



American Planning Association
Pennsylvania Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

Dear Chapter Members:

I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with an important update on the FY 2009-2010 budget.

The PA Chapter of APA Legislative Committee has been monitoring events surrounding this budget and has maintained close contact to leaders in the House and Senate to stay as best informed as possible.

A key budget issue for planners and local governments across the Commonwealth is the Governor's proposal to delete funding for the Land Use Planning and Technical Assistance Program (LUPTAP) in the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) agency budget. To date, the House and the Senate have not acted to restore funding.

I strongly urge you to contact your Representative and State Senator today and press them to act to restore funding of at least \$1 million for the LUPTAP program (which includes Transit Revitalization Investment District (TRID) program funding). Recommended actions are summarized below:

- **Contact your Representative/State Senator and urge them to restore the LUPTAP line item to at least \$1M** in order to keep this valuable program alive until next year, when hopefully, it can be further increased.
- Please note, emails will not be given a great deal of attention at this time, therefore sending an email to your Representative or State Senator encouraging support for LUPTAP will not have much impact. **Instead, call your Representative/State Senator's district office** and ask for the district office manager or a legislative aide who is assigned to handle this matter in order to speak to someone directly. If possible **schedule a face-to-face meeting** to drive home the importance of the LUPTAP program in your community.
- **Also consider contacting a reporter at your local newspaper** to tell the story about how the elimination of LUPTAP will harm your specific city or town. Be prepared to share anecdotal evidence, including stories of how LUPTAP funding has positively impacted your community. Reiterate the critical role played by LUPTAP.

Thank you for your efforts during this critical time. Your voice is a vital component to communicating this message to the members of the General Assembly.

Sincerely,

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