

Prince George's Smart Growth Advocacy Coalition

Name: RISE Prince George's <tentative>

From: Bernard Holloway + Cheryl Cort, Coalition for Smarter Growth

Mission Statement: Prince Georgians deserve shared, sustainable prosperity by creating safe, walkable, inclusive and transit-oriented communities.

We, the undersigned and assembled, seek to build a prosperous, equitable and sustainable future for our county that is complete with:

- Multiple thriving Downtowns (in the North, Central, and Southern regions of the County)
- Inclusive, safe, and connected neighborhoods and municipalities
- Preserved open spaces and natural areas

By working towards a strategy for shared prosperity and equitable development that is generated from and advocated by Prince Georgians for Prince George's, we can create a virtuous cycle of retaining homegrown talent and businesses, attracting new talent and investment, and improving the lives of people and communities – especially those historically excluded from wealth and opportunity.

With 15 Metro stations and another 11 Purple Line stations on the way, the county's transit assets are THE competitive advantage – without peer or rival – for promoting future job growth, local economic development, and generating badly needed increases in our tax base.

Equitable economic development through transit-oriented development (TOD) will create the base of public and private resources that are necessary to support high-performing schools, community-oriented public safety services, increasing the amount of high-quality housing for people of all incomes close to jobs and essential services, as well as better employment, entrepreneurship, and wealth-building opportunities for all county residents.

Despite our local economic development assets – namely transit hubs, anchor institutions, and proximity to regional employment centers – the county has often diluted the value of these natural advantages by permitting and subsidizing the conversion of rural resource lands to scattered automobile-dependent residential subdivisions and retail developments.

This land use pattern has undermined private and public reinvestment in older established communities and around the county's 15 Metro stations. We want to see the county reverse its permissive land use decisions and practices, and refocus on equitable economic development by initiating new transportation, quality affordable housing, infrastructure, and placemaking projects, policies and investments for walkable urban neighborhoods (which are, by definition, supportive of transit-oriented development) inside-the-Beltway.

This work will be accomplished by organizing young professionals who seek to build on the great potential of their county and overcome historical inequities that leave the county lagging in quality services, housing, and opportunity for all residents. We will organize a readily available demographic of energetic young professionals, and conduct listening sessions with a diversity of county residents to validate our understanding of challenges facing the county for all members of the community. This pro-active stakeholder engagement will allow us to partner with many different advocates and the people who rely on access to quality affordable housing, transit, and ability to walk to jobs, services and amenities to build better lives.