



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

From: Gerrit Knaap, PlanMaryland Workgroup Chair

Subject: Status Report on PlanMaryland Workgroup

The Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission PlanMaryland Workgroup met on April 8th with staff from the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to get an overview of the Department's operations and discuss its PlanMaryland implementation strategies. The Workgroup received presentations from: Pat Sylvester on their multifamily rental assistance programs, Nyki Robinson on their single-family housing assistance programs, Ed Landon on the Maryland Codes Administration, Kevin Baynes on the Neighborhood Revitalization Program and the Sustainable Communities effort, and Hara Wright-Smith on the draft *Housing Maryland: a Housing Policy Framework for Today and Tomorrow*.

During the DHCD presentations, various PlanMaryland Workgroup participants asked a number of questions to better understand DHCD's mission and services provided. The Workgroup expressed interest in having follow-up conversations about various aspects of DHCD's operation and possibly identifying additional opportunities/strategies related to PlanMaryland concerning housing issues. A follow-up meeting of the Workgroup will be scheduled on these matters.

The Workgroup members also provided general observations regarding the draft *Housing Maryland* document, stating that the plan should:

- Have a more spatial focus.
- Address the need for more local government integration of housing into the development of transit-oriented development (TOD) sites. There should be better targeting of housing funding around transit sites.
- In general, identify more implementation strategies.
- Have a greater focus/recognition on the relationship between local school systems and their influence on housing markets. Schools can influence housing demands and, in turn, affordability.
- Place more attention on the relationship of housing and job opportunities.
- Include a goal on fair housing (or a stronger reference and associated strategies).
- Include a more comprehensive and integrated strategy for Sustainable Communities.

The Workgroup's next meeting will be scheduled for late May or early June to have a follow-up discussion with DHCD and to meet with Maryland Higher Education Commission representatives on their PlanMaryland Implementation Strategies.