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**Memorandum in Support;
Smart Growth Public Infrastructure Act (S5560/A8011)**

Vision Long Island joins with others to promote more livable, economically sustainable, and environmentally responsible growth on Long Island through Smart Growth. Smart Growth focuses on infill, re-development, and open space preservation. It supports mixed-use, mixed-income communities that are convenient, attractive, pedestrian-friendly, and that make affordable housing and public transportation desirable and realistic.

Based on our expertise, we are writing to express our support for the Smart Growth Public Infrastructure Policy Act, introduced by Assemblyman Hoyt and Senator Oppenheimer. This bill, S5560/A8011, will sharply curtail the use of new public funds for projects that support or induce sprawl by redirecting some of that funding to efforts that lead to the economic revitalization of our communities.

Long Island is plagued by historically poor development decisions and zoning codes that have helped perpetuate sprawl: a costly, environmentally hazardous, and unpleasant land use. Sprawl is able to exist in New York State in part because of public funding that prioritizes that type of development. However, there are 95 Smart Growth projects and 45 master plans, hamlet studies, and vision plans of various size and scale currently underway throughout Long Island that reject sprawl and seek a more livable and sustainable system. Despite limited funding opportunities, Smart Growth investments have taken hold for Long Island's local governments, businesses, advocacy groups, and residents.

This bill clearly instructs state agencies, authorities, and corporations to align their infrastructure planning and spending with smart growth criteria, "to the extent practicable." The agencies would prioritize funding to the infrastructure and development plans of local governments, as well as create advisory committees that include community and environmental interests to review any proposed projects.

The listed smart growth criteria speak to: prioritizing "fix-it-first" projects or projects in or related to developed areas or areas designated in a municipally approved comprehensive land use plan; protecting and enhancing the state's natural, open space, historic and archeological resources; fostering mixed land use and compact development and housing affordability in proximity to places of employment and recreation for all income and age groups; providing mobility through transportation choices including, improved public transit and reduced automobile dependency; coordinating among governmental jurisdictions; participating in community based planning and collaboration; and ensuring predictability in building and land use codes.

Adopting such criteria as a means to allocate public funds will result in a more productive state economy and communities – main streets, town centers and urban areas – that are more economically viable.

The Smart Growth Public Infrastructure Policy Act is an effective piece of legislation that conserves limited public expenditures for both services and infrastructure, promotes economic development throughout the state where it is most needed, protects the environment and open space, helps New York State achieve its energy and climate change goals by reducing auto use, and improves public health and reduces obesity by encouraging walking and biking. Most importantly, the bill will encourage sustainable land use and development to accommodate the future needs of a growing population.