



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
OFFICE OF SMART GROWTH
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Commissioner

EILEEN SWAN
Executive Director

November 8, 2006

Ms. Mirah A. Becker, PP, AICP
Supervising Planner
Middlesex County Department of Planning
40 Livingston Avenue
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-3605

Re: Middlesex County Group One Petition for Initial Plan Endorsement

Dear Ms. Becker:

Thank you for your continued participation and involvement in the Plan Endorsement process. I would like to provide you with an update of the status of our review of the Middlesex County Group One petition for Initial Plan Endorsement.

Pursuant to the N.J.A.C. 5:85-7.5(f), in a letter dated June 9, 2006, the Office of Smart Growth (OSG) requested additional information from the County in order to assist with the evaluation of the regional petition for consistency with the State Development and Redevelopment Plan (State Plan).

OSG and the State Agencies met with the Middlesex County planning staff on various occasions to discuss the inconsistencies contained within the County's petition and to develop strategies for the County to meet its goal of achieving Initial Plan Endorsement (IPE) for the Regional Group One Plan. Your responses to our recommendations have been quite positive thus far. Furthermore, on August, 31, 2006, you provided OSG with a letter stating that the County would like an additional 90 days to respond to OSG's request for additional information.

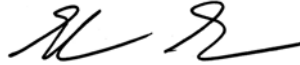
It was mutually agreed during various telephone conversations, that in order to assist the County with achieving Plan Endorsement, the \$80,000 of unexpended grant funds from an existing Smart Growth Planning grant (Sage Grant Number: 2000-99900-6056-02; Previous Grant Number: 00-6056-02) could be used to subsidize the outstanding work product for the County's IPE petition. Furthermore, it was agreed that OSG would revise the existing Scope of Work for the aforementioned grant on behalf of the County.

Therefore, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:85-7.5 (f), I am providing an additional extension to Middlesex County to continue to work with OSG towards achieving Initial Plan Endorsement for the Group One petition through a mutually agreed-upon Scope of Work, Action Plan and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will outline specific deliverables, timelines for completion and evaluation of those deliverables, and an associated budget. The Office of Smart Growth will additionally schedule a meeting between the County and the state agencies to discuss strategies for moving forward.



Thank you again for your continued commitment to the Plan Endorsement process. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Curt Lavalla, Area Planner for Middlesex County at (609)-633-9648 or via email at clavalla@dca.state.nj.us. We look forward to meeting with you in the near future to discuss the petition and next steps.

Sincerely,



Eileen Swan
Executive Director

ES:dds

c: George Ververides, PP, AICP, Director of County Planning, Middlesex County
John Sully, Assistant Director of County Planning, Middlesex County
Nicholas Tufaro, Principal Planner, Middlesex County
Joseph I. Donald, PP, AICP, Deputy Executive Director, OSG
Ben Spinelli, Policy Director, OSG
Courtenay Mercer, Planning Director, OSG
Curt Lavalla, Area Planner, OSG
State agency representatives *via email*