

Jon Laria, Chair
Suite 1101
301 West Preston Street
Baltimore Maryland 21201

May 7, 2014

Thomas G. Duncan
President
Maryland Association of Counties
169 Conduit Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission
Infill, Redevelopment, and Revitalization Initiative

Dear Councilman Duncan:

The State of Maryland wants to ensure that residents can live in healthy, vibrant communities with a range of housing, employment, and transportation options, regardless of their income or the region in which they live. In many communities, an increase in the extent of quality infill, redevelopment, and revitalization can help to achieve this goal. Therefore, the Governor and Lt. Governor have asked the Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission to recommend ways to accelerate infill, redevelopment, and revitalization in existing communities throughout Maryland (see attached letter). The Commission has identified multiple vehicles to get input from Maryland's municipalities; however, if MACO would like to provide counties with further means for providing input, the Commission is ready and willing to facilitate and accept your input.

The Commission plans to solicit information through the following vehicles:

1. Case Studies – In recognition of communities' varied circumstances and experiences, the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) and the Growth Commission selected nine places in which to conduct in-depth case studies. For each community, MDP will conduct interviews with key actors to get their insight into efforts to attract infill, redevelopment, and revitalization.
2. Planning Directors' Roundtable – Held on June 5, the Planning Directors' Roundtable will be open to an expanded audience, including representatives from local jurisdictions' economic development, housing, and historic preservation offices, and main street organizations. At this meeting, participants will engage in small group discussions regarding preliminary recommendations and have the opportunity to suggest changes or additional recommendations. Several local jurisdictions will also give presentations regarding their experiences, to help stimulate the conversation.



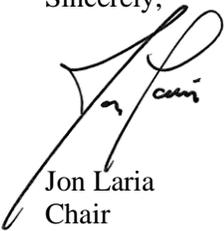
Planning.Maryland.gov
(410) 767-4500 Telephone • (410) 767-4480 Fax
(800) 767-6272 Toll Free • TTY Users: Maryland Relay

3. Survey – The Growth Commission will post a survey on its website to solicit input from a range of stakeholders, including counties, regarding efforts to attract infill, redevelopment, and revitalization.
4. MACO Convention – If time permits, given the deadline of submitting the recommendations to the Governor and Lt. Governor by August 31, MDP will display information about this effort, including the on-line survey, at its booth at the MACO Convention.
5. Public Forum – The Growth Commission will host a forum in June, at which it will discuss preliminary recommendations and get feedback from the public.

Again, the Commission wants to ensure that counties have ample opportunity to provide input into these recommendations. If MACO has additional means to solicit and organize feedback and input, please let us know.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly by e-mail at laria@ballardspahr.com or 410.528.5506, or MDP's staff contact Kristen Mitchell by e-mail at Kristen.mitchell@maryland.gov or 410.767.7179. I look forward to working with you and your colleagues in Maryland's counties.

Sincerely,



Jon Laria
Chair

cc: Michael Sanderson, Executive Director, MACO
Leslie Knapp, Jr., Legal and Policy Council, MACO
Richard E. Hall, Secretary, MDP
Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission