

## **Cross Acceptance/Plan Endorsement Process**

### **What is it?**

It's the formal method used by the State of New Jersey to negotiate the State Development and Redevelopment Plan, generally referred to as the State Plan, with local and county governments.

The Cross Acceptance/Plan Endorsement (CA) process objective is to have the negotiating entity (County) create an analysis report that provides the relative consistency of State, county, and municipal plans.

The current Cross Acceptance Process is the third round of this negotiation process. The process started with the State Planning Act of 1985 (N.J.S.A. 52:18A-196 et. seq.) which created the State Planning Commission and the Office of State Planning (re-named to the Office of Smart Growth) with a purpose to foster a cooperative planning process that involved local, county, and state governments. For a general perspective of the history of the State Plan and Cross Acceptance process is noted in the Chronology Table below:

### **General Chronology\* of the State Plan**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Date/Year/Period</b>
State Planning Act of 1985	1985
Preliminary State Plan	Jan. 1989
Interim State Development Redevelopment Plan (State Plan)	1991
Cross Acceptance - I	1989-1992
State Plan I Adoption	1992
Preliminary State Plan - II	Sept. 1997
Cross Acceptance - II	1997 - 2000
Impact Assessment of Interim State Plan	2000-2001
Adoption of State Plan II	Mar. 2001

**\*Please note that some of the above dates are approximations.**

### **What is the Union County Planning Board's role in the Cross Acceptance process and Plan Endorsement?**

The Planning Board will assume an advisory role in the third round of the CA process. The County's Bureau of Land Use Planning within the Department of Economic Development's Planning Division will be the primary group interacting with the

## **Cross Acceptance Overview**

Office of Smart Growth (OSG), associated consultants, stakeholders, and the constituent municipalities in Union County. The Bureau will provide the Planning Board a monthly cross acceptance update as part of the Board's regular agenda.

### **What has Union County done in relation to the third round of the Cross Acceptance Process?**

The County has met with the Office of Smart Growth on the CA process and has received a Cross Acceptance grant sponsored by OSG to assist the County's efforts in the CA process. The County has informed OSG that the CA process requires more funding than the grant amount received as well as more time than allocated. The County has solicited municipal participation several times through letters and telephone inquiries. Through this process the County has met with nine (9) municipalities and has received updated planning documents from 16 municipalities. The County Planning Office has conducted two public meetings to discuss the County's Cross Acceptance Report and proposed map amendments to the State Plan Policy Map for Union County.

See the chart below for the current OSG Cross Acceptance schedule.

### **What is OSG's Cross Acceptance Schedule?**

#### **Schedule of Target Dates**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Date/Year/Period</b>
Release of Preliminary State Plan III	April 21, 2004
OSG "Kick-Off" meeting at Kean University	June 21, 2004
Cross Acceptance III – Compare & Negotiate	July. '04 – Feb. '05
Cross Acceptance Report Due Date	Feb. 28. '05
Impact Assessment of State Plan by OSG	Mar. 2005
Draft Final State Plan and Infrastructure Needs Assessment	April 2005
Adoption of State Plan III	July 2005

### **What are the next steps by the County in relation to the Cross Acceptance Process?**

- A resolution will be prepared and presented to the County of Union Board of Chosen Freeholder in relation to the Final CA Report.

## **Cross Acceptance Overview**

- Upon adoption by the County Freeholder Board the Final Report will be released to all County municipalities and the general public.
- Office of Smart Growth will arrange with County Staff to meet to discuss negotiations items (if any) and the CA Report.
- County staff with OSG assistance and Freeholder Board direction will decide if Plan Endorsement is necessary for Union County.