



Smart Growth Watchdogs

Think Regionally,
Act Locally

About CSG

- Founded in 1997, six staff, working in nine major DC area jurisdictions
- Founded by leading conservation and environmental groups and today have wide range of partners
- We address the interconnected issues of land use, transportation, housing, equity, and the environment
- Vision is network of walkable, mixed-use, mixed-income, transit-oriented communities as the most sustainable and inclusive way for our region to grow

Some of our recent wins



West Falls Church and Takoma Metro redevelopments (TOD)



Duke Street Transitway (bus rapid transit in Alexandria)



Safe Streets for Baileys Crossroads (street improvements)



Thrive 2050 (Montgomery County general plan)



Affordable housing at Chevy Chase Library (housing)



Historic TPB vote to reduce emissions by 50% (transportation)

Importance of watchdogging

- Having an official CSG presence at meetings is key!
- However, there are often several relevant meetings in the same week and our staff simply cannot attend them all.
- This is where you come in!



Your Role: Signing up for meetings

- Once you join the Google group...
- Every Thursday / every other Thursday, you'll get a round-up of upcoming meetings to cover from Ayesha
- The meetings will also be in this [Google sheet](#) w/ link to sign up for the meeting
- Make sure you indicate in the sheet that you've signed up for the meeting, so other volunteers know that it's covered

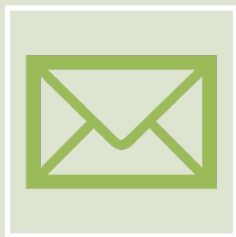
Your Role: At the meeting

- Take detailed notes – more information is better!
- Track the politics of the meetings
 - Which public officials are there?
 - Are people mostly in favor/opposed?
 - How many people are in the room?
- Be open to meeting officials and audience members
 - listen to who they are and what their interests are.
- Please don't speak on behalf of CSG, unless we request you to do so and coordinate testimony ahead of time
- Post-meeting, email your notes to Ayesha and the relevant policy staffer

Next steps!



Fill out our [questionnaire](#) to test your understanding. Once you've submitted it, we'll add you to the google group!



Keep an eye out for an email from Ayesha with the recording, link to questionnaire, and other resources

QUESTIONS?

