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## Maryland DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

November 27, 2019

The Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.  
Governor  
State House  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Thomas V. "Mike" Miller, Jr.  
President  
Senate of Maryland  
State House, H-107  
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Adrienne Jones  
Speaker  
Maryland House of Delegates  
State House, H-101  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Maryland Department of Planning Sustainable Growth Commission Annual Report -  
(MSAR #8273)

Governor Hogan, Senate President Miller, and Speaker Jones:

I am enclosing a copy of the Sustainable Growth Commission Annual Report (MSAR # 8273) from the Maryland Department of Planning (Planning). This report highlights the important work of Planning that helps each area of our state plan for a prosperous future, preserve resources, and support communities.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

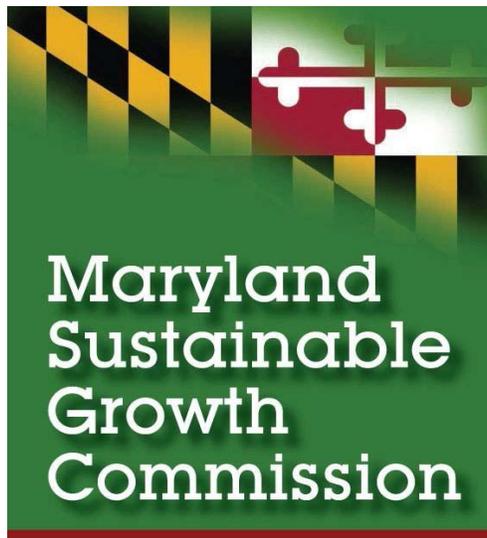


Robert S. McCord, Esq.  
Secretary

CC: Sarah Albert, Department of Legislative Services (5 copies)



# Report of the Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission



2019



On the cover:

Downtown Silver Spring, Montgomery County (upper left), Fair Hill Farms, Kent County (upper right),  
Town of Friendsville, Garrett County (lower left), Centre Theater, Baltimore City (lower right)

# The Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission

Established by the Maryland General Assembly, the Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission makes recommendations on growth and development issues and celebrates smart growth achievements throughout the state. Commission members, who represent state and local government, business, and nonprofit organizations, consider how to continue and improve on Maryland's implementation of laws and regulations concerning growth and development. Commission members also promote planning coordination and interjurisdictional cooperation.

The Growth Commission continued its first-hand examination of the growth challenges facing local governments and examination of statewide programs through its bimonthly meetings. The commission visited Easton in September to tour the Port Street/Easton Point project and met with local officials to discuss the successes and challenges facing the community. The bulk of the commission's detailed studies are handled by its standing workgroups: Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO); Education; Reinvest Maryland; and Rural Economies.



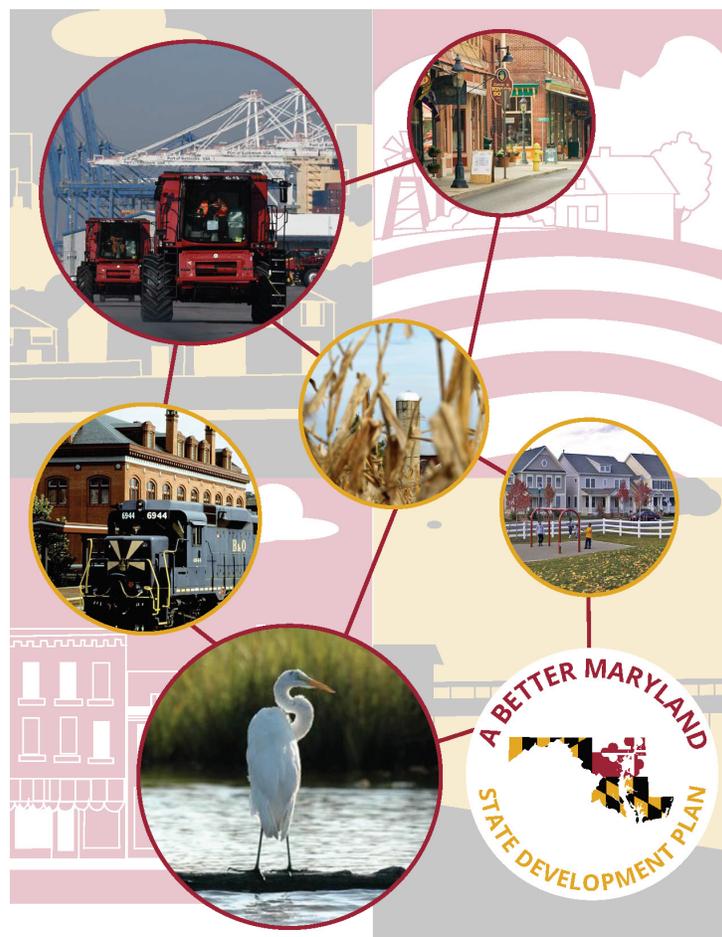
*Left:* Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission Chair Susan Summers

*Right:* Secretary Rob McCord, Maryland Department of Planning

# A Better Maryland

Pursuant to Governor Hogan's Executive Order 01.01.2017.18, the commission spent much of 2019 working closely with the Maryland Department of Planning (Planning) to advise on the content and preparation of the new state development plan, *A Better Maryland*. The commission reviewed the draft plan, and discussed the public comments received, recommended changes to the draft plan, and on May 20, endorsed the plan as a framework for moving smart, sustainable growth forward in Maryland.

The commission also noted its commitment for continued engagement with Planning to help facilitate implementation of *A Better Maryland*. It is the commission's belief that submission of the plan to the governor is the first of many significant milestones in the state planning process where local governments and other stakeholders will work collaboratively with state agencies to focus growth in our communities with available infrastructure and to preserve our agricultural, natural, and cultural resources.



# 2019 Sustainable Growth Awards

The Maryland Sustainable Growth Awards celebrate significant achievements by individuals, businesses, organizations, and local governments. The awards promote exemplary work that represents or inspires collaboration, innovation, conservation, community impact, and quality of life.

On May 4, 2019, the commission held its 7th annual Sustainable Growth Awards ceremony in Annapolis. The event was held in the Governor's Reception Room at the Maryland State House with commission Chair Susan Summers as the master of ceremonies. The event included Planning Secretary Robert McCord and Maryland Department of Housing Community Development Deputy Secretary Tony Reed. The commission recognized five individuals, organizations, and projects that contribute to sustainability and smart growth in Maryland. Secretary McCord remarked that "the recipients characterize the resourcefulness, imagination, and originality that makes Maryland a leader in cultural preservation, community and economic development, and environmental stewardship."

The commission recognized the following for 2019 awards:

- **Chris Ryer**, former Baltimore City Southeast Community Development Corporation executive director, received a Leadership and Service Award for his years of service helping to revitalize Baltimore City communities, particularly in the southeast section, where there was a transformation of a vibrant, mixed use neighborhood into a community of choice, helping hundreds of residents overcome substance abuse, establish a career, and purchase a home.
- **Thomas J. Stosur**, former Baltimore City planning director, received a Leadership and Service Award for his years of service as Baltimore City's planning director, advancing Baltimore's planning initiatives on economic and community development, transportation, resource conservation, public participation, community design, infrastructure, environmental protection, stewardship, and implementation.



Chair Susan Summers (second from right) and Secretary Rob McCord (far right) pose with the 2019 Maryland Sustainable Growth award recipients

- **Bel Air Armory Marketplace** was presented a Sustainable Communities Award for not only transforming an L-shaped bank of garages, vacant for more than nine years behind the Armory on Main Street, into a vibrant commercial destination in the heart of Bel Air, but also establishing a business incubator in the downtown area to support new and emerging small businesses.
- **Central Baltimore Partnership's Front and Center**, a 5-year equity plan for Central Baltimore, received a Sustainable Communities Award for an outstanding example of a community-led plan that addresses the challenges facing six central Baltimore neighborhoods to improve access to economic and social opportunities.
- **New Shiloh Village Apartments** accepted a Sustainable Communities Award for the transformation of a two-acre urban infill site, previously occupied by a vacant warehouse, into 73 apartments for mixed-income families built to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design standards. New Shiloh Apartments is part of a broader community development effort in west Baltimore championed by Bon Secours.



The 2019 Maryland Sustainable Growth Award ceremony was held in the Governor's Reception Room at the State House on May 7, 2019

Videos detailing each award-winning project may be viewed on Planning's website at: [planning.maryland.gov/Pages/YourPart/773/MSGC\\_Awards2019.aspx](https://planning.maryland.gov/Pages/YourPart/773/MSGC_Awards2019.aspx).

# 2019 Sustainable Growth Challenge Winners

The commission held its 5th Sustainable Growth Challenge to engage college students from across the state in planning, sustainability, and reinvestment issues. The competition engages with and celebrates student work in the areas of community planning, sustainable economic development, spatial analysis, urban and landscape design, and many others. Students, in partnership with faculty, are encouraged to pursue creative solutions to tricky and often persistent community issues. Early in the year, students submitted their projects to the Growth Challenge review team. This is followed by a day of presentations, team review, and winner selection, and finally an award ceremony at the Growth Commission's March meeting. Winners are also invited to present and participate in planning related conferences in Maryland. The FY19 winners are:

- **Growing Excellence: Using Nature to Cultivate Academic Excellence at Prince George's County Schools – University of Maryland** (*Stewardship*)

This group used landscape architecture designs to strengthen the presence of nature on the grounds of Prince George's County's Suitland High School and William Hirt Middle School. The project includes comprehensive site analyses - soil, hydrology, zoning, climate, view, and circulation - and comprehensive design interventions helping both school environments and students thrive.

- **Applied Sustainability Practicum – St. Mary's College** (*Outreach and Education*)

This student-developed website highlights sustainability, outreach, and education efforts both on and off the St. Mary's College campus. The site summarizes and presents examples of three interconnected class projects including a virtual 3-D tour and supporting on-line exhibit of student built Tiny House on Wheels, a crowd-sourced campus sustainability map, and a collection of multimedia story maps of campus sustainability features, initiatives, and programs.



- **Streambank and Road Erosion in Harford County – University of Maryland**  
(*Innovation*)

Students created a Geographic Information Systems application for identifying and ranking roadways in Harford County for their susceptibility to erosion. The students provided the data and ranking system to the county for use in prioritizing roadway maintenance and capital investment.

- **Franklin Square Neighborhood Plan – Morgan State University**  
(*Neighborhood Plan*)

This innovative group created a detailed neighborhood plan, which includes recommended strategies, implementation measures, and potential funding sources and partners. The mission statement describes the plan as seeking “to revive the Franklin Square Community’s collective spirit by identifying and strengthening key components for safety and prosperity.” The student team collaborated directly with two nonprofit organizations to activate residents and stakeholders in envisioning their neighborhood’s future while describing their present-day success stories, anecdotes, and concerns.



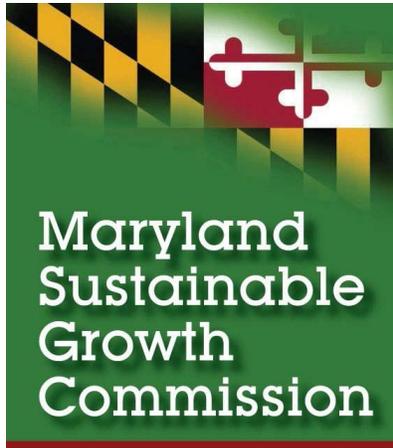
Information about the 2019 Sustainable Challenge Winners can be viewed on Planning’s website at: [planning.maryland.gov/Pages/YourPart/773/sgchallenge-2019.aspx](https://planning.maryland.gov/Pages/YourPart/773/sgchallenge-2019.aspx).



May 2019 Growth Commission Awards Ceremony in Annapolis



Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission Chair Susan Summers Speaks at the May 2019 Maryland Sustainable Growth Awards Ceremony in Annapolis



Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission Susan Summers, Chair

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Larry Hogan, Governor  
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor

Robert S. McCord, Secretary  
Sandy Schrader, Deputy Secretary