



GreaterWashington2050

Planning Principles Task Force

Greater Washington 2050 Planning Tools Task Force

Summary of Meeting #1: Friday June 20, 2008

Attendees of the First Meeting:

(Chair) George Leventhal, Montgomery County Council
Rick Rybeck, DDOT
Stewart Swartz, Coalition for Smarter Growth
Nicole Hange, COG
Lee Ruck, COG

The charge of the Planning Principles Task Force is to examine key vision plans and planning goals in the region and draft a statement of shared principles for review and adoption by the Greater Washington 2050 Coalition.

The first meeting of the task force focused primarily on identifying and vetting key deliverables of the group. Participants discussed the level of specificity and vigor the principles should entail. It was recognized that the group's task is not an easy one, specifically finding a way to balance conflicted principles and at the same time "say what we mean". One suggestion was to allow jurisdictions an opt-out if a particular principle goes against the goals of its local plan. Local comprehensive plans and similar efforts by other regional stakeholders will continue to be reviewed.

Several core values were identified to serve as guidance during the development of the statement of shared principles. These values include: equity, efficiency, transparency, sustainability, accessibility, and that "business as usual" is not an option. Economics, a commitment to public transportation, the notion of a region divided, and the practices of a 'network of livable communities' and 'return to towns' were also issues of much discussion and must be further hashed out. Nicole was asked to prepare a very general first draft of potential shared principles related to the identified core values. From that the group will revise as necessary and work with the Planning Tools Task Force to discuss the appropriate level of detail for the principles; specifically should potential strategies be included in the narrative descriptions, or should they be more broad. A draft will be distributed to members prior to the TF's next meeting.

The group agreed that the following negative impacts of poorly planned development be kept in mind as the principles are developed to limit their frequency and intensity: sprawl, congestion, climate change, and bankruptcy.

The Task Force will meet again in a joint session with the Planning Tools Task Force on July 18 from 12-2 (following the meeting of the full Coalition).