

SAMPLE RESOLUTION SUPPORTING and AUTHORIZING REGIONAL AND MUNICIPAL PLAN ENDORSEMENT

RESOLUTION # _____

A RESOLUTION INDICATING APPROVAL OF THE WESTERN SOUTHERN CUMBERLAND REGION STRATEGIC PLAN AND SUPPORTING SUBMISSION OF THE REGIONAL PLAN AND THE MUNICIPAL PLAN BY THE CUMBERLAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ON BEHALF OF REGION AND THE MUNICIPALITY TO THE NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF SMART GROWTH AND THE NEW JERSEY STATE PLANNING COMMISSION FOR PLAN ENDORSEMENT.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Governing Body of (MUNICIPALITY / NAME) has reviewed the Western Southern Cumberland Region Strategic Plan (WSCRSP); and

WHEREAS, we have found the WSCRSP to be reflective of the needs and goals of the region, consistent with our municipal plans and consistent with the State Development and Redevelopment Plan and ready for submission to the State for Plan Endorsement; and

WHEREAS, one of the major goals of the WSCRSP is to include municipal plan endorsement applications concurrent with submission of the regional plan and to obtain municipal plan endorsement for those municipalities that have participated in and supported the regional planning process and that have complied with the requirements of the State Planning Commission for such endorsement; and

WHEREAS, we have decided to submit our application for municipal plan endorsement with the submission of the WSCRSP; and

WHEREAS, Plan Endorsement is a process developed by the State Planning Commission to approve municipal, county, regional plans that are consistent with the State Development and Redevelopment Plan ; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Plan Endorsement process is to reach the following goals by increasing the consistency among municipal, county, regional and State agency plans with each other and with the State Plan, and to facilitate the implementation of these plans.

The goals of plan endorsement are to:

1. Encourage municipal, county, regional and state agency plans to be coordinated and support each other to achieve the goals of the State Plan;
2. Encourage municipalities and counties to plan on a regional basis with recognizing the fundamental role of the municipal master plan and development regulations;
3. Consider the entire municipality, including Centers, Cores, Nodes and Environs, within the context of regional systems;
4. Provide an opportunity for all government entities and the public to discuss and resolve common planning issues;
5. Provide a framework to guide and support state investment programs and permitting assistance in the implementation of municipal, county and regional plans that meet statewide objectives; and
6. Learn new planning approaches and techniques from municipal, county and regional governments for dissemination throughout the state and possible incorporation into the State Plan. (The New Jersey State Development and Redevelopment Plan, 2001, page 14).
7. Ensure that petitions for Plan Endorsement are consistent with applicable State land use statutes and regulations; and

WHEREAS, Plan Endorsement is the process by which a regional plan receives the support of the State for its planning and implementation agenda and a municipality can obtain approval for its proposed centers and have them designated in the State Plan Policy Map; and

WHEREAS, the municipality's petition for initial and/or advanced plan endorsement is proposing the designation of center(s) within the municipality as indicated in the WSCRSP; and

WHEREAS, the municipality and the region, if successful in achieving plan endorsement, will be entitled to a higher priority for available funding, streamlined permit reviews, and coordinated state agency services; and

WHEREAS, the Plan Endorsement Guidelines approved by the State Planning Commission note that if there is a need for better planning resources, the Office of Smart Growth will work with the applicant on a scope of work needed, help seek funding sources and establish reasonable timelines for completion of such work; and

WHEREAS, one of the goals of the State Plan is to ensure sound and integrated planning and implementation statewide (The New Jersey State Development and Redevelopment Plan, 2001, Goal 8) and as such, the State Planning Commission will give priority to petitions received from counties, regional entities, and urban complexes, as well as to municipalities that submit their master plans as part a petition from a county, regional entity or urban complex.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND GOVERNING BODY OF (NAME OF MUNICIPALITY) AS FOLLOWS:

1. The WSCRSP is hereby endorsed for submission to the Office of Smart Growth and State Planning Commission.
2. Initial Petition for Municipal Plan Endorsement is hereby endorsed for submission to the Office of Smart Growth and State Planning Commission concurrent with the WSCRSP.
3. The Executive Director of Cumberland Development Corporation is hereby directed to submit the WSCRSP Petition and with the approval of the WSCRSP Steering Committee, to execute the final Planning and Implementation Agreement, which shall outline the commitments on the part of the State and the petitioner to implement the endorsed regional plan.
4. The _____(TOWNSHIP OFFICIAL)_____ is hereby directed to work with the executive director of the Cumberland Development Corp. to submit the Initial Petition and to execute, with the approval of the governing body, the final Planning and Implementation Agreement which shall outline the commitments on the part of the State and the petitioner to implement the endorsed municipal plan.
5. That these region and municipal applications for Plan Endorsement receive the priority status described in the State Planning Commission goals and the benefits as promised in the State endorsement guidelines.
6. That these petitions be reviewed in a fair and timely manner, taking into consideration the special nature of this precedent setting joint regional and local plan endorsement submission, the years of cooperative planning on the parts of the municipalities, the region, the county and the State in the creation of the WSCRSP.

Date: _____

(SEAL)

(Signed)