



TO: Susan Summers, Chair
FROM: Jim Kruger, Workgroup Chair, and Joe Griffiths, Planning Staff
SUBJECT: Progress Report
DATE: May 21, 2018

Since the last work group report in March, the Education Workgroup (workgroup) held two regular meetings; on 4/3 and 5/1. During the two months since the last meeting of the Commission, the workgroup transitioned from one initiative to another, cemented its partnership with the Southern Maryland Association of Realtors (SMAR), and started planning for next year's Sustainable Growth Challenge. More details on each initiative are outlined below.

1. Rural Economies Workgroup Assistance

The workgroup decided to drop Project Green Classrooms (PGC) as a major initiative and replace it with direct assistance to the Rural Economies Workgroup. Workgroup member Sandi Olek, who works closely on the PGC program in her position with DNR, noted that it will not present a sufficient workload for the workgroup to warrant considering it an ongoing initiative. Rather, as needed she will forward requests for feedback and other PGC assistance to the workgroup.

In its March workgroup report, the Rural Economies Workgroup requested that the workgroup assist it with researching and organizing information on Maryland examples of Fast Tracking and Pre-application processes, with the ultimate objective of determining their effectiveness and applicability across the state. The workgroup discussed the needs below and Joe is working with MDP's Regional planners to develop an inventory of examples.

- Fast Track
 - Collect information from jurisdictions that employ a Fast Track Permitting program
 - Specifics
 - Criteria
 - Lessons learned
 - Develop medium, format, and strategy for disseminating this information
 - Work with the larger Commission to decide if it should recommend fast Track Systems

- Pre-application processes
 - Gather national and local best practices for pre-application and application procedures that advance greater transparency, certainty, and predictability
 - Develop medium, format, and strategy for disseminating this information

2. Reinvest Maryland Professional Training

Karen and Joe met with the Southern Maryland Association of Realtors' (SMAR) Education Committee on 4/12 and 5/10 to outline the opportunities for collaboration on the development of a training curriculum.

- SMAR expressed primary interest in a Critical Area training, which presents some complications to the creation of a curriculum dedicated to reinvestment, redevelopment, and infill in existing communities.
- Karen conducted extensive outreach to critical area program officers and local planners in southern Maryland who review project applications in the critical area. We will work with DNR and SMAR to further strategize where the goals of the association and Reinvest MD align; and how to develop a relevant curriculum to achieve these. The details are yet to be determined and this effort will be ongoing.
- A DNR staff member experienced in Critical Area training joined Karen on the May 10 conference call with SMAR's Education Committee. The Committee is very interested in receiving further education in this area. One possibility is to help organize and facilitate a Critical Area training for SMAR members and follow that with a deeper dive into Reinvest MD training.

The following is a previous request from the workgroup, reiterated here:

The workgroup still desires to engage the rest of the Commission in the development of the training, as it could benefit many different audiences, including:

- Local planning and other governmental staff
- Developers
- Citizen planners (Planning Commissioners, Boards of Zoning Appeals members)
- Elected officials
- Realtors
- Business Owners

The workgroup requests support in developing content and case studies that could be used in the training, compiling data and other resources, and reaching out to individuals and industry organizations that have a compelling interest in the development of such training. This support will not only assist in expediting the completion, but also in crafting a superior product. Reinvest Maryland 2.0 will be a valuable tool with continuing and evolving utility through the application and growth of this training program. Please contact Joe Griffiths at joseph.griffiths@maryland.gov or 410-767-4553 with any questions or suggestions.

3. Sustainable Growth Challenge

Workgroup members are currently updating the [contact list](#) in preparation for renewed outreach in the summer of 2018. The group also decided on the following changes for next year's Challenge, and the marketing materials will be modified to reflect these changes.

- Presentations required
- Attract participants outside of Central Maryland by allowing for video presentations, followed by call in Q&A

Joe attended Morgan State's Super Jury student presentations on May 16 to recruit potential students to submit projects to next year's Challenge.

Next Workgroup Meeting: 6/5/2018