



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
STATE PLANNING COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SMART GROWTH
PO BOX 204
TRENTON NJ 08625-0204

JON S. CORZINE
Governor

SUSAN BASS LEVIN
Commissioner

CHRISTIANA FOGLIO
Chair

EILEEN SWAN
Executive Director & Secretary

Plan Implementation Committee
Wednesday, August 23, 2006
10:00AM – 12:30PM
NJDCA, 101 South Broad Street, Conference Room 129
Trenton, New Jersey

Background on Agenda Items

Stafford Township Petition for Plan Endorsement

Stafford Township currently has a Regional Center designated by the State Planning Commission on September 24, 1997. In Ocean County's Cross-acceptance report (January 2005), the Township indicated its interest in proposing changes to the State Plan Policy Map to reduce the size of the Center. With the Center due to expire on January 7, 2008 per the State Planning Rules (N.J.A.C. 5.85-7.11(b)), the Township chose to go through the Plan Endorsement process to not only modify the Center, but to renew it for ten years. In addition to the Regional Center renewal, the Township also proposes a new hamlet for Mayetta.

Stafford Township initiated the Plan Endorsement process with a pre-petition meeting on October 25, 2005. The petition submitted by the Township on January 20, 2006 was deemed incomplete by the Office of Smart Growth (OSG) on February 17, 2006. Subsequently, the Township provided additional materials on May 18, 2006. The petition was deemed complete on June 17, 2006. In the completeness letter, OSG provided preliminary comments on consistency issues so that the Township had the opportunity to address them earlier in the process than normal.

In response to written requests for a public hearing from organizations and residents, OSG held a hearing in Stafford Township on July 31, 2006. Due to an error in public notification for this hearing, the Office of Smart Growth has scheduled a new public hearing on August 22nd at 6PM. The state agency review period ended on August 1, 2006. The petition is currently in the 60-day report writing phase. Unless additional information requested from the petitioner, a report will be prepared for the State Planning Commission's consideration by October 2, 2006.

Sussex County Strategic Growth Plan Petition for Plan Endorsement

In 2000, Sussex County received a \$300,000 Smart Future grant from the Office of Smart Growth to develop a strategic land use plan, focusing on each of the specific landscapes of the

County as they exist, creating a vision for Sussex County incorporating the goals and objectives of the State Development & Redevelopment Plan. The Sussex County Strategic Growth Plan was adopted on September 22, 2004, following 5 years of collaborative efforts between the County officials, more than 1,000 County residents, business owners and local officials.

Sussex County submitted their formal Petition for Plan Endorsement on February 27, 2006. The Petition was deemed incomplete on March 29, 2006. An addendum was received by the Office of Smart Growth on April 19, 2006, at which time the Petition was deemed complete. A public hearing was held in the Sussex County Administrative Center on Thursday, June 1, 2006. The 45 day agency review period ended on June 2, 2006.

A letter requesting additional information for consistency review was sent to the County on August 1, 2006. The Office of Smart Growth continues to work with the County to reconcile its petition with the concerns of the state agencies and the Highlands Council.