



To: Sustainable Growth Commission
From: Derick Berlage, Chairman, Concentrating Growth Workgroup
Subj: Workgroup Activities
Date: July 8, 2013

The Workgroup met by conference call on July 8. This report is current up to that date.

Financing Smart Growth

We are pursuing three long-range initiatives in this area, and will make recommendations to the Commission at a future meeting. The three initiatives are:

- Dedicated revenue source for smart/sustainable growth programs at the State level
- Increased utilization of federally authorized Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) to support smart/sustainable growth projects
- Infrastructure Bank.

Smart Growth Report Card

We continue to search for benchmarks that can be accepted as reliable indicators of smart growth progress (or lack of progress) in the State. Between now and the Commission meeting, the workgroup will meet with the Center for Smart Growth at the University of Maryland to discuss options.

Streamlining the Development Approval Process in Smart Growth Locations

We are preparing a survey/questionnaire for counties and municipalities on their experience with streamlining regulatory approvals in smart/sustainable locations. Our goal is to prepare a suite of tools that can be used to reduce regulatory barriers to these projects. We will consider review timetables, process improvements, impact fees, permit fees and other issues.

Rural Growth Issues

This newly reconstituted group is preparing its work plan. There is strong interest in addressing the availability of broadband internet access in rural areas.