



TO: Susan Summers, Chair
FROM: Jim Kruger, Workgroup Chair, and Joe Griffiths, Planning Staff
SUBJECT: Progress Report
DATE: July 23, 2018

Since the last workgroup report in May, the Education Workgroup (workgroup) held two regular meetings; on 6/5 and 7/10. During the two months since the last meeting of the Commission, the workgroup (1) gathered information for supporting the Rural Economies Workgroup request, (2) continued working with the Southern Maryland Association of Realtors (SMAR) on the development of a potential Reinvest MD 2.0 training, and (3) updated outreach information on and initiated outreach for next year's Sustainable Growth Challenge. More details on each initiative are outlined below. The workgroup also added a new member, Arabia Davis.

1. Rural Economies Workgroup Assistance

As described in the May workgroup report, the Rural Economies Workgroup requested the following information

- 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

Maryland Department of Planning (Planning) staff has been collecting examples of fast tracking and pre-application processes for further research, and will be contacting the following jurisdictions this summer, as well as continuing to research others.

- Hagerstown
- Baltimore City
- Princess Anne

2. Reinvest Maryland Professional Training

Since the last Commission meeting, Planning staff member, Karen Mierow, took a leadership role in this effort. She has been persistent, but progress has stalled. As mentioned in May, SMAR is mostly interested in Critical Area Training. Karen established a connection between SMAR and Julie Roberts, a Department of Natural Resources staff member, who provides Critical Area training to jurisdictions and other interested groups. Julie will be scheduling an upcoming training with SMAR. The connection between Reinvest Maryland 2.0 and Critical Areas was always tenuous. Karena and Joe will be participating in the August 9 meeting of SMAR's Education Committee, at which other opportunities for training will be considered and a plan set forth.

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

The workgroup focused the majority of its efforts since the May meeting on modifying Challenge resources and preparing for a summer outreach program. Planning staff updated the grading rubric, outreach summary handout, flyer, and submission sheet. Staff also updated the Challenge webpage in June to reflect these changes.

During the 7/10 meeting, workgroup members assigned themselves colleges to reach out to, and Joe updated the [contact list](#) to reflect these assignments. Calls, emails, and meeting requests will commence in July and August. We have already seen an uptick in interest, as representatives of both Towson University and St. Mary's College reached out to Planning, without prompting, to learn more about how they can participate next year.

Next Workgroup Meeting: 8/7/2018