

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL  
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

**Meeting Date:** 10/24/95

**Reference No.:** CB-87-1995

**Proposer:** M-NCPPC

**Draft No.:** 1

**Sponsors:** Maloney, Scott and MacKinnon

**Item Title:** An Ordinance concerning Public Participation Procedures for the purpose of amending the public participation procedures for certain types of plans

**Drafter:** Jimi Jones  
M-NCPPC

**Resource Personnel:** Craig Rovelstad  
M-NCPPC

**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:**

**Date Presented:** 9/26/95

**Executive Action:** \_\_/\_\_/\_\_ \_\_

**Committee Referral:**(1) 9/26/95 PZED

**Effective Date:** 1/8/96

**Committee Action:**(1) 10/18/95 FAV

**Date Introduced:** 10/24/95

**Pub. Hearing Date:** (1) 11/21/95 10:30 AM

**Council Action:** (1) 11/21/95 ENACTED

**Council Votes:** AMc:A, DB:A, SD:A, JE:A, IG:A, WM:A, RVR:A, AS:A, MW:A

**Pass/Fail:** P

**Remarks:** \_\_\_\_\_

PLANNING, ZONING AND ECONOMIC DEV. COM. REPORT

DATE: 10/18/95

Committee Vote: Favorable, 4-1 (In favor: Council Members MacKinnon, Maloney, Russell and Wilson; in opposition: Council Member Gourdine).

This legislation amends the public participation component of the Master Plan procedures, essentially by replacing the requirement for a Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) with a requirement that a public participation program be formulated for each specific plan. It is envisioned that this new process will encourage broader public participation in the planning process than the existing CAC requirement. Art Tankersley, Craig Rovelstad, Chris Izzo and Bill Wilkerson, representing the Planning Department, described the process that the department underwent that led to the proposed legislation. This process is outlined in a report presented to the Committee, entitled

"Proposal for Public Participation During Formulation of a Plan". They also stated that the new procedures are necessary for several plans that are in the department's FY95-96 work program, including the Addison Road Metro Area Plan, the Heights Project, the Greenbelt Area Metro Project, and the Maryland Route 202 Corridor Project. As had been requested by the Committee, planning staff transmitted a letter to all recent past chairs and vice-chairs of Citizens Advisory Committees, informing them of the Committee worksession and soliciting their input. To date, no responses had been received.

Committee members expressed concern regarding the lack of specific standards governing the new process. Planning staff explained that although the legislation proposes a flexible process, it is designed to be more encompassing and will be more effective, since each program will be tailored to the specific type of plan being prepared and the area under consideration. It will allow for more innovative techniques to be used, and provides more guidelines to the staff than the existing requirements regarding the establishment of a CAC. It was also noted that in certain cases, a CAC may still be the most appropriate public participation vehicle, and this legislation is flexible enough to allow for this. The staff added that this legislation is the first of several improvements to the Master Planning process that will be developed by the Planning Department.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION/FISCAL IMPACT**

**(Includes reason for proposal, as well as any unique statutory requirements)**

Currently, the plan (i.e., General, Master, Small Area Plans and Plan Amendments) process uses the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) process to provide citizen input. The proposed legislation is intended to replace the CAC with a process that encourages wider public participation in the preparation of all types of plans. Among other things, this bill permits public participation techniques to be tailored to the plan being prepared, allows the public to help design the participation process, and requires District Council approval of the public participation program for each planning project.

This bill revises Sections 27-642, 27-643 and 27-644 of the Zoning Ordinance.

#### **CODE INDEX TOPICS:**