

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
Between
THE CITY OF BALTIMORE
And
THE MID-ATLANTIC FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

The Mid-Atlantic Federal Partnership for the Environment (“MAFPE”) and the City of Baltimore (“City”) hereby agree to work cooperatively within each signatory’s existing authorities and funding to create a vibrant urban economy in the City by employing the principles of smart growth and sustainable development.

An underlying premise of this partnership is that improved management of urban sprawl will be accomplished by environmentally sensitive economic redevelopment within the urban core. The benefits will include job growth and improved quality of life for city residents, as well as broader environmental benefits that accrue to the Chesapeake Bay environs from improved land use management and reduced sprawl.

Background. The City has developed a “Digital Harbor” strategy for revitalizing and re-positioning Baltimore’s economy by providing the infrastructure necessary to compete in the age of information and technology. An influx of companies in the financial and science based technology sectors has resulted in growth and expansion of the economy. As part of this burgeoning transformation, Baltimore has an opportunity to redevelop former abandoned and vacant areas into viable and sustainable neighborhoods, using technology businesses to anchor exciting mixed use redevelopment projects.

This “Digital Harbor” economic redevelopment strategy includes the following elements:

- ✧ ***New Jobs in Old Spaces*** – Promote redevelopment of historic buildings, loft structures, and older office buildings for new technology businesses;
- ✧ ***Reclaiming Brownfields*** – Cleanup and redevelop abandoned industrial properties for new offices and information age businesses;
- ✧ ***Strengthening Neighborhoods*** – Create new investment in existing neighborhoods, spurred partly by technology jobs, combined with “Live near your work” campaigns;
- ✧ ***Recreation, Parks and Quality of Life*** – Add amenities to attract business and improve quality of life - develop and improve waterfront parks, two greenway/trail systems, the waterfront promenade, as well as new streets and streetscape improvements;
- ✧ ***Bridging the Digital Divide*** – Support educational services, partnerships with universities, and outreach to communities in order to upgrade the technical skills of the workforce and in order to assure that the benefits of economic growth accrue to those most in need.

MAFPE has set an objective of coordinating agency programs to assist local governments in a manner that supports growth management and protection of vital natural resources. MAFPE objectives include:

- ✧ To encourage the appropriate revitalization of urban residential communities and redevelopment of abandoned commercial, industrial, and brownfields sites;

- ⌘ To reinforce state and local leadership and objectives in managing growth, creating livable communities, and protecting natural resources.

Goals of the Agreement. The City and MAFPE partners agree to support the “Digital Harbor” strategy, as consistent with the principles of sustainable development and smart growth. Specific goals are:

1. To encourage environmentally-responsible, sustainable redevelopment of Baltimore’s waterfront, thereby also contributing to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay;
2. To support and enhance amenities and infrastructure – parks, waterfront promenade, greenway trails, streets and streetscape improvements - that will: 1) facilitate redevelopment; 2) provide public access to the water; and 3) provide education on environmental values in an urban setting;
3. To support and expand efforts to cleanup, restore, and redevelop brownfields and environmentally-degraded areas, consistent with the goals of the Chesapeake Bay 2000 Agreement;
4. *To support and enhance training and educational efforts geared to information systems and technology;*
5. To support and encourage model, environmentally-friendly “green” design of redevelopment projects.

Priority Projects. The City and the MAFPE partners agree to give first priority to the following Digital Harbor redevelopment projects (see appendix for more detail):

- ⌘ *HarborPoint/Constellation*
- ⌘ *Carroll-Camden Industrial area*
- ⌘ *Aquarium/Port Covington*
- ⌘ *Waterfront Promenade/Greenway Trail System*

Implementation. The City and MAFPE agree to establish a Working Committee on the Digital Harbor. Future committees may be set up to address other issues of common concern with the agreement of both parties.

Goals and Timetables. The Working Committee(s) will meet and provide progress reports, recommended goals, actions (strategies), and timetables to the signatories. These activities will continue for a period of one year from the date of the signed agreement. At that time the Committee’s work will be evaluated and further direction determined. (The “keep it simple” principle should be applied).

Agency Roles and Responsibilities. Approaches, activities and plans for the four priority projects (Harbor Point/Constellation, Carroll-Camden industrial area, Aquarium/Port Covington, waterfront promenade/Greenway Trail System), as well as the roles and responsibilities of each participating agency, will be established by the members of the various Working Committees provided, however, that the commitment of personnel and funding in furtherance of this agreement shall be authorized solely by individual task agreements identifying each project, the amount of funding obligated therefor and any other terms and conditions and executed by the parties thereto. The City and each agency in MAFPE will work to agree on specific elements of pilot projects, in accordance with the MAFPE agreement of May 16, 2000. The purpose of this agreement was to establish a framework for co-operation among the federal agencies whose missions are related to environmental protection in the Mid-Atlantic states.

Effect of this MOA

This MOA shall remain in effect until modified or amended by the parties and does not supersede the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) of the Mid-Atlantic Federal Partners for the Environment signed October 19, 1999.

AGREED: (signatures)

_____	_____
Martin O'Malley	Date
Mayor	
City of Baltimore	

_____	_____
Secretary	Date
Maryland Department of the Environment	

_____	_____
Secretary	Date
Maryland Department of Natural Resources	

_____	_____
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Regional Administrator
US Environmental Protection Agency, Region III

Date

District Engineer
US Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore

Date

Field Office Supervisor
Annapolis Field Office
US Fish & Wildlife

Date

Area Director
USDA Forest Service, Eastern Region

Date

Regional Conservationist
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, East Region

Date

Eastern Region Geologist
US Geological Survey

Date

Eastern States Director

Date

US Bureau of Land Management

Regional Director
National Park Service

Date

Area Director
USDA Forest Service
Northeastern Region

Date

Regional Director
US Department of Housing & Urban Development

Date

Appendix – Partnership Programs - Recommended Areas of City-Federal Involvement under the MOU

PRIORITY PROJECTS:

- ***HarborPoint/Constellation*** – The highly-visible former Allied Signal and Constellation Properties sites are planned as a mixed use office-technology-retail-residential complex that will connect Fells Point and the Inner Harbor. Ultimately, the Harbor Point and Constellation sites are projected to employ more than 5,000 people in 1.4 million square feet of space. As examples, the following aspects of the project could benefit from federal assistance: 1) the development of a high quality 5-acre waterfront park, linked to the linear waterfront promenade; 2) street and access improvements needed to accommodate intense development; 3) bulkhead improvements for the promenade at the Constellation property; 4) facilitation of purchaser protections related to the liability issues at the former Allied site; and 5) assistance with green design of buildings.
- ⌘ ***Carroll-Camden Industrial area*** – The City’s recently-drafted Master Plan for the Carroll-Camden industrial area calls for redevelopment that mixes office and technology uses with industrial uses. Acquisition of about 10 key parcels of land, including 8 waterfront acres on the upper Middle Branch, is underway. Examples of project components that may benefit from Federal assistance are: 1) access improvements, including expansion of two current half interchanges; 2) the Gwynns Falls Greenway, including shoreline improvements and construction of the trail; 3) brownfields redevelopment, including continuation of the EPA Targeted Brownfields Site Assessment Program; and 4) assistance with green design of buildings.
- ⌘ ***Aquarium/Port Covington*** – a planned big box retail complex is slated for a 50-acre Port Covington brownfields site. Waterfront redevelopment will continue with the planned National Aquarium in Baltimore Animal Care Aquatic Conservation Center, which will be designed as an eco-friendly green building. Wetlands restoration will be an important part of the project. Federal assistance could benefit the project in the areas of: 1) wetlands RESTORATION; 2) brownfields issues; and 3) green building elements.
- ⌘ ***Waterfront Promenade/Greenway Trail System*** – Baltimore’s plan is to develop a system of walkways, bike paths, and greenways that will connect the waterfront development areas, the Inner Harbor, and the neighborhoods. Well underway, this ambitious plan will eventually create 15 miles of trails along the harbor and in the Gwynns Falls and Jones Falls watershed areas. The trail system will be both an amenity to residents and a generator of new investment, complementing and acting as a unifying theme to the Digital Harbor. Examples of how federal assistance could benefit the project include assistance with planning, designing, and constructing the promenade, the greenway/trail, and related bulkhead and stream restoration improvements.

Other Projects:

With subsequent agreement of both parties, the MOU may also be used as a vehicle to address environmental and quality of life issues that are complementary to the Digital Harbor plan, including, as examples:

- *Transportation* – assistance in improving access to other Digital Harbor/brownfields sites;
- *Light Rail* – Assistance with planning and implementation of east-west LRT link;
- *Training and Education* – assistance to upgrade the workforce in technology fields;
- *Strengthening Neighborhoods*: create affordable housing and new investment in existing neighborhoods, spurred partly by technology jobs, combined with “live near your work” campaigns and other housing programs;
- *Historic and Cultural Resources* – assistance with historic preservation and cultural enhancement projects complimentary to the Digital Harbor plan;
- *Data Management and Geographic Information Systems* – technical assistance in enhancing the CityStat monitoring system; develop a GIS watershed database, and/or operational tools that support urban watershed and forestry management initiatives;
- *Flood Control and Emergency Management Planning* – priority funding for the Gwynns Falls flood dike and other emergency management projects in the relevant watersheds;
- *Natural Resource Protection and Enhancement* – support projects involving the creation of wetlands, stream restoration, submerged aquatic grassbeds, and other ecosystem restoration activities; support long-range park and open space planning;
- *Permitting* – assistance with federal permitting processes;
- *Clean Streams and Water Quality* – assistance with upgrading City sanitary and stormwater sewers impacting water quality in the watershed areas for the Inner Harbor and Middle Branch;
- *Urban Forests and tree planting* – assistance with enhancing public spaces and landscaping of key corridors; support the designation of Baltimore as an area for USFS cooperative forestry research;
- *Environmental Health* – assistance with lead poisoning related issues.
- *Community grassroots watershed planning and projects*: assist communities and watershed associations with planning and projects geared to stream restoration and watershed protection.