

Cross-acceptance

Notes

December 1998

Christine Todd Whitman
Governor

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NEW JERSEY STATE PLANNING COMMISSION

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To find out the latest information on cross-acceptance meetings, call your county planning office, or our toll-free number (1-800-522-0129).

Negotiations Under Way on New Jersey's Smart Growth Plan

New Jersey's counties and municipalities are having the opportunity to sit down with State Planning Commission representatives to discuss and iron out issues related to the State Plan, the blueprint for "smart growth" in the Garden State.

The second phase of the bottoms-up process of discussion between and among municipalities, counties, state officials, interested parties and the general public, officially began on Sept. 9. It is called the negotiation phase of cross-acceptance.

Simply put, cross-acceptance is a way for New Jersey's townships, boroughs, villages, cities and counties, as well as regional and state agencies, the private sector and concerned citizens, to help the State Planning Commission revise the State Plan so it will be more acceptable to be used by all of us. Cross-acceptance will also lead to greater consistency among plans in neighboring towns, counties, and state and regional agencies.

County negotiation meetings began in mid October. The meetings are aimed at attempting to resolve discrepancies among counties, towns and the state and to discuss issues raised in reports filed this year with the State Planning Commission by the various parties. At the first round of meetings, Office of State Planning staff were meeting with members of the local negotiating committees, comprised of county representatives. The local teams are usually made up of the county planning directors, planning board chairs, and elected or appointed officials. Twenty such meetings have taken place as of mid December.

A second round of meetings then were taking place, between representatives of the State Planning Commission -- both public members and state agency members -- and the local negotiating committees. Sixteen meetings had been completed as of mid December.

The cross-acceptance process is made up of three phases: the comparison phase, the negotiation phase, and the issue-resolution phase. The comparison phase began on Sept. 9, 1997 with the release of the *Rexamination Report and Preliminary Plan*. This phase, which concluded on Sept. 8, involved the counties and negotiating entities conducting a cross-comparison of the State Plan with county and municipal plans, maps and regulations. They compared the State Plan to their own local and county plans to see where they mesh and where they don't mesh.

The second step in the exhaustive review process, called the negotiation phase, is designed to attempt to work out any disagreements or inconsistencies between the cross-acceptance parties. Counties and municipalities are afforded the chance to negotiate any issues raised in their reports.

As the State Planning Commission prepares an interim plan by this spring, there are plenty of opportunities for the public, municipalities and interested parties to participate in shaping the plan. The Commission welcomes continued comment and suggestions for improving the plan, by telephone, mail, e-mail and at the meetings. The final plan is slated for adoption late next year.

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Join us at the next State Planning Commission meeting

When: **9:30 a.m., January 27** Where: **Hudson County Administrative Annex, Freeholders' Chambers, 3rd fl., 567 Pavonia Ave., Jersey City**

All meetings are public and public comment is welcome.

Upcoming Negotiation Meetings

Burlington -- Jan. 12, 7 p.m., Freeholders Board Room, County Administration Bldg., 49 Rancocas Rd., Mount Holly.

Cumberland -- Jan. 5, 7 p.m., Cumberland County Extension Service/4-H Center, Morton Ave., Deerfield

Monmouth -- Jan. 19, 7 p.m., Hall of Records, Judge Fisher's Courtroom, 1 E. Main St., Freehold

Ocean -- Jan. 21, 7 p.m., Freeholders Meeting Room, 101 Hooper Ave., Toms River

Sussex -- Jan. 20, 6 p.m., Selective Insurance Company, Classrooms A & B, 40 Wantage Ave., Branchville