

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

From: Gerrit Knaap, PlanMaryland Workgroup Chair

Subject: Status Report on PlanMaryland Workgroup

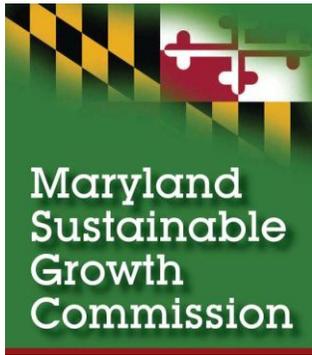
The Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission PlanMaryland Workgroup met on July 1st with Greg Fitzgerald from the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) to get an overview of the Department's operations and discuss its PlanMaryland implementation strategies. A number of different items were discussed regarding MHEC's operations. Please refer to the attached summary notes from the meeting.

The Workgroup recommended given the need for PlanMaryland to coordinate with a number of statewide plans, such as MHEC's 2013 Maryland State Plan for Postsecondary Education (Maryland Ready), and MDOT's Maryland Transportation and DHCD's housing plan, and many others, that PlanMaryland should include a catalog of statewide plans, which may impact or be impacted by the Plan.

The Workgroup also discussed the use of PlanMaryland Planning Areas as tool in the capital improvement planning process for postsecondary education institutions, as well as for other state-fund projects. The Workgroup asked that the use of the PlanMaryland Planning Areas Map be one of the topics for the next meeting to discuss how the mapping tool may be used to inform state agencies and improve coordination of state investment/resources with local interests and needs.

As reported in the summary notes, the Workgroup also began its discussion of what topics should be included in a PlanMaryland economic development strategy or element. An initial list of topics was circulated by Mr. Gerrit Knaap and briefly discussed by the Workgroup. Mr. Knaap has suggested that a sub-workgroup could help to refine and/or add to this list of topics, with the intent that this list would be used by the various participating agencies and groups to develop a draft statewide economic development. The Workgroup also discussed the need for the economic development strategies to have regional focus and the importance of having broad participation in the development of these strategies. The Workgroup will continue to work with DBED, DLLR, MDP and other state and local government agencies and interest groups to advance this initiative.

The Workgroup's next meeting will be scheduled for early August, with the intent of having follow-up discussions regarding the draft housing plan and the progress made on a comprehensive economic development strategy. The Workgroup also hopes to meet with either Maryland Department of Transportation or Department of Natural Resources representatives on their PlanMaryland Implementation Strategies.



Participants:

Workgroup: Gerrit Knaap, Todd Lang, Andrea Roethke, Kimberly Brandt, Les Knapp, and John Papagni

Other State Staff: Daniel Savery, Greg Fitzgerald, Joe Tassone, Richard Josephson, Chris Uhl, Jenny King and Chuck Boyd

Others: Melissa Schreiber-Stahl

I. Discussion with Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) on their PlanMaryland Implementation Strategies.

Greg Fitzgerald, MHEC Chief of Staff, provided the PlanMaryland Workgroup an overview of MHEC's operations and its PlanMaryland Implementation Strategies. (Comments made by the Workgroup and Mr. Fitzgerald have been incorporated into the following excerpts from MHEC's website.)

Mr. Fitzgerald explained the MHEC's mission and purpose:

The mission of the Maryland Higher Education Commission is to ensure that the people of Maryland have access to a high quality, diverse, adequately funded, effectively managed, and capably led system of postsecondary education. It accomplishes this mission through the provision of statewide planning, leadership, coordination and advocacy for the State's postsecondary educational institutions and through the administration of State financial aid programs.

He provided a summary of MHEC's organizational structure and responsibilities, as follows:

State Plan for Postsecondary Education - (Education Article, §§11-105-(b)(1)-(3)). The Commission is responsible for developing and updating biannually (with appropriate stakeholders) a State Plan for Postsecondary Education. The State Plan describes statewide workforce needs and lists goals and strategies for meeting those needs. The State Plan guides all Commission planning and decisions regarding budget recommendations and academic programs.

It was noted during the Workgroup meeting by Mr. Fitzgerald that the 2nd draft of the 2013 Maryland State Plan for Postsecondary Education (Maryland Ready) has been out for public comment and the Plan's final adoption should occur in the near future. Mr. Fitzgerald reported that the initial draft of Maryland Ready identified the need to update higher education capital planning guidelines to incorporate the goals of PlanMaryland and Smart Growth. In subsequent Maryland Ready drafts this PlanMaryland reference was removed from the body of the document, but a PlanMaryland – Smart Growth discussion would be included as appendices in the final adopted version. Mr. Fitzgerald noted these higher education capital planning guidelines address one of MHEC's PlanMaryland Implementation Strategies:

MHEC will undertake a systematic assessment and realignment of all MHEC programs to optimize their influence on Maryland's post-secondary community with emphasis on incorporating the relative concepts of PlanMaryland into the Maryland State Plan for Post-Secondary Education, focusing on sustainability and Smart Growth.

The Workgroup recommended that PlanMaryland should include a catalog of statewide plans that may impact or be impacted by the Plan.

New Colleges and Universities - (Education Article, §§11-201-11-205). There are strict academic and financial standards governing the start-up and continuation of new colleges or universities in Maryland. No college or university may operate in Maryland without Commission approval.

Academic Programs - (Education Article, §§11-206, 11-206.1). When the Commission considers requests to implement new academic programs, it looks closely at whether the program is consistent with the institution's educational mission and whether other Maryland colleges or universities already offer the program.

Mission Statements - (Education Article, §§11-302, 11-303). Every public college and university has a mission statement which is reviewed and approved by the Commission. It describes who the institution teaches, what area it serves, its admission standards, and what academic areas the campus specializes in.

State Desegregation Plan - (Education Article, §§11-105(f)). The Commission is responsible for implementing a plan to eliminate the vestiges of Maryland's former segregated higher education system.

Operating and Capital Budget Recommendations – (Education Article, 11-105(i)(2)). The Commission is required to present to the Governor and the General Assembly a consolidated operating and capital budget for higher education. This consolidated budget includes the operating and capital budget requests of the governing boards and institutions, the operating budget request of the Commission, a report on the current funding of the adopted sets of peer institutions, and recommendations regarding the funding of higher education.

Mr. Fitzgerald reported to the Workgroup that MHEC has been working with Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and MDP to inform capital facility planners from Maryland's community colleges about PlanMaryland and the desire for community colleges to consider the location and purpose of the PlanMaryland Planning Areas as they do their capital improvement planning. MHEC will be modifying its procedures to incorporate the consideration of PlanMaryland Planning Areas into its capital improvement review process. These revisions to their review procedures address another one of MHEC's PlanMaryland Implementation Strategies:

MHEC will evaluate its procedures for capital budget requests and priorities for projects by institutions, and modify its existing MHEC procedures to bring PlanMaryland & other related state priorities into the application and review process.

The Workgroup discussed the use of PlanMaryland Planning Areas as tool in the capital improvement planning process. Some of the Workgroup members noted that Planning Areas should be considered in the evaluation process but should not be a determinant in denying a project. Mr. Fitzgerald confirmed that this was their intent – for the higher education institutions be aware of the Planning Areas as they do their capital improvement planning and able to explain how Planning Areas may have factored into the placement of new facilities. He noted that the Planning Areas would likely not be relevant to proposed capital improvements to existing facilities and would be most relevant when considering placement of a new campus location.

Funding Guidelines and Peer Performance - (Education Article, §§10-207(5) and 11-105(h)(4) and (i)(2)). The Commission established funding guidelines for the four-year public institutions (excluding St. Mary's College) to assess the adequacy of operating funding for higher education based on comparisons with peer institutions. The goal is to fund Maryland institutions within the upper quartile of their peers.

Capital Budget Priorities - (Education Article, §§11-105(i)). The Commission annually establishes capital budget priorities to be used to evaluate capital budget requests.

Aid to Community Colleges - (Education Article, §§11-105(c) and 16-305). The Commission administers the formula-based aid program that provides State funding to community colleges.

Aid to Independent Colleges - (Education Article, §§17-101-17-107). The Commission administers funding to eligible independent colleges and universities through the Joseph A. Sellinger funding formula.

Student Financial Aid - (Education Article, §§10-207(8), Title 18). The Commission's Office of Student Financial Assistance administers 23 financial aid programs totaling almost \$83 million in FY 2003 and providing assistance for almost 46,000 students to attend college.

Private Career Schools - (Education Article, §§11-201-11-205). The Commission serves as the State's regulator of private career schools. It sets academic and financial standards and takes legal action when necessary to protect students. It publishes a Consumer's Guide to Private Career Schools. No private career school may operate in Maryland without Commission approval.

Data Collection - (Education Article, §11-105(h)). The Commission establishes and maintains a higher education information system to assist in the development of statewide higher education policy. The Commission conducts research, collects and analyzes data and regularly publishes reports on postsecondary education.

Accountability - (Education Article, §§11-304 - 11-308). The Commission annually reviews accountability reports from public colleges and universities (independent colleges and universities submit reports voluntarily) and prepares

a consolidated document for the Governor and General Assembly. These reports track progress toward common and individualized sets of goals and objectives in areas such as graduation, retention, minority enrollment and achievement, accessibility and affordability, diversity, regional economic and workforce development, community outreach and service, and efficiency.

Regional Higher Education Centers - (Education Article, §§11-105(d) and (i)). The Commission recommends and administers all State operating funding for Regional Higher Education Centers not operated by the University System of Maryland. The Commission has established a framework for funding and efficient use of these centers. The six centers are located in Harford County; Southern Maryland; Waldorf; Eastern Shore; Shady Grove (USM) and Hagerstown (USM).

P-20 Leadership Council - Along with the Governor, the State Superintendent of Schools, the Chancellor of the University System of Maryland, the Secretary of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, and the Secretary of Business and Economic Development, the Secretary of Higher Education serves as on the executive committee of the Governor's P-20 Leadership Council of Maryland. The Council is a forum for the education and workforce creation leadership of the state to address joint concerns, including current work on career & technology education, school leadership, and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education.

Advocacy and Outreach - The Commission provides vision, leadership and balance to higher education and acts as an advocate for institutions and students. The Commission's Office of Student Financial Assistance actively participates in workshops and college fairs throughout the State in order to disseminate information to students, parents, high school guidance counselors, college financial aid officers, and legislators.

Educational Grants - (Education Article, §§11-105(e) and (l), 11-701, 17-201-17-306). The Commission administers a number of educational grant programs funded by general funds, special funds and federal funds.

II. Update on Sustainable and Equitable Economic Development (SEED) Initiative

Chuck Boyd went over Peter Conrad's notes on the upcoming Local/ Regional Government Listening/Input Session to "Integrate Planning and Economic Development." In May, MDP conducted a statewide survey of planning directors to determine their interest on how best to integrate comprehensive planning and economic development. In June, MDP had a follow discussion on this subject at the Planning Director's Roundtable. During the coming summer months, MDP's regional planning staff will informally network with planning staff, economic development officials, education and workforce training folks and private sector trade groups to collect more intelligence on how best to integrate planning and economic development in preparation for an October full-day workshop on this topic with planning and economic development professionals. After the October event, it is anticipated that there would be several regional "events" to identify regional differences – strengths and opportunities, and to better connect to real questions/obstacles on the ground. After the regional outreach efforts, a framework plan for the integration of planning and economic development would be developed.

Joe Tassone reported on MDP's SEED efforts to address the question – how can PlanMaryland implementation help economic development be mutually supported at the state and local level. He noted that economic development has a geographic component, as most business activities tend to be located in Priority Funding Areas. There may be opportunities where state and local governments can work together to focus our limited resources in areas, such as Sustainable Communities, to promote economic development and revitalization. Mr. Tassone said that he was preparing a response to Gerrit Knaap's draft SEED report outline and would be submitting his comments shortly. Mr. Tassone stated that his intent was to relate Gerrit's "Economic Development Element: Topic List" to PlanMaryland geographies of interest.

III. Follow-up discussion on PlanMaryland Comprehensive Sustainable Economic Development Strategies

Gerrit Knaap distributed an "Economic Development Element: Topic List" outline to the PlanMaryland Workgroup. He stated this was not intended to be an exhaustive list of topics that could or should be included in PlanMaryland Economic Development Element, but is a representative listing of topics found in many of the other state economic development plans/elements. Mr. Knaap recommended that a sub-

workgroup use this list and other identified topics to develop a framework for an Economic Development Element. Todd Lang commented that a state-wide economic development initiative, such as this, would require the involvement of non-governmental organizations and the private sector to better understand the issues confronting the people that make the business and land use decisions. It will be critical to get them involved in this process at one point.

IV. Brief Update on PlanMaryland Implementation

Mr. Boyd informed the Workgroup that two jurisdictions have gone through the Planning Area identification process and have been endorsed by the Smart Growth Subcabinet. There are about eight to ten other jurisdictions currently in the process. State agencies will be submitting an annual assessment of their PlanMaryland Implementation Strategy by the end of July. A PlanMaryland progress report is scheduled to be submitted to the Governor by the end of September.

V. Next Meeting

Gerrit Knaap asked that the PlanMaryland Map be on the agenda for the next meeting, so the Workgroup can discuss how it will be used to implement the Plan. The Workgroup decided to invite either MDOT or DNR (whichever is ready) to the next meeting in early August to present their Implementation Strategies.