

Anne Arundel

Alliance for Livable Communities

May 1, 2017

The Honorable Members of Anne Arundel County Council
44 Calvert Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Resolution No. 18-17

Dear County Council Members:

The Anne Arundel Alliance for Livable Communities urges you to vote in favor of Resolution 18-17, which asks the County Executive to begin the comprehensive review of the 2009 General Development Plan (GDP) during 2017 and to incorporate citizen participation into the review process. Additionally, we recommend that the Resolution call for adequate funding for consulting and other resources to support the GDP update in the FY18 and FY19 budgets.

Preparation of the General Development Plan is required and is one of the most important efforts undertaken by county government. What will our county be in the next decade? What kind of future best serves county residents? What kind of growth is sustainable? How do we get there? These are all questions to be asked and answered in preparing a General Development Plan. A review of the current GDP, that includes meaningful public participation from the beginning, is the first step in developing a new plan for the County's future.

This GDP update provides an opportunity to set a clear vision for the county that addresses the public outcry for improved transportation and other infrastructure, protection of our environment, and greater economic competitiveness. Prince George's County's Comprehensive Plan was recently recognized as one of the Top 5 in the nation for sustainability. Our new GDP should also chart a sustainable course that safeguards and enhances residents' quality of life.

Many changes in land use and zoning have occurred since 2009. There are a host of alternatives and priorities that will decide the County's future. Certain proposals for land use in the County need the kind of comprehensive review that is part of the GDP process. Of course, in order to begin a robust review process

The Anne Arundel Alliance for Livable Communities is a coalition of local and state organizations advocating for sustainable growth and environmental protections to safeguard and enhance residents' quality of life.

with extensive citizen participation, the County budget must provide funding support.

We thank you for your consideration of this important matter and, again, urge you to support Resolution 18-17.

Sincerely,

1000 Friends of Maryland

Growth Action Network of Anne Arundel County

Advocates for Herring Bay

Maryland League of Conservation Voters

Audubon MD-DC

Maryland League of Conservation Voters, Anne Arundel County Chapter

Bike AAA

Neighbors of the Mayo Peninsula

Central Maryland Transportation Alliance

Preservation Maryland

Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Sierra Club, Anne Arundel County Group

Chesapeake Environmental Protection Association

South Anne Arundel County Citizens for Responsible Development (SACReD)

Clean Water Action

South River Federation

General's Highway Council Civic Association

West/Rhode Riverkeeper