



CITY OF NEWBURYPORT
PLANNING BOARD
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April 2, 2015

William E. Reyelt, Principal Planner
Smart Growth Programs
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Housing & Community Development
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 300
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Mr. Reyelt:

The Newburyport Planning Board is in full support of the City's proposed Smart Growth Village District (SGVD). This district will concentrate development around our commuter rail station, which will encourage compact, though appropriate, infill development. The mixed-use structures created through the new district will promote an attractive, sustainable, walkable and vibrant new neighborhood.

The land surrounding the commuter rail station is ripe for redevelopment. The provisions within the SGVD will ensure that the new development is appropriate in terms of scale and density, includes a significant percentage of affordable housing units (25%) and fosters a sense of community through pedestrian connections within the subject parcels as well as to other neighborhoods in the City.

Adoption of the SGVD will aid the City is accomplish multiple components of the Master Plan, including creating affordable housing, utilizing transit-oriented development principles and promoting compact, efficient, walkable neighborhoods that cater to the pedestrian rather than the single-occupant vehicle.

Sincerely,



Jim McCarthy, Chair