

Appendix 4: Regional Workshop

VISION 2030: SHAPING OUR REGION'S FUTURE TOGETHER
FINAL REPORT

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Regional Workshop Results

The Regional Workshop for Vision 2030 was held on October 3, 2001 at the Timonium Holiday Inn. Sixty-five people participated in the workshop, including elected officials, planners, educators, citizen activists, staff from non-profit organizations, and business leaders.

The purpose of the workshop was threefold:

1. To understand the complexity of thinking regionally,
2. To gain “intuitive” public input on future growth and land consumption considerations, and
3. To prepare for future subcommittee work.

Participants were divided into eight groups, each with a facilitator. In the workshop’s first step, participants chose what percentage of the region’s land they wanted to protect, then located areas to protect on a map of the region. In the second step they chose areas in the region to place the projected growth for 2000 to 2025. Participants also discussed the impacts of their choices.

Results for Protecting Land Step

As a first step, participants agreed on a percentage of the region’s total land they would want to protect over the next thirty years, over and above the amount of land that is currently protected. Table 1 (see below) shows that the average level for all eight groups was 18 percent. Currently, approximately 30 percent of the regions land (407,321 acres) is protected by easements or because it is designated parkland, Department of Natural Resources or federal land.

Each group then discussed criteria to guide the choice of what areas to protect. Criteria included:

- The creation of contiguous natural environments,
- Protecting land at the edges of existing urbanized areas;
- Protecting rivers and trails
- Creating urban parks;
- Protecting stream corridors; and
- Protecting forest and tidal areas.

Then the participants placed green “chips,” each representing 640 acres of land, onto the areas on the map that they believed should be protected. Table 1 describes where the protected land was located. On average, 12 percent of the land protected was inside Priority Funding Areas and 88 percent was outside these areas.

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Group	Percentage of land to protect	Percentage of land inside PFAs	Percentage of land outside PFAs
1	20%	1%	99%
2	24%	7%	93%
3	20%	13%	87%
4	10%	7%	93%
5	15%	15.5%	84.5%
6	20%	10%	90%
7	10%	36%	64%
8	23%	9.5%	90.5%
Average	18%	12%	88%

18% region's total land = 252,000 acres

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Results of Locating Growth Step

In this step the participants were given brown “chips” that represented the amount of land that would be needed to accommodate the region’s projected growth for the next 25 years – 270,200 people – if the region continues to grow at the rate it did from 1990 to 1997. During that time .34 acres were consumed per person. This number represents the aggregate amount of commercial, residential and industrial land consumed from 1990-1997 (29,800 acres), divided by the population growth for that period (88,800).

The participants first discussed criteria that they could use to guide their choice for where growth should be located. Criteria included:

- Along transit lines;
- In already developed areas;
- In undeveloped areas;
- Away from environmentally sensitive areas;
- In distressed communities; and
- Near employment centers.

Participants then placed the “chips” on the map in areas where they believed growth should occur. The groups placed an average of 70 percent of the growth within the PFAs (excluding Baltimore City), six percent of the growth outside of the PFAs, and 24 percent of the growth in Baltimore City. These results indicate a propensity for redevelopment. Table 2 summarizes the results for each group.

Group	Percentage of growth inside PFAs (excluding Baltimore City)	Percentage of growth outside PFAs	Percentage of growth within Baltimore City
1	63%	11%	26%
2	66%	1%	33%
3	73%	2%	25%
4	72%	7%	21%
5	77%	1%	22%
6	65%	1%	34%
7	60%	26%	14%
8	81.5%	2.5%	16%
Average	70%	6%	24%
10% = 1.4 square miles = 896 acres			

Each group then discussed the potential impacts of their results from the two steps on the following areas:

- Environment,
- Social Equity,
- Economic development, and
- Transportation.

The responses to this part of the workshop reflect the unanimity of the workshop's results. Most groups chose to locate growth in the region's developed areas and protect land in the outer areas; therefore the impacts they discussed addressed the positive and negative impacts of this pattern of growth. The impacts included:

- Environment – Positive impacts: Continuous open space, more urban open space, lower vehicle miles traveled would lead to improved air quality
- Environment – Negative Impacts: More pollution in heavily populated areas, potential waste disposal, sanitation, sewage and run-off problems
- Social Equity – Positive Impacts: rebuilding older communities, more diversity, more opportunity for interaction
- Social Equity – Negative impacts: Pressure on city infrastructure and services, potential for gentrification and displacement
- Economic development – Positive Impacts: Opportunity to live near where you work, using existing infrastructure, increase in Baltimore City's tax base
- Economic development – Negative Impacts: Outlying areas left out of economic growth, increased land costs, protected areas do not contribute to economic growth

- Transportation – Positive Impacts: Less congestion, increased walking and biking opportunities
- Transportation – Negative Impacts: Strain on existing networks, need more money for public transit

Finally, participants were asked to recommend steps to implement the proposed future growth and protection patterns. Most of the responses fell under the following topics:

- Reaching more people through the visioning process (24 responses),
- Improving transportation (18 responses),
- Improving Baltimore City (15 responses),
- Thinking regionally (15 responses),
- Encouraging growth in already developed areas (10 responses), and
- Protecting land (7 responses).