



Conclusion

LIVE • EARN • PLAY • LEARN: The City of Baltimore Comprehensive Master Plan (CMP) provides the City of Baltimore with 13 Goals and over 100 specific strategies to direct its capital expenditures for the next 6 years and beyond. Focusing on capital investments, zoning, and public policy, the CMP provides a roadmap to help continue the City's journey on the road toward success. That journey involves our current citizens and those who will soon come to reside in Charm City. It involves the young and the old, those with great wealth and those with little. It involves those citizens who weathered the storm during Baltimore's roughest times and those new to this great City. The citizens of Baltimore helped craft the draft CMP that was released on February 2, 2006. The Department of Planning extensively distributed the plan to as many residents, community groups, and implementing agencies as possible. Hard copies of the draft were distributed to the following locations throughout the City:

Distribution

- Fourteen State Agencies
- All Branches of the Enoch Pratt Free Library System
- All City Public and Private High Schools
- All Fourteen Local Colleges and Universities
- City Council

- City’s State Delegation
- City’s Federal Delegation
- Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation Commissioners
- All Department Heads
- Planning Directors in surrounding jurisdictions
- Community Organizations
- All City Senior Centers
- Public Housing Resident Leadership

In addition, information about the strategies in the plan was disseminated using a variety of media in order to reach all segments of Baltimore’s population. Thousands of dollars were spend all to inform and get feedback from as many people and interests groups in the City as were willing to participate. This includes:

- Article in the Baltimore Sun, January 26th - Draft of first city master plan in 30 years looks to 2012, by Eric Siegel -- Urban Chronicles.
- Mayor’s Press Conference on February 2, 2006
- Planning Commission Hearing, February 2nd 1:30p.m.
- Dedicated website www.LiveEarnPlayLearn.com – went live February 2nd
- Mayor’s Neighborhood News Flash
- President Dixon Report
- Eye on Baltimore to Discuss the Master Plan
- Ongoing Program on TV25
- Discussion on WEAA
- Discussion on WOLB
- WYPR 88.1 Mark Steiner Show – 2 programs
- Discussion on Heaven 600AM
- Postings at various downtown garages
- Benton Building Banner
- Ads on and inside 50 MTA Buses – February 21st – April 1st
- Mobile Billboard through the nine planning districts – March 8th – April 1st
- Article in Baltimore Sun, February 3rd - City seeks comment on master plan. Public hearings are to begin Feb. 21, by John Fritze
- Sent print media to area Baltimore city grocery store merchants – February 14th
- Blast email to all City employees – February 17th
- Full page ad in the Baltimore Jewish Times – February 17th
- Full page ad in the Afro-American Newspaper – March 10th
- Community Calendars – City Paper and Sun paper

The purpose of distributing the plan and disseminating information about its contents was to receive feedback on what residents, employers, employees, city officials and implementing bodies wanted to see retained, deleted, revised and/or added. And **hundreds** of comments were received from a variety of sources (citizens, community groups, business and non-profit organizations, neighborhood associations, ministries, hospitals, foundations, etc) regarding all aspects of the plan. All comments were recorded and reviewed by the Department of Planning. **Thanks to all who took the time to respond via email, letter, or telephone.**

However, the most important means of discussing the plan were the Planning Commission Community Hearings held in all 9 planning districts in the City at which people’s testimonies were recorded and transcribed (transcriptions are available in hard copy in the Department of Planning’s office at 417 E. Fayette St, 8th floor, or online at <http://www.ci.baltimore.md.us/government/planning/compplan>). Over 550 people came to these meetings and offered comments on the draft.

District	Date of Meeting	Location	Attendance
Northwest	Tuesday 2.21.06	Pimlico Middle School	65
East	Tuesday 2.28.06	Harford Heights	49
South	Tuesday 3.7.06	Southside Academy	51
North	Sunday 3.12.06	Western High School	42
Central	Monday 3.13.06	War Memorial Bldg	45
Southwest	Monday 3.20.06	Edmonson High School	75
Southeast	Saturday 3.25.06	Hampton Hill Academy	72
Northeast	Tuesday 3.28.06	Baltimore City College	89
West	Saturday 4.1.06	Frederick Douglass High School	78

Many of the comments received both during and outside these meetings were directly incorporated into this revised version of the plan. All new and significantly revised strategies in the CMP have been flagged at the beginning of each section. An emphasis on affordable housing, comprehensive transportation, and environmental protection was clearly a top priority for many who provided feedback. The LIVE section has been greatly modified with 30 new or revised objectives and strategies to address concerns about affordable housing, improving water quality and protecting the Chesapeake Bay, enforcing zoning regulations, streamlining the development process, and enhancing walkability throughout the City. Recreation, access to open space and a comprehensive plan for parks in the City were equally important; many of the new and revised strategies in PLAY aim to integrate the park system and protect natural areas within the City.

Next Steps

According to Article 66B of the Maryland Annotated Code, comprehensive plans need to be implemented, monitored and updated every 6 years. This helps

ensure that the City continually assesses the ability of this guiding document for the vision of Baltimore to effectively achieve the stated returns on investment. The goal of ongoing monitoring of CIP funds distributed according to strategies in the CMP is to gauge which ones achieved results and which ones did not. Future updates will benefit from the track-record of the implementation of this plan. Also, future plans can address some concerns voiced during the public comment period that were not incorporated in this plan. Many people wanted to see a greater focus on regionalism and greater cooperation with surrounding jurisdictions particularly with respect to transportation and environmental protection. While interjurisdictional coordination is only a suggested element according to Article 66B, Baltimoreans recognize that regional planning is necessary for alleviating traffic congestion, ensuring everyone has access to potable water, and open spaces throughout the region are preserved.

How can you continue to be part of the plan...?

LIVE • EARN • PLAY • LEARN: The City of Baltimore Comprehensive Master Plan is a plan for all Baltimoreans, current and future residents alike. Therefore, it should be part of a ‘living’ process where the public can continue participating in its implementation. There are 5 main areas through which residents, employers and employees can help ensure that the strategies set out in this plan are realized:

- 1. Comprehensive Rezoning**—This Comprehensive Plan has identified numerous goals to be addressed during the subsequent Comprehensive Rezoning process. The City will work with residents, businesses and employees to develop new zoning categories and update the zoning code.
- 2. Area Master Plans**—In **LIVE**, a strategy set out a goal for every area in the city to have an adopted area master plan within 10 years. These plans are intense visioning and planning processes that involve residents, neighborhood groups, businesses and city agencies in the future of a smaller area in the City. These plans should be consistent with the goals set out in the CMP.
- 3. Planning Commission meetings**—The Planning Commission is charged with reviewing all development projects, zoning changes and subdivisions of land as well as developing a comprehensive plan for the City. The Commission meets regularly throughout the year, and its meetings are open to the public.
- 4. Capital Improvement Program (CIP)**—The Planning Commission is charged with reviewing each agency submission and with developing a recommended CIP program on or before March 1. The public is welcome to provide testimony.
- 5. Voting**—The power of this plan, whether or not it gets implemented, rests in you. Elected City, State, and Federal officials, as well as their appointees, are vital to ensuring that this plan is implemented and enforced. Your vote counts towards ensuring your elected officials facilitate this vision for the City.