



FLORIDA PLANNING

The Smart Growth Governor, A Conference Keynote Speaker

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The Florida Chapter of APA provides statewide leadership in the development of sustainable communities by advocating excellence in planning, providing professional development for its members, and working to protect and enhance the natural and built environments.

Decades before the Florida Legislature adopted Chapter 163, Part II, commonly referred to as the Growth Management Act, a Florida State University student named Parris Glendening was already concerned about what his home state would look like in the next few decades. On long weekends while attending FSU, Glendening would drive the scenic route through the Florida Everglades to a machine shop that he worked at near Miami. "The scenery was magnificent and the view of the wildlife amazing" said Glendening. But in his last year at FSU, what Glendening saw on his drive to south Florida disturbed him greatly — "subdivision after subdivision replaced a gracious landscape of wetlands and grasslands."

Florida was experiencing a development boom like much of the country, characterized by single-use, low-density, car-dependent communities. Glendening did not have a name for what was happening, but knew it was something to be concerned about as more and more of Florida's environmentally sensitive areas were being lost forever.

Today, that something is called sprawl.

Fast-forward three decades and now first-term Maryland Governor Glendening has just put together an unprecedented gubernatorial legislative package of laws, executive orders, budget mandates, administrative regulations, and policy directives. This legislative program was commonly referred to as the

1997 Maryland Smart Growth Program, and was the first to utilize the entire state budget as a tool to guide growth statewide.

Not only did Smart Growth become big news in Maryland, but across the nation, and almost overnight Glendening was thrust into the spotlight as a leading opponent of sprawl and an advocate for a new kind of environmental protection. Smart growth has since become a common term used by many



Maryland Governor
Parris Glendening

planners to describe mixed-use, high-density development with alternative modes of transportation that promote pedestrian-friendly, sustainable communities.

Governor Glendening, President of the Smart Growth Leadership Institute, a project of Smart Growth America, continues to dedicate his time to helping state and local elected, civic and business leaders design and implement effective smart growth strategies.

In the years since the passage of the Smart Growth Program, there have been numerous successful implementations of smart growth strategies across the nation. Governor Glendening in his keynote address at the Thursday luncheon of the 2007 FAPA conference will highlight a few and comment on the *Lessons Learned from Implementing Smart Growth*.