



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

# **Diverse Stakeholders to Convene Across the State to Develop Consensus on Growth**

## ***Central Maryland Event Slated for June 9 in Baltimore***

- WHAT:** News Conference of Central Baltimore Regional Leaders to Announce **Reality Check Plus**
- Seven Maryland Counties, Baltimore City are Focus of June 9 Central Region Exercise
- WHO:** Bryce Turner/Urban Land Institute – Baltimore District Council and BCT Architects  
Petey Green/Prince George's Black Chamber of Commerce  
John Kortecamp/Home Builders Association of Maryland, a financial supporter of **Reality Check Plus**  
Dana Bourland/Enterprise Community Partners, a financial supporter of **Reality Check Plus**  
Gerrit Knaap/National Center for Smart Growth Research and Education at the Univ. of Maryland  
Dru Schmidt-Perkins/1000 Friends of Maryland  
Chris Kurz/Linden Associates and the Urban Land Institute – Baltimore District Council
- WHEN:** **Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006**  
**11 – 11:30 a.m.**
- WHERE:** Johns Hopkins University Downtown Campus, 10 North Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21201  
**Directions:** JHU Downtown is located near the intersection of Charles and Fayette streets in downtown Baltimore. From north or south on I-95, take the exit marked 'I-395 Downtown'. Stay on I-395 going toward the Inner Harbor. Bear right at the first right onto Conway Street. At the second traffic light, turn left on to Charles Street. Proceed to the corner of Charles and Fayette. The center is on your left. (Also accessible by public transportation -- Metro/Baltimore Street station or Light Rail/Lexington Market station.)
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Through discourse and negotiation, **Reality Check Plus** participants will propose alternative growth scenarios within their region. Participants will use Legos® to help guide their discussions, by placing the Legos®, which will represent a certain number of new jobs and new residents, on their regional map. Each table of up to 10 participants will be led through a discussion about planning for future growth by a trained facilitator. The exercise is intended to provoke discussion not only about where we grow, but also about how we grow as a region.

The results of this work will serve as the foundation for needed regional and statewide dialogue and future action to accommodate growth in a way that leverages resources, adds value to our communities, and protects and enhances our quality of life. Shortly after the conclusion of the four regional events, **Reality Check Plus** organizers will aggregate and analyze the outcomes of the four exercises in a wrap-up report, which will also include tools, indicators and recommendations for value-added planning on the local and regional levels.

A broad-based coalition of more than 100 sponsors and supporting organizations is guiding this effort, including the Home Builders Association of Maryland, the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Enterprise Community Partners, St. Mary's College, the Citizens Planning and Housing Association, the Coalition for Smarter Growth, the Maryland chapter of the American Planning Association, the Maryland Center for Agro-Ecology, the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, the Greater Baltimore Committee, Westside Renaissance, the Greater Washington Board of Trade, and the Interfaith Housing Alliance, among many others.

A number of other jurisdictions around the country have already launched local or regional visioning exercises – Envision Utah in the Salt Lake City region; Blueprint in Sacramento, California; and Reality Check in Los Angeles, Dallas Ft. Worth and Washington, D.C. What distinguishes **Reality Check Plus** from previous visioning exercises in Maryland is that it is privately led, statewide and action-oriented.

[www.realitycheckmaryland.org](http://www.realitycheckmaryland.org)

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