



# Chapter Fourteen:

# Interjurisdictional Cooperation

## Chapter 14: Interjurisdictional Cooperation

### Goal

**Ensure communication and coordination between the County and the municipalities on projects and issues of mutual concern and promote interjurisdictional cooperation in planning and land use decisions**

### The Significance to Carroll County

Carroll County is a non-charter county with eight incorporated municipalities within its borders. Each municipality has its own mayor, council, and planning commission, along with the authority to enact its own laws separate and apart from those the County adopts.

Since the 1977 Agricultural zone amendments to the Master Plan, the County Commissioners and each municipality have annually entered into an agreement to share funds and coordinate planning and other governmental functions. The Town/County Agreements are formal documents enumerating the types of services the County provides to the towns. The agreements are tailored to the needs of the municipality and vary in complexity, depending on whether the town has in-house planning staff. County services range from simple liaison (i.e. notifying the town of all future developments within one mile of its boundaries) to full staffing for planning and zoning matters. The latter includes reviewing development plans and advising the appropriate municipal boards and commissions on the best course of action as well as preparing comprehensive plans and zoning and subdivision ordinances. The Agreement provides for cooperative referral by each jurisdiction to the other for review of subdivision plans, master plans or master plan amendments, annexation petitions, and rezoning petitions. This cooperative relationship has worked well. It ensures the open exchange of information regarding plans and development proposals. As a result, many issues are resolved at the staff level, reducing the possibility of problems later in the process. The County Commissioners also distribute funds annually to the municipalities upon execution of the Agreement.

As a member of the Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC), the County coordinates demographic, environmental, and transportation studies with Baltimore, Howard, Harford, and Anne Arundel Counties, as well as Baltimore City. In addition, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Montgomery, Prince Georges, Anne Arundel, Frederick, and Howard Counties and the City of Laurel provides for a sharing of

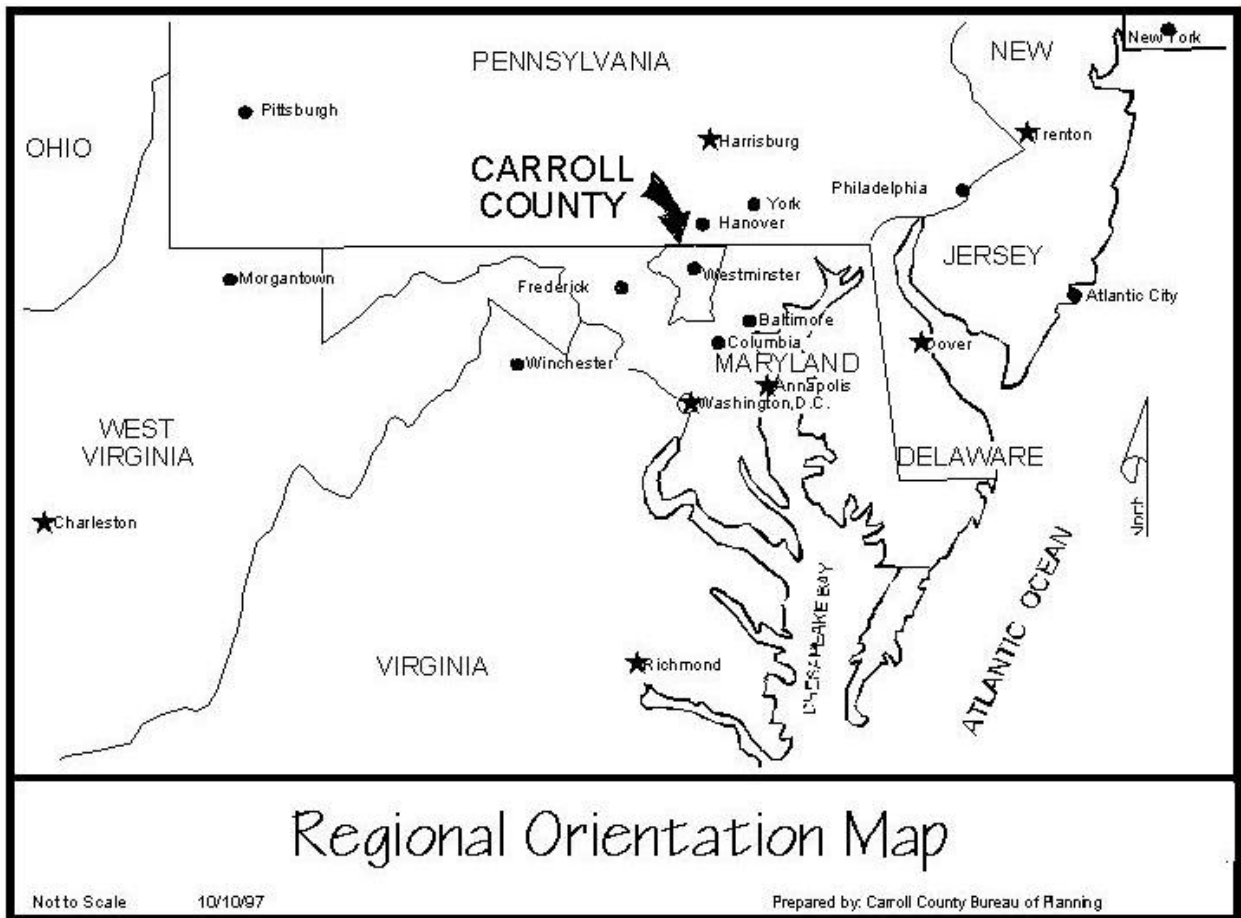
planning and development information. There is currently no formal mechanism to coordinate planning with the Pennsylvania jurisdictions to the north.

## The Challenge to Carroll County

Cooperation and communication between the different levels of government both within Carroll County and around it provide for a mechanism to address issues before they become problems. Initiatives for growth management detailed in this Plan present additional needs for interjurisdictional cooperation.

The municipalities, in response to a Master Plan questionnaire, reaffirmed their willingness to be the focus of planned development in the County. However, they also expressed their need for additional infrastructure and financial support to accept the planned population increases.

Being a “second tier” county, Carroll’s areas of major development, on the east and south, are adjacent to the agricultural zones of the metropolitan counties. Conversely, southern Pennsylvania’s residential development is occurring adjacent to Carroll County’s strong agricultural area in the north. It is only in the west that Frederick and Carroll’s agricultural areas are compatible. Ways to mitigate the potential impacts from these competing land uses, as well as traffic and environmental concerns, are only some of the reasons to maintain regional communication and cooperation.



## The Choice: Goals, Policies, Thresholds, & Recommendations

### Goal

**Ensure communication and coordination between the County and the municipalities on projects and issues of mutual concern and promote interjurisdictional cooperation in planning and land use decisions**

### Policies

- A. Since growth is directed to the municipalities, the County will review projects and assist the municipalities, where feasible, in providing the needed facilities through the CIP process to service the additional population.
- B. The County will be an active member of the Baltimore Metropolitan Council to promote the interests of Carroll County residents on a regional level.
- C. Implementation of the County Zoning Ordinance will be consistent with the County Master Plan.

### Recommendations

#### *Local Municipalities*

- A. Revise the Town/County Agreements to tailor them to meet the specific needs of each municipality and the County and to better achieve the comprehensive plans for each jurisdiction.
- B. Work with the municipalities to achieve consensus on county-wide issues and decisions.
- C. Work with each municipality to study the development of a growth boundary for its ultimate development and corporate limits.
- D. Work with each municipality to plan concurrently and compatibly.
- E. Coordinate interjurisdictional CIP projects, such as roads, water and sewer, etc., to ensure they occur concurrently.
- F. Hold meetings annually between the County Planning Commission and each municipal Planning Commission to explore mutual planning issues.
- G. Work with the municipalities to develop a coordinated concurrency management review and approval process for development which impacts shared facilities, such as schools, roads, etc.

H. Continue to include cost-sharing provisions in the Town/County Agreement to assist municipalities in receiving a majority of the County's future growth.

I. Jointly review, adopt, and implement the comprehensive plans for each Community Planning Area to ensure a coordinated vision and planning for the future.

J. Continue to provide planning staff support to the municipalities.

***Other Jurisdictions***

A. Continue to participate in efforts to address regional issues and planning concerns.

B. Continue and expand the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) the County currently has with Frederick, Montgomery, and Howard Counties to include Baltimore County, Maryland, and Adams and York Counties, Pennsylvania, as far as sharing planning initiatives in proposed development along the borders.

C. Meet with staff from other counties on a periodic basis to discuss mutual concerns.

D. Negotiate changes to the language in the 1984 Reservoir Watershed Management Agreement that allows flexibility in meeting the competing objectives of the Agreement and the Governor's Smart Growth initiatives (higher density residential/commercial/industrial development within Priority Funding Areas).

## **Fiscal Impact to the County**

This goal and implementation recommendations will have minimal fiscal impact on the County, rather it continues and expands the coordination role of staff.