Gerrit Knaap, MSGC PlanMaryland Workgroup Chair

Subject: Status Report on MSGC PlanMaryland Workgroup

The Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission (MSGC) PlanMaryland Workgroup has completed its first two State agency review meetings to talk about PlanMaryland Implementation Strategies. The Workgroup decided in December of 2012 to first focus on how PlanMaryland's implementation addresses sustainable economic growth, and accordingly asked the Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED) and the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (DLLR) to present their PlanMaryland Implementation Strategies.

At the January 11th meeting, Ursula Powidski and Roger Venezia from DBED presented an overview of the DBED's mission and general operations. They highlighted the Maryland Economic Development Commission's (MEDC) five-year strategic plan and its integration into DBED's PlanMaryland Implementation Strategies. The four strategies of MEDC's strategic plan: 1) *Position Maryland for Growth*; 2) *Build On Existing Strengths*; 3) *Embrace Regional and Economic Diversity*; and 4) *Make It Easy (and More Profitable) To Do Business and Live in Maryland*, coincide with the major priorities that DBED has identified for its initial set of PlanMaryland Implementation Strategies to work on.

At the March 4th meeting, Daniel Savery and Ellen Flowers-Fields from DLLR presented an overview of DLLR, with particular focus on the operations of the Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning (DWDAL). DWDAL is charged with ensuring employers have the skilled workforce they need to be competitive, as well as helping Marylanders get access to employment and training resources and services. Ms. Flowers-Fields discussed DWDAL's role in coordinating the efforts of Maryland's 12 Workforce Investment Areas, which have workforce training programs that are tuned to their respective areas, with the State's five year workforce investment strategy – *The State of Maryland Integrated Workforce Plan*. Ms. Flowers-Fields then highlighted DLLR's efforts to address its three proposed PlanMaryland Implementation Strategies.

After discussing a number of specific departmental questions, the Workgroup broadened its inquiry to whether the proposed PlanMaryland Implementation Strategies identified by DBED and DLLR were adequate to address the sustainable economic growth challenges facing Maryland. **The consensus of the Workgroup was that a more comprehensive approach is needed for PlanMaryland's Implementation Strategies on sustainable economic growth to include not only the marketing and business assistance of DBED and the workforce development efforts of DLLR, but also address other issues that affect economic growth, such as housing, transportation, and land development.** The Workgroup members thanked representatives from DBED and DLLR for their presentation and invited them to participate in developing a more

comprehensive group of PlanMaryland Implementation Strategies for sustainable economic growth in Maryland.

MDP staff was asked to provide a written summary of these discussions for the Workgroup members to review. It is anticipated that a separate subgroup of the PlanMaryland Workgroup will work directly with DBED, DLLR, DHCD, MDOT, MDP and other identified State agencies to develop a more comprehensive and integrated strategy related to sustainable economic growth.

The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development will be the next State agency to present its PlanMaryland Implementation Strategies to the Workgroup in April.