



Maryland Planning Commissioners Association
Annapolis Workshop: July 19, 2019

Regional Dialogue Summary

1. What assets does this region have?
 - Strong and highly accessible transportation system
 - Anne Arundel County has abundant open space, parks, and recreation areas
 - Central Maryland, specifically Frederick and Mt. Airy, is a strategic location for live/work balance
 - Charles County has great schools and enjoyable rural living
 - Kent County has a strong agricultural reserve and historic resources
 - Maryland politics are both an asset and a challenge

2. What unique challenges or barriers does this region face?
 - Southern Maryland has a transportation challenge
 - i. The commute times are excessive
 - ii. External and internal access needs to be enhanced
 - iii. 70% of La Plata residents commute out of the county for both work and health care. Small businesses and long-term residents struggle as a result
 - Kent County is a drive through area, but there is local interest for it to be a destination
 - i. Local don't want tolls, but the lack of them encourages tourists and truck drivers to travel through the county on their way elsewhere
 - Montgomery County has a housing affordability problem
 - Unfunded state mandates add expense and time to local regulatory adherence

3. What are some emerging issues or opportunities that could best be addressed regionally? How could the state or a state organization like the MPCA help?
 - Reduction in single family homeownership
 - Lack of purchasing power in Millennial Generation

- Difficulty recruiting new young workforce
 - Aging in place. The “Missing Middle” housing typologies lack diversity
 - Movement away from single user vehicles (hidden cost, congestion, density)
 - Inadequate infrastructure
 - Lacking housing for veterans
 - Public school systems need to replenish their enrollment numbers or risk the loss of funding. This is currently affecting Carroll County
 - Climate change
 - Preventative disaster relief codes do not exist
 - Solar energy development
 - Waste management needs
4. Where do we go from here? How can this group stay in contact and continue to work together?
- Planning Commissions need to keep in mind that they can suggest legislation in their jurisdictions
 - i. Be forward thinking and less reliant on reactive policy
 - ii. Make recommendations to councils and boards of commissioners
 - iii. Lobbying efforts
 - Work on building consensus
 - Maryland Department of Planning, in partnership with the MPCA, should develop additional educational resources and/or requirements for citizen planners beyond the currently mandated Planning Commissioner Training Course. This could include continuing education requirements
 - i. Deeper educational offerings including:
 1. Evening and weekend classes and workshops
 2. Topical trainings
 3. Information exchange systems
 - Add jurisdictional or regional tab to the MPCA website to highlight local topics, progress, and collaboration. This will help maintain regional contacts and provide networking resources
 - Develop a citizen planner mentorship program