



# COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

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March 3, 2010

Dear Community Partner:

Over the past several years, a variety of land use planning initiatives have been undertaken, supported, or evolved through some participation by Washtenaw County and the County Comprehensive Plan. The goals of the Comprehensive Plan have been advanced by multiple partners. In the context of significant economic challenges however, the 2010-2011 Budget adopted by Washtenaw County eliminated the Office of Strategic Planning as of January 1, 2010. This means a change in service level of land use planning functions that were previously provided to local communities. The following changes have resulted:

- Elimination of the Planning Advisory Board.
- The Washtenaw County Comprehensive Plan will remain as a resource, but will not be updated unless undertaken/directed by the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners.
- Local Master Plan Amendments/Updates can now be sent to the Washtenaw County Clerk/Register, who will include the materials in regular communication procedures to the County Board of Commissioners, who will determine if any comment or feedback will be provided. Please note that several agencies may be interested in reviewing master plan amendments:
  - Washtenaw County Department of Public Health – contact Sharon Sheldon, (734) 544-6781, [sheldonsp@ewashtenaw.org](mailto:sheldonsp@ewashtenaw.org)
  - Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner – contact Janis Bobrin, (734) 222-6860, [bobrinj@washtenaw.org](mailto:bobrinj@washtenaw.org)
  - Washtenaw Area Transportation Authority – contact Terri Blackmore, (734) 994-3127, [blackmoret@miwats.org](mailto:blackmoret@miwats.org)
- As Washtenaw County will not have a Planning Commission, it is no longer necessary to send PA 116 applications to Washtenaw County for comment. Please send final, approved PA 116 documents to the Washtenaw County Clerk/Register with the appropriate recording fees for recording.
- The Purchase of Development Rights program will be operated under contract by the Legacy Land Conservancy, and any inquires can be directed to them at (734) 302-5263 or through their website [www.legacylandconservancy.org](http://www.legacylandconservancy.org).

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- Washtenaw County previously operated a Subdivision Advisory Committee which has been dissolved. Communities that have utilized this function in the past should consider their procedures and processes accordingly.
- Census and socio-economic data management will occur at a reduced level and will be coordinated by Nathan Arnold, Washtenaw County GIS Developer at (734) 222-6792 or [arnoldn@ewashtenaw.org](mailto:arnoldn@ewashtenaw.org). Additional data is also available from the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) at [www.semco.org](http://www.semco.org).
- Master plan and zoning GIS data that was previously maintained by the Planning department will be available through request to the Map Store, located at 705 N. Zeeb or at (734) 222-6820.
- The Brownfield Redevelopment Program and the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission and associated historic districts will continue operation by the new Washtenaw County Department of Economic Development and Energy.

From another vantage point, the County looks forward to providing services to local units and other partners through the Department of Economic Development and Energy. In addition to a few roles identified, above, the Department will provide assistance regarding commercial building redevelopment incentives, business micro-loan programs, heritage tourism development and EDA grants as well as manage the A2success and Eastern leaders Group initiatives. The Department will also work with partners to advance energy policy development in the community through partnerships, technical assistance, and the acquisition and administration of grants to further energy policy. More information on services can be obtained by contacting Tony VanDerworp at [vanderwaorpa@ewashtenaw.org](mailto:vanderwaorpa@ewashtenaw.org) or visiting the Department website at [www.ewashtenaw.org/econdev](http://www.ewashtenaw.org/econdev).

Thank you for your commitment, action, and innovation over the years. We look forward to new partnerships to maintain a sense of place, and achieve a sustainable future.

Sincerely,



Robert E. Guenzel, County Administrator  
Washtenaw County

Cc: Board of County Commissioners, County Clerk, Treasurer, Water Resources Commissioner  
Verna McDaniel, Deputy County Administrator  
Anthony VanDerworp, Economic Development and Energy Director  
Washtenaw County Planning Advisory Board