



Maryland Department of Planning

Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor

David R. Craig, Secretary
Wendi W. Peters, Deputy Secretary

September 1, 2015

RE: Comprehensive Plan Transition to 10-Year Review Cycle

Dear Planning Director,

In 2013, the Maryland General Assembly passed and the Governor signed House Bill 409 that changed the review cycle for comprehensive plans. The bill also directed the Maryland Department of Planning, to work with the Maryland Municipal League (MML) and the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo), to create a schedule to transition the comprehensive planning cycle from a 6-year review cycle to a 10-year review cycle. The legislation also:

- Requires all planning commissions and boards to file a local jurisdiction annual report with the legislative body and to include in the annual report, at least once within the 5-year period after the adoption or review of the local jurisdiction's comprehensive plan, a narrative on the plan's implementation status; and
- Requires all jurisdictions that adopted growth tiers, as outlined in the Sustainable Growth and Agricultural Preservation Act of 2012, to incorporate their growth tier map into the jurisdiction's comprehensive plan at the time the jurisdiction was scheduled to conduct its 6-year comprehensive plan review prior to the effective date of this legislation.

This legislation affects every jurisdiction. We request your review and comment on the draft *Comprehensive Plan 10-Year Review Cycle Checklist* prior to October 15, 2015. Once our report is finalized it will be posted on the [MDP 10-Year Review Cycle](#) website, on or before December 1, 2015. We are hopeful that you will find these resources informative and a useful guide in your jurisdiction's decision making process for comprehensive plan reviews, amendments and updates.

If your jurisdiction has any questions, comments or concerns, please have your staff contact David Dahlstrom, Regional Planner, at 410-819-4084 or david.dahlstrom@maryland.gov.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David R. Craig". The signature is written in a cursive style.

David R. Craig
Planning Secretary

cc: Mayors, Planning Commission Chairs