To: Sustainable Growth Commission

From: Derick Berlage, Chairman, Concentrating Growth Workgroup

Subj: Workgroup Activities

Date: September 23, 2013

This report is current through September 9, 2013, the date of our most recent conference call.

Financing Smart Growth

The Commission has previously endorsed a goal of the General Assembly appropriating at least $35 million per year to fund "core smart growth programs." A list of the nine core programs and their appropriation history is attached. In FY 2014, the General Assembly came just short of the $35 million goal. For FY 2015, the Workgroup endorses meeting the $35 million goal previously set. As Chairman of the Workgroup, I am asking the Commission to consider raising the annual goal to $40 million. It is my understanding that three of the core programs receive applications for funding that far exceed the available funds: Community Legacy; Neighborhood Business Works; and the Strategic Demolition and Smart Growth Impact Fund. Increasing the goal to $40 million would allow these worthy programs to do more.

I also want to report that the Smart Growth Investment Fund Task Force (which is separate from the Commission) is working on new initiatives and will report to the Governor at the end of this calendar year. The recommendations of this Task Force surely will be relevant to our efforts.

Sustainable Growth Status Check

MDP and the National Center for Smart Growth at the University of Maryland are still working on identifying useful indicators for a sustainable growth "status check" (formerly the report card). A draft work plan is attached.

Streamlining the Development Approval Process in Smart Growth Locations

We have joined forces with the Urban Land Institute's Baltimore District Council to collectively address this opportunity. Both organizations have similar initiatives underway covering regulatory streamlining. Over the next 3-4 months our collective goals will be to:

1. Prepare, distribute, and analyze a questionnaire to the Maryland Association of Counties and the Maryland Municipal League to understand, in detail, what each local jurisdiction

is doing to streamline their regulatory approval process within areas designated for growth.

2. Hold focus group meetings in different areas to speak with small groups (8-10 people) representing various stakeholders in the development approval process (elected officials, planning commissioners, developers, environmental advocates, local community group advocates) to solicit their input on how to streamline the regulatory approval process to promote growth in designated areas.

3. Prepare a "Best Practices" publication that identifies what we are currently doing well and what other ideas we should consider implementing to use regulatory streamlining as a tool to target growth in designated areas.