What About State-Level Coordination?

Where Are We Growing?
Planning for New Jersey's Next 20 Years

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The proposal that follows is a work in progress and will continue to evolve in the coming months. Comments are welcome, please send them to njfuture@njfuture.org.
State Departments and Agencies

- Transportation
- Environment
- Human Service
- Housing
- Agriculture
- Energy
- Health
- Economy

Land Use
Current Tools

State Planning Act
State Planning Commission
State Development and Redevelopment Plan
Considerations for State Level Coordination

Guiding Regulations and Capital Spending?

Balancing core missions and state plan outcomes?

Role of SPC?

Role of Governor?

Structure of SPC?

Positive Land Use Outcomes

Transportation

Human Service

Agriculture

Health

Economy

Energy

Housing

Environment
What We Have Now

Governor

Office of Smart Growth Executive Director

State Planning Commission Chairperson

Commission Members

DCA Commissioner

Staff
Shortcomings of What We Have Now

- The separation of the Commission from the staff leads to confusion and mission creep
- Commission lacks independence to act as a neutral advocate for the State Plan
- Commission lacks the stature to coordinate on a peer-to-peer level with other departments
- Commission lacks the authority to effectively challenge departments to conform to the State Plan
- The statutory mandate to update the State Plan through cross-acceptance every three years is too time and resource intensive
Addressing Shortcomings

- The separation of the Commission from the staff leads to confusion and mission creep.
  1) **Consolidate the Office of Smart Growth back into the State Planning Commission, like most state commissions.**

- Commission lacks independence to act as a neutral advocate for the State Plan.
  2) **Move the State Planning Commission in, but not of, Treasury and re-focus the staff on state level planning and regional coordination.**

- Commission lacks the stature to coordinate on a peer-to-peer level with other departments.
  3) **Create the State Planner as a cabinet-level position that oversees the staff, and is the non-voting chair of the Commission.**

- Commission lacks the authority to effectively challenge departments to conform to the State Plan.
  4) **Give the Commission the authority to broker state department actions for consistency with the State Plan outcomes.**

- The statutory mandate to update the State Plan through cross-acceptance every three years is too time and resource intensive.
  5) **Change the State Plan update cycle to every ten years.**
Proposed Structure

Governor

Chief Executive Officer
*Non-voting Chair*

Commission Members

Staff

Treasury

_Cabinet Level_
Beyond State Coordination

State

County

Municipality

?
 Criteria for Reviewing Options

• Account for regional systems and dynamics
• Effectively achieve the State Plan outcomes
• Simplify participation
• Preserve local authority to shape character and quality
Addressing Criteria

Account for regional systems and dynamics
1) Counties funded to play a larger coordinating role with municipalities.

Effectively achieve the State Plan outcomes
2) Counties given state growth projections and outcome-based targets to integrate into planning.

Simplify participation
3) Streamline the municipal plan conformance process focused on locations and intensity of growth. Counties delegated state authority to certify municipal plans.

Preserve local authority to shape character and quality
4) If local plans conform to State Plan, then the state will assist in the defense of local land use decisions.
Summary

Reposition the State Planning Commission to provide better state-level coordination

Provide better integration between municipal, county and state plans