



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

May 7, 2014

Carl L. Anderton, Jr.
President
Maryland Municipal League
1212 West Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

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

Dear Mayor Anderton:

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 MML would like to provide municipalities 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.



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3. Survey – The Growth Commission will post a survey on its website to solicit input from a range of stakeholders, including municipalities, regarding efforts to attract infill, redevelopment, and revitalization.
4. MML Convention – MDP will display information about this effort, including the on-line survey, at its booth at the MML 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 municipalities have ample opportunity to provide input into these recommendations, which we must submit to the Governor and Lt. Governor by August 31. If MML 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 municipalities.

Sincerely,



Jon Laria
Chair

cc: Scott A. Hancock, Executive Director, MML
Candace L. Donoho, Director, Government Relations, MML
Richard E. Hall, Secretary, MDP
Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission