

tion, housing, employment, income, and education. The office also maintains a computerized system that geographically references data on the physical and cultural attributes of the State.

Planning Data Services helps maintain the State's 2,800 automated property maps and their linkage via x,y reference points to the two-million parcel database of the State Department of Assessments and Taxation.

This information is accessible to government agencies and the private sector on CD-ROM as *MdProperty View* for use with off-the-shelf viewing software and standard personal computers.

Planning Data Services oversees three units: Geographic Information Systems; the Research and State Data Center; and Systems Support.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Thomas S. Nasuta, *Manager*
(410) 767-4450

Geographic Information Systems was organized in 1989 to provide technical assistance to State and local governments in the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Assistance relates to socio-economic information, as well as natural resources and land use. This unit maintains an up-to-date electronic base map of roads and related features with street names, address ranges, and point locations of every property in the State.

RESEARCH & STATE DATA CENTER

Robert F. Dadd, *Manager*
(410) 767-4450

Formed in 1980, the Research and State Data Center provides for the development of data bases to assist in planning for the overall growth and development of the State. The Center provides information from decennial censuses and is concerned with historical and projected data on population, housing, employment, personal income, business establishments, parcels, and school enrollment. The Center works to improve access to and use of statistical data from the U.S. Census Bureau, the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, and other federal and State sources.

SYSTEMS SUPPORT

John M. Garber, *Manager*
(410) 767-4450

Created in 1989, Systems Support provides in-depth hardware, software, Internet, imaging and database management support. The unit typically provides specialized microcomputer, mainframe and networking skills to support projects such as the development of a World Wide Web connection to distribute census information and socio-economic projections via the Internet. File transfer support services also are provided. Systems Support provides leadership for the Data Standards Subcommittee of the Maryland State Government Geographic Infor-

mation Coordinating Committee and data aggregations and analysis for a variety of projects.

STATE & LOCAL PLANNING

Ronald N. Young, *Deputy Director*
(410) 767-4500

State and Local Planning oversees Comprehensive Planning, and Planning Assistance and Review.

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

Mary J. Abrams, *Chief*
(410) 767-4562

Comprehensive Planning prepares studies and plans for the State's development. Special attention is accorded land use and growth, transportation and public infrastructure, agriculture and forest preservation, restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay, open space and recreation planning, and implementation of the Patuxent River Policy Plan.

PLANNING ASSISTANCE & REVIEW

Scribner H. Sheafor, *Chief*
(410) 767-4550

Planning Assistance and Review began in 1989 as Local Planning Assistance and received its present name in 1994. This office is responsible for two units: Local Planning Assistance, and Plan and Project Review.

LOCAL PLANNING ASSISTANCE

Larry F. Duket, *Manager*
(410) 767-4550

Local Planning Assistance helps local governments to articulate critical problems, identify opportunities and resources, develop long-range comprehensive plans, and implement programs for economic growth and resource protection. This office provides technical services mandated by State laws, especially the Economic Growth, Resource Protection, and Planning Act and the Chesapeake Bay Critical Areas Act.

To help counties and municipalities comply with the requirements of the Planning Act, Local Planning Assistance prepares technical models and guidelines. It administers technical assistance grants from the Appalachian Regional Commission for studies that ensure compliance with the Act and help communities realize economic development opportunities and meet objectives. To manage growth and solve problems, it offers education and outreach programs. Circuit rider staff assists Eastern Shore municipalities in implementing Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Protection programs. Local Planning Assistance consults with, guides, and advises county and municipal staff, citizen planning commissions, and elected officials through four regional offices at Annapolis, Centreville, Cumberland, and Salisbury.