



Michigan Association of Planning
A Chapter of the American Planning Association

2009 Public Policy Platform
Adopted by the MAP Board of Directors
June 19, 2009

The Michigan Association of Planning exists so that Michigan will consist of healthy, safe, attractive, and successful communities built first and foremost on quality community planning. Our members are committed to making great places happen.

To that end the Michigan Association of Planning supports the following:

State initiatives that strengthen local planning efforts by:

1. Creating statewide planning goals that advance a consensus vision for Michigan's future.
2. Developing a clear urban/suburban/rural strategy which supports smart growth.
3. Creating and maintaining policies and programs which sustain urban core areas.
4. Clearly defining the basic role and responsibility of each level of government in coordinated planning and development regulation.
5. Coordinating State departmental planning and spending especially as it relates to new infrastructure, new state facilities and new state property.
6. Revising state laws and programs that support or subsidize sprawl over other compact settlement patterns.
7. Redirecting state spending based on smart growth tenets*.
8. Supporting infrastructure policy that emphasizes maintenance and rebuilding of existing infrastructure over construction of new infrastructure. This includes promoting statewide infrastructure asset management for transportation (already initiated), sewer, water supply, and other facilities to maximize use of existing infrastructure.
9. Providing a stable funding source for the development of local planning programs.
10. Providing a state office of smart growth for technical assistance to local governments.

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11. Supporting the completion of the natural features inventory and dedication of adequate permanent funding for the MiRIS program which results in statewide land use/land cover updates every five years.
12. Modernizing planning and zoning statutes based on the smart growth tenets.
13. Pursue amendment of the land division act to remove the ten year resplit provision.
14. Allow for expanded local options to pay landowners for development rights when appropriate planning requirements are met by:
 - Expanding purchase of development rights (PDR) programs to include wetlands, scenic vistas, historic sites, and access rights.
 - Authorizing cross jurisdiction transfer of development rights (TDR) programs.
 - Establishing urban/rural service districts and official maps
 - Authorizing concurrency requirements to require adequate infrastructure to be in place before permitting new development.
 - Supporting an adequate permanent funding source for the purchase of development rights.
15. Supporting a constitutional amendment to permit local option sales tax by voter approval for certain infrastructure, open space preservation, and quality of life improvements.
16. Establishing clear state policy on local government's obligation to provide affordable housing and providing adequate tools for local governments to implement this policy.
17. Recognize the need for a diverse set of mobility options to assure urban areas are accessible, attractive and efficient for all ages, incomes and physical attributes.
18. Support initiatives that will enhance and maintain the preservation and utilization of productive farmland
19. Simplify the process for cleanup of contaminated sites, pursuant to the Natural Resource and Environmental Protection Act.
20. Seek funding to continue and sustain the Brownfield program.
21. Refine redevelopment tools that assist mature communities with revitalization efforts.
22. Support multi-jurisdictional planning efforts by:
 - Providing a stable source of state funds to all state recognized planning and development regions that require the preparation and periodic updating of regional land use, resource management, environmental protection, energy, affordable housing, transportation and emergency preparedness plans, as well as supports regional geographic information systems.
 - Authorizing multi-jurisdictional tax base sharing.

23. Expand local zoning power when appropriate planning requirements are met by:
 - Requiring schools to be subject to local zoning, consistency with Master Plan, adhere to local site plan review requirements, and
 - Requiring manufactured housing communities to be treated consistent with other residential developments to include local zoning, inspection, and taxation.
24. Expand local planning requirements to enhance plan implementation and support the new tools listed above by:
 - Providing greater protection for local zoning when plan is adopted by the governing body, plan is updated every 5 years, zoning is consistent with the plan, CIP is consistent with the plan and is updated annually
25. In order to improve fairness to the parties in major zoning decisions:
 - Eliminate referendum on amendments (including text and map) to improve fairness to all parties
 - Provide a public hearing requirement prior to the adoption of a consent agreement to ensure fairness to all parties.
26. Support mandatory education for public officials on planning and development management and zoning.
27. Support legislative, policy and programmatic initiatives that focus on state, regional and local economic prosperity and jobs **INCLUDING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND INCREASED EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.**
 - Support the creation of state initiatives that direct state and federal dollars to cities, and suburbs with the potential for high job creation, and **TO rural COMMUNITIES TO ENHANCE THE RURAL ECONOMIC BASE.**
 - **SUPPORT CONSOLIDATING REGIONAL PLANNING STATUTES INTO A NEW, MORE CONTEMPORARY ACT, AND REEXAMINE** the local planning and zoning function to be consistent with regional economic development initiatives.
 - Promote in local plans the inclusion of appropriate sustainable economic development and infrastructure elements that are consistent with a regional economic development plan.
28. Support the development of mandatory master plan elements designed to promote economically, environmentally and socially sustainable communities and regions.

*Tenets of smart growth:

1. Create a range of housing options
2. Create walkable neighborhoods
3. Encourage community and stakeholder collaboration
4. Foster distinctive, attractive communities with a strong sense of place
5. Make development decisions predictable, fair, and cost-effective
6. Mix businesses, residences, open space and institutional uses in definable neighborhoods.
7. Preserve open space, farmland, natural beauty and critical environmental areas
8. Provide transportation
9. Direct development towards existing communities
10. Emphasize compact development design and development within existing towns and villages.