

Reality Check on Growth

“Kick-Off” Leadership Meeting

Tuesday, January 13, 2004

11:00 am – 1:30 pm

SUMMARY/ACTION ITEMS

IN ATTENDANCE:

John Bailey, SGA	Gary Garcyznski, NAHB
Rita Bamberger, ULI Washington	Kate Hanley, Fairfax County
Sam Black, BOT	Bob Harris, ULI Washington
Len Bogorad, ULI Washington	Mike Jones, ULI Washington
Suzanne Cartwright--ULI	Shyman Kannan, ULI Washington
John Coe, ULI Washington	Gerrit Knaap, University of Maryland
Laura Cole, ULI Washington	John McClain, George Mason University
Paul DesJardin, COG	Chris Miller, Piedmont Environmental Council
Lee Epstein, Chesapeake Bay Foundation	Stewart Schwartz, Coalition for Smarter Growth
Jay Fissette, Arlington County/COG	Kevin Tankersley, ULI Washington
Len Forkas, ULI Washington	Rich Thometz, MDBIA
Rosie Allen Herring, Fannie Mae	Ken Thompson, ULI Washington
David Flanagan, SGA	Roger Winston, ULI Washington

SUMMARY AND ACTION ITEMS (action items in bold):

Following introductions by all in attendance, the Reality Check video was shown, and a brief description of activities leading to this meeting were presented by co-chairs, Len Forkas and Roger Winston. Having been given an excellent template by ULI Los Angeles, the objective of Washington’s Reality Check is to learn and improve upon L.A’s work by engaging key stakeholders earlier in the process and seeking opportunities to leverage this event through the continuing work of our alliance members (COG, BOT, ULI, SGA, Fannie Mae, U. of MD, and GMU). Ensuring broad representation from private, public, and community groups is imperative. While measures of success have not been fully defined, it was agreed that significant progress will have been made if a change in mindset results—for participants and the public at large—concerning the amount and impact of growth on our region, and the need to plan for it in a regional context. As Len says, we have the frame of the puzzle, but are still filling in the central pieces.

Given that next year is an election year, and that ULI Washington hosts a large event in December, Reality Check will take place in late January of 2005. One significant challenge we face is the definition of boundaries for this exercise. In order for the exercise to be viewed as credible, most agreed that the map must include outer-ring suburban jurisdictions experiencing pressures of growth. But how far should we go—eastern West Virginia? southern Pennsylvania? Baltimore City? These areas, while not part of the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments are likely to continue receiving growth and development, but the data requirements to support the mapping of such a broad area may place limitations. Whether or not to include Baltimore City was a topic of discussion. Those supporting Baltimore’s inclusion recognized that in ten to twenty years the two metropolitan areas will be consolidated and that it would be irresponsible to leave this out. On the other hand, there was recognition that including Baltimore essentially duplicates the logistics and risk associated with this exercise. Also, most agreed that Baltimore would not appreciate the implication that it is a suburb of D.C. **The Visioning Exercise and GIS Task groups were asked to consider the group’s comments and return with a justification for recommended boundaries at the next meeting. Staff were also asked to investigate holding multiple forums, at diverse locations, on day of the event in order to include more participants.**

A breakdown of leadership and responsibilities was discussed to provide the group with an idea of what kind of support will be needed. A list of Smart Growth Alliance members was included in the packets to provide Task Chairs with a source of broad-based volunteers. **Advisors are also encouraged to contact Task Chairs directly should they wish to participate in committees (a Reality Check roster is attached). Recognizing that we may need additional alliance members—most notably in the social equity area—we welcome recommendations. Following is the breakdown of Leadership positions for Reality Check:**

I. Reality Check Leadership: Structure and Expectations

- a. Alliances—Organizations and institutions with active role in Reality Check (regional in focus)
- b. Advisors—Active representatives of each alliance guiding Reality Check
- c. Task Chairs—Responsible for forming Task Committees and managing specific tasks
- d. Task Members—Active participants of Task Committees
- e. Reality Check Participants—Regional leadership, representing broad stakeholder groups, selected to participate in event
- f. Staff—Laura Cole and John Bailey

Finally, the co-chairs discussed next steps. **Each Task Group is to begin forming committees, and developing detailed tasks, timelines, and budgets that will feed into a comprehensive task and timeline list being provided by Laura Cole. Please include Laura Cole (lcole@uli.org) on all your communications.**

The next Reality Check Leadership Meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 3, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at Linowes and Blocher's offices in Bethesda (7200 Wisconsin Ave., Suite 800).