



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850  
March 27, 2009

Isiah Leggett  
*County Executive*

*County Executive Leggett's letter of invitation to prospective Smart Growth Initiative  
Implementation Advisory Group participants*

I am writing to invite you to participate on behalf of your organization in the Smart Growth Initiative Implementation Advisory Group. I am putting this group together to provide my staff and me with advice and guidance on matters relating to or arising out of the implementation of the Montgomery County Smart Growth Initiative.

The Montgomery County Smart Growth Initiative is aimed at implementing important policies for affordable housing, placement of development near transit, and advancing economic development. When I came into office, the County had numerous projects in its capital budget for major renovations of existing facilities at locations that, as planned, would hinder realization of these important policy objectives. Additionally, investment of tens of millions of dollars in aged facilities would naturally yield a shorter useful life than using those funds for new construction would produce.

The Smart Growth Initiative covers relocation of the County Service Park to implement the transit-oriented urban village envisioned by the County Council in the Shady Grove Sector Plan. The Initiative additionally provides for relocation of the Public Safety Training Academy to protect and advance investments that the County has made in the Life Sciences Center – an important component of our current and future economic development strategies which would yield high paying jobs for our children. We are also providing for a Public Safety Administrative Headquarters building that will co-locate our public safety administrative uses. Bringing our public safety administration together will allow for improved and more cohesive service delivery and reduce the back-and-forth traveling that currently occurs among these groups. We will also be able to move out of several leased spaces.

As we relocate facilities, we are working with neighboring communities from a very early stage to reasonably reflect their input into our plans from the outset. While this Advisory Group will provide broad guidance and advice, it will not replace work that my staff does with individual communities in the vicinity of a proposed location.

The Smart Growth Initiative is better policy for today and reflects better planning for tomorrow. As we work to meet our housing and jobs needs we are doing it next to existing and planned mass transit. This will relieve pressure on our Agricultural Reserve as we continue to grow. The initiative will result in replacement facilities for all relocated uses that will

incorporate better environmental designs and construction with the new facilities being Leeds-certified.

We have structured the funding of this ambitious program so that our land disposition proceeds, new net tax revenues, lease savings and already budgeted or planned projects meet or exceed the costs of new sites, design and construction of replacement facilities. This approach is designed to leave resources available for other important public needs that do not have off-setting proceeds or revenues.

I am looking to the Smart Growth Initiative Implementation Advisory Group, which is comprised of affected residential and business communities and interests, to provide me with guidance and additional insight and advice on how best to implement these projects to achieve all of the above stated objectives and more.

This group will help to ensure transparency and accountability in the implementation of the Smart Growth Initiative. It will help me to maintain the objectives set out above and will strengthen the monitoring of implementation, development and construction of the various projects comprising the Smart Growth Initiative.

The Advisory Group is asked to provide advice and guidance to my staff on the County's outreach, interaction with affected communities and businesses, advice on the on-site placement, design and layout of facilities, review of related studies and recommendations, advice and guidance on environmental, housing and transit-oriented development considerations, budget recommendations, and communication with Regional Citizens Advisory boards, along with other appropriate issues pertaining to achievement of the objectives of the initiative.

I am requesting that you or your designee participate on this group and that you identify an alternate for occasions when you or your designee may not be available to participate. This group will be co-chaired by William Mooney and Diane Schwartz Jones. The kick-off meeting is scheduled for April 22, 2009 from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at the Maryland Technology Development Center at 9700 Great Seneca Highway, Large Conference Room, Rockville, Maryland. Meetings will be scheduled monthly at a time determined by the group.

Kindly RSVP your acceptance of this invitation by sending an email to Debbie Richards at [debbie.richards@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:debbie.richards@montgomerycountymd.gov). If you are appointing a designee and if you have designated an alternate representative please provide all contact information on such persons to Ms. Richards as well. Alternatively, you can bring that information to the kick-off meeting on April 22.

I want to thank you in advance for your service, or if you are unable to serve, your willingness to help find a designee to represent the interests of your constituency.

Sincerely,



Isiah Leggett  
County Executive

