

# Smart Growth Economy Project

## Water and Sewer Infrastructure Roundtable

At the 2007 meetings of the Water and Sewer Infrastructure Roundtable, convened by PlanSmart NJ and chaired by Ray Ferrara, principal of Omni Environmental, participants discussed the best ways of providing clean water and viable wastewater disposal to all New Jersey residents. All meetings were hosted by the law firm of Sterns & Weinroth.

Key recommendations include the following:

- Update the NJ Water Supply Plan every six years (as Pennsylvania legally must);
- Require the Treasury Department to undertake a detailed fiscal analysis of new rules so the economic costs and benefits are clear;
- Prioritize Environmental Infrastructure Trust funding for redevelopment areas with combined sewer overflows or brownfields;
- Conduct a comprehensive analysis of addressing septic system contamination without inducing sprawl;
- Continue to study environmental impacts from inter-basin transfers;
- Perform a detailed analysis of existing water and sewer infrastructure: where it is located, current conditions, and how much capacity exists in each location.

## Transportation and Logistics Roundtable

At the 2007 meetings of the Transportation and Logistics Roundtable, convened by PlanSmart NJ and chaired by former NJDOT commissioner, James Weinstein of DMJM+ Harris, freight movement, Transportation Trust Fund replenishment and transit-oriented development were the main issues of discussion. All meetings were hosted by Gail Toth of the NJ Motor Truck Association.

Key recommendations include the following:

- Awareness needs to be increased about the importance of the freight sector to NJ's economy.
- NJ needs to reclaim port trade volumes from subpar ports by focusing on enhancing goods movement.
- A modal ordinance needs to be developed to promote round-the-clock goods delivery.
- Promote more use of rail in the movement of goods around state and provide support for the trucking industry, such as rest stops with restrooms.

## Housing and Workforce Roundtable

At the 2007 meetings of the Housing and Workforce Roundtable, convened by PlanSmart NJ and chaired by David Fisher of Matzel & Mumford, it became clear that there is a need to clarify current problems through an accurate snapshot of recent conditions to support the argument that current trends will perpetuate the disparities between jobs and housing. All meetings were held at PlanSmart NJ.

Key recommendations include the following:

- Make the policy real by producing tangible results. We need to work with state planning officials to show how their work can be enhanced by PlanSmart NJ's new 4-E Planning framework.
- Educate the public. We need to convince the public that growth is "worth it." Particular emphasis was placed on helping residents in South Jersey understand that they will miss opportunities for smart growth if they restrict further development of water and sewer infrastructure, as the unintended consequence will be sprawl.
- Promote sustainable housing models, rather than subsidized ones.
- Reverse engineer the ideal cost of satisfying the need. We need to determine the median housing cost to match the expected workforce needs, then determine how we can produce that stock. What do the construction costs need to be? What does the price of the land need to be? ■