

(g) as hereinafter provided, review any applications to agencies of the state or Federal Government for loans or grants-in-aid for projects by governmental subdivisions within the Region;

(h) review local plans, proposals for projects, and ordinances having an impact outside the boundaries of the local government, subdivisions and within the Planning Region;

(i) employ a director, engineers, attorneys, planners, consultants and other employees and prescribe their powers and duties and fix their compensation;

(j) prepare studies of the region's resources with respect to existing and emerging problems of industry, commerce, transportation, population, housing, agriculture, public services, local governments, and any other matters which are relevant to regional planning;

(k) collect, process, and analyze at regular intervals the social and economic statistics for the region which are necessary to planning studies and make the results available to the general public;

(l) participate with other government agencies, educational institutions, and private organizations in the coordination of the research activities defined above;

(m) cooperate with and provide planning assistance to county, municipal, and other local governments, instrumentalities, or planning agencies within the region, and coordinate regional area planning with planning activities of the state and of the counties, municipalities, special districts, or other local governmental units within the region as well as neighboring regions and with the programs of federal departments and agencies;

(n) provide information to officials in state departments, agencies, and instrumentalities; to federal, and local governments and to the public at large, in order to foster public awareness and understanding of the objectives of the comprehensive plan and the functions of regional and local planning, and in order to stimulate public interest and participation in the orderly, integrated development of the region; and

(o) execute any and all instruments and do and perform any and all acts or things necessary, convenient, or desirable for its purposes or to carry out the powers expressly given in this section.

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(2) The Tri-County Council shall be a *tax-exempt* public body corporate and politic, and shall operate as a cooperative planning and development agency within the representative counties to foster the physical, economic and social development of the tri-county area and utilize effectively the assistance provided by the State. It shall initiate and coordinate plans and projects for the development of human and economic resources of the Southern Maryland region as a Southern Maryland planning and development agency.

The Council will cooperate with the State departments and agencies concerned, including, but not limited to the Department of State Planning, Department of Economic Development, the State Office of Economic Opportunity, the State Roads Commission and the Department of Natural Resources, and submit for approval plans and