POPULATION AND JOB PROJECTION METHODOLOGY

The population and employment projections you are using in today's Reality Check exercise came from the Maryland Department of Planning. Here is a brief explanation of how these numbers were derived.

Population:
Long-range population projections for the major metropolitan jurisdictions originate in the two regional Cooperative Forecasting Committees: the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments in the Washington Area (Charles, Calvert, Frederick, Montgomery and Prince George's counties) and the Baltimore Metropolitan Council in the Baltimore Area, (Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford and Howard counties and Baltimore City). As such, the projections are based on the collective thinking of local, state and regional planners, but for the most part reflect known and expected subdivision activity, local zoning, general and comprehensive plans, and where applicable, capacity constraints. The long-range projections that come out of these two cooperative forecast committees may be modified by the Maryland Department of Planning based on different estimates of the near term population or alternate assumptions on future growth trends.

For the non-major metro and rural counties, (St. Mary's and counties on the Eastern Shore and in Western Maryland, excluding Frederick); projections are developed by the Maryland Department of Planning using a demographic approach incorporating assumptions on fertility (births), mortality (deaths), net household migration and group quarters population.

Employment:
Employment - or jobs - is derived by the Maryland Department of Planning for all jurisdictions. Short-term job projections are based on past trends and known planned start-ups, expansions and contractions of firms as well as current economic conditions. Longer-term projections are governed by a combination of projected labor force totals as well as net commutation (number of in-commuters minus the number of out-commuters) for each county.

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TODAY'S VISION, TOMORROW'S REALITY!

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NOTES

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WHAT'S NEXT FOR REALITY CHECK *PLUS*?

The primary goals of Reality Check *Plus* are to:

- Raise awareness among the public and elected officials about the speed and magnitude of the population and job growth coming to the state over the next several decades; and,
- Encourage citizens and elected officials to begin thinking about ways to address growth issues on a regional or even statewide basis.

What distinguishes this effort from previous visioning exercises is that it is privately led, statewide, and action-oriented. Reality Check *Plus* is designed to go beyond the four regional visioning exercises to develop a specific implementation plan that will turn the statewide vision into Maryland's reality. Specifically, the effort is intended to accomplish four tasks:

- Develop a collective vision for growth, development and conservation in the state;
- Identify differences between that vision and current trends;
- Identify the policy, funding or other changes that will be needed to change those trends; and,
- Work to implement those changes.

The results of these four tasks will be assembled into a wrap-up report following the regional exercises. The report, *Blueprint for Maryland*, will include tools, indicators and recommendations to improve planning at the local, regional and state levels and help inform decision-makers as they guide Maryland through development decisions in the future.

As Reality Check *Plus* continues to gain momentum through 2007, we welcome your participation and efforts in making this statewide initiative a success. If you or your organization are interested in learning more about how to participate, please contact info@realitycheckmaryland.org, or visit our website at www.realitycheckmaryland.org.

REALITY CHECK *PLUS* EVENTS

EASTERN SHORE   **MAY 25, 2006**
THE HYATT AT CAMBRIDGE

WESTERN MD   **JUNE 2, 2006**
HAGERSTOWN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

CENTRAL MD   **JUNE 9, 2006**
BALTIMORE CONVENTION CENTER

SOUTHERN MD   **JUNE 15, 2006**
ST. MARY'S COLLEGE OF MARYLAND