



Michigan Association of Planning

A Chapter of the American Planning Association

Smart Growth Policy

Adopted by MAP Board July 2005

Smart Growth is planning, designing, developing, and revitalizing communities to promote a sense of place, preserve natural and cultural resources, and equitably distribute the costs and benefits of development. Smart Growth enhances ecological integrity over the short- and long-term, and improves the quality of life by expanding the range of transportation, employment, and housing choices in a fiscally responsible manner. Compact, pedestrian-oriented, mixed-use development patterns epitomize Smart Growth and achieve more sustainable communities. Urban and rural low density, auto-dependent development that wastes environmental, fiscal, and human resources is the antithesis of Smart Growth.

1. The Michigan Association of Planning affirms that reforming state enabling legislation is necessary to implement Smart Growth
2. The Michigan Association of Planning affirms that effective comprehensive planning, based on Smart Growth principles, is the primary means of implementing Smart Growth.
3. The Michigan Association of Planning supports regulations that support land reuse and infill and require new urban growth to be coordinated with the provision of urban infrastructure capacity.
4. The Michigan Association of Planning supports the coordination, modernization, restructuring, and (where necessary) consolidation of local governmental units and/or services.
5. The Michigan Association of Planning supports statewide comprehensive planning.
6. The Michigan Association of Planning supports federal and state incentives and guidance to local governments on the elements to be addressed in comprehensive plans, based on Smart Growth principles. The elements should include land use, transportation, infrastructure, housing, economic development, natural resources, ecological systems, public educational facilities, other community facilities and cultural preservation.
7. The Michigan Association of Planning supports enabling legislation that provides incentives for adoption of a clearly defined comprehensive plan and capital improvements program prior to the imposition of land use regulations and controls at the local level.
8. The Michigan Association of Planning supports legislation that requires all actions of

local government be consistent with the community's comprehensive plan including, but not limited to, zoning and other land use regulations, as well as the provision of infrastructure.

9. The Michigan Association of Planning supports requiring federal agencies to include the effect of federal actions on urban growth and sprawl in their analyses of environmental impacts and to actively support state and local plans for growth management in federal regulations.

10. The Michigan Association of Planning supports local, state and federal regulatory processes that facilitate, encourage and support Smart Growth while eliminating regulatory barriers that increase the cost of Smart Growth.

11. The Michigan Association of Planning supports increased citizen participation in all levels of planning as a means to accommodate diversity while promoting equity and community.

12. The Michigan Association of Planning supports the provision of a clearinghouse of advanced planning and geographic information for decision makers and for the public by the use of coordinated regional, state, and federal Internet systems.

13. The Michigan Association of Planning supports planning and funding policies that link land use and transportation choices at the local and regional levels.

14. The Michigan Association of Planning supports planning and funding policies that acknowledge the continued importance of automotive transportation and support the automobile within a policy context that provides for mitigating its environmental and resource impacts, while increasing non-automotive transportation choices, car-pooling, van-pooling, and flexible work hours.

15. The Michigan Association of Planning supports federal and state incentives and local initiatives that encourage locating new development, especially the development of public facilities, in areas that are supported by a balanced transportation network that provides a variety of transportation choices and supports more active, healthy lifestyles.

16. The Michigan Association of Planning supports strengthening and modernizing state, metropolitan, and other regional institutions to facilitate multi-jurisdictional decision-making and problem solving.

17. The Michigan Association of Planning supports federal and state incentives for cooperative planning among local governments to address regional impacts and to pursue desired land use patterns through an integrated system of regional plan-making, implementation and monitoring.

18. The Michigan Association of Planning supports a wide variety of approaches to accomplish Smart Growth, because its principles can be applied to communities of all sizes and locations.

19. The Michigan Association of Planning supports increasing the role of regional planning organizations in planning for land conservation, cultural preservation, fiscal efficiency, ecological health and growth issues of greater than local concern.

20. The Michigan Association of Planning supports policies that favor the utilization of existing infrastructure capacity over public construction of new infrastructure, including the requirement that new development either pay for the services it requires or be consciously subsidized.

21. The Michigan Society of Planning supports a sustained and focused initiative in federal, state and local public policy to reverse the general decline of urban neighborhoods and the trend toward isolated, concentrated poverty through strategies that promote reinvestment within urban communities.

22. The Michigan Association of Planning supports increased social, economic, and racial equity in our communities and call on the federal government to increase community development funds to remedy these inequities and to include input from all segments of our population in the planning process, and to ensure that planning and development decisions do not unfairly burden economically disadvantaged groups.

23. The Michigan Association of Planning supports federal and state policies and programs that encourage mixed income neighborhoods as the foundation for healthy regions, including requirements for the provision of affordable housing in all new-growth areas or through the reinvestment in core communities.

24. The Michigan Association of Planning supports the enhancement of public education systems which are an essential component of community building in urban, suburban and rural areas, and which ensure that children have an opportunity for an excellent education in existing communities. In furtherance of creating such opportunities, Michigan Association of Planning (MSP) advocates for strategies that promote neighborhoods that are economically and socially diverse.

25. The Michigan Association of Planning supports planning that identifies the transportation, housing, employment, education and other needs of population change, both with respect to the total number of people expected to reside and also with respect to population groups with special needs such as the elderly, school children, or people of diverse cultures.

26. The Michigan Association of Planning encourages public, private, and non-profit cooperation to achieve a new level of partnership to preserve and enhance ecological integrity over the short- and long-term.

27. The Michigan Association of Planning supports land and water conservation, including farmland preservation, soil and wetlands conservation, and brownfield remediation and redevelopment. An important tool is full funding of the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund.

28. The Michigan Association of Planning supports protection and enhancement of biodiversity through the planning process. Planning for biodiversity should use the best available science to assess natural resources and determine areas of environmental vitality as the first step in incorporating "green infrastructure" into human settlements.

29. The Michigan Association of Planning supports federal and state agencies providing assistance to county and local governments to collect and analyze information on natural communities and processes. County and local governments should supplement this information with local knowledge. Using the combined information, all levels of government should work with nonprofit organizations, businesses, and citizens to designate green infrastructure policies and carry them out.

30. The Michigan Association of Planning supports a balanced energy policy including energy conservation and development of renewable energy resources.

31. The Michigan Association of Planning supports environmentally conscious design and construction, including "green architecture" practices, adoption of LEED™ Rating System of the U.S. Green Building Council, and the adaptive reuse of buildings and land recycling. (LEED™ is Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design.)

32. The Michigan Association of Planning supports comprehensive and coordinated water supply, distribution, treatment, and storm water planning to protect water supplies, preserve water quality, and prevent flooding.