

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND USE  
AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT**

*William B. Hunt, Director, AICP  
Harry E. Knight, Deputy Director*



**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S:**  
James R. Guy, President  
Eric Colvin, Commissioner  
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner  
Todd B. Morgan, Commissioner  
John E. O'Connor, Commissioner

**COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION MEMORANDUM**

To: Commissioners of St. Mary's County  
Dr. Rebecca B. Bridgett, County Administrator

From: William B. Hunt, Director *WBH*

Date: April 27, 2021

Subject: Briefing on the update to the 2010 Comprehensive Plan and request for the participation of key leaders

**History:** The State requires periodic updates to a county's adopted comprehensive plan. In acknowledgment of the demographic data that will become available following the 2020 Census, the next update to the St. Mary's County comprehensive plan is due in 2024.

St. Mary's County has adopted six comprehensive plans: 1967, 1974 (with amendments in 1977 and 1978), 1988, 1999, 2002, and 2010. The Lexington Park Development District Master Plan was adopted in 2018.

**Summary:** By State law, the Planning Commission prepares the Comprehensive Plan and presents it to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County for consideration and adoption. Land Use and Growth Management made a presentation to the Planning Commission introducing the beginning of the update process on January 25, 2021.

The State requires local jurisdictions to include 12 visions in the plan – Quality of Life and Sustainability, Public Participation, Growth Areas, Community Design, Infrastructure, Transportation, Housing, Economic Development, Environmental Protection, Resource Conservation, Stewardship, and Implementation.

A county's comprehensive plan is required to have nine elements:

- Water Resources Element
- Sensitive Area Element
- Priority Preservation Area Element
- Land Use Plan and Growth Management Element
- Transportation Plan Element
- Public Facilities Element
- Housing Element
- Human Services Element
- Economic Element

Public participation is encouraged throughout the process. Staff will send information about the plan update process to its customers and groups on its list of contacts to businesses, advocacy

groups, and residents with an interest in growth and conservation. Staff will collaborate with PIO for ways to effectively publicize the request for public input. Staff has included a motion in the April 27, 2021, briefing requesting the Commissioners of St. Mary's County to ask key leaders to contribute to the update process.

**Recommendation:** Staff has included a motion in the briefing requesting that the Commissioners of St. Mary's County ask key leaders to contribute to the update process.

CC: Alisa Casas, PIO  
Dave Weiskopf, County Attorney