

# What About State-Level Coordination?

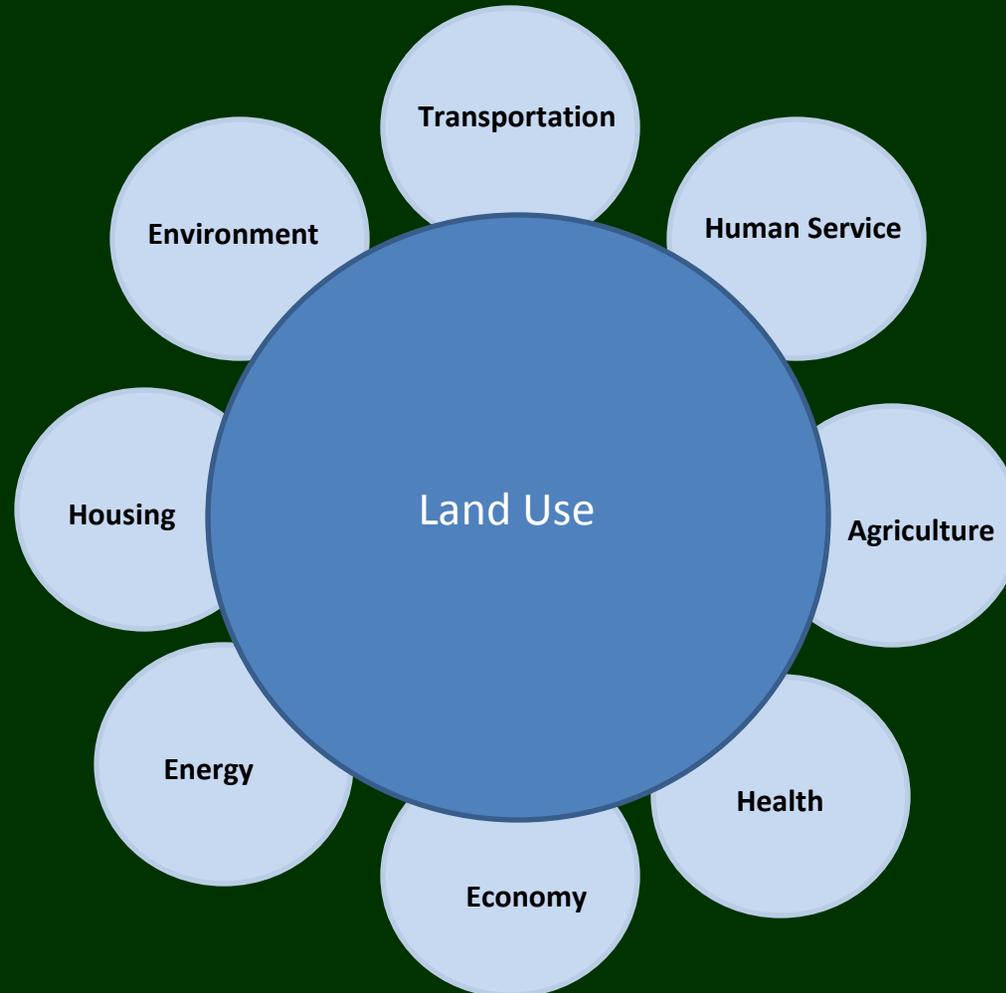
Where Are We Growing?  
Planning for New Jersey's  
Next 20 Years

October 16, 2009

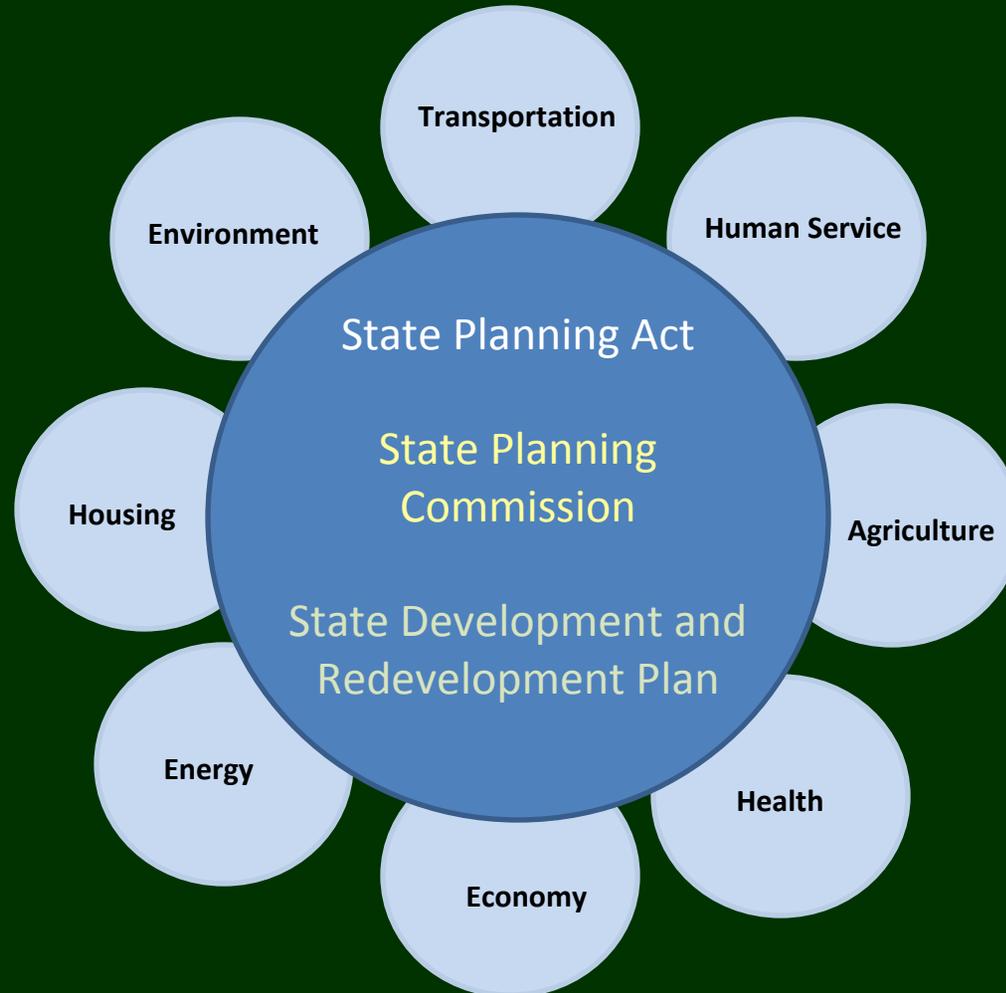
The proposal that follows is a work in progress and will continue to evolve in the coming months. Comments are welcome, please send them to [njfuture@njfuture.org](mailto:njfuture@njfuture.org).



# State Departments and Agencies

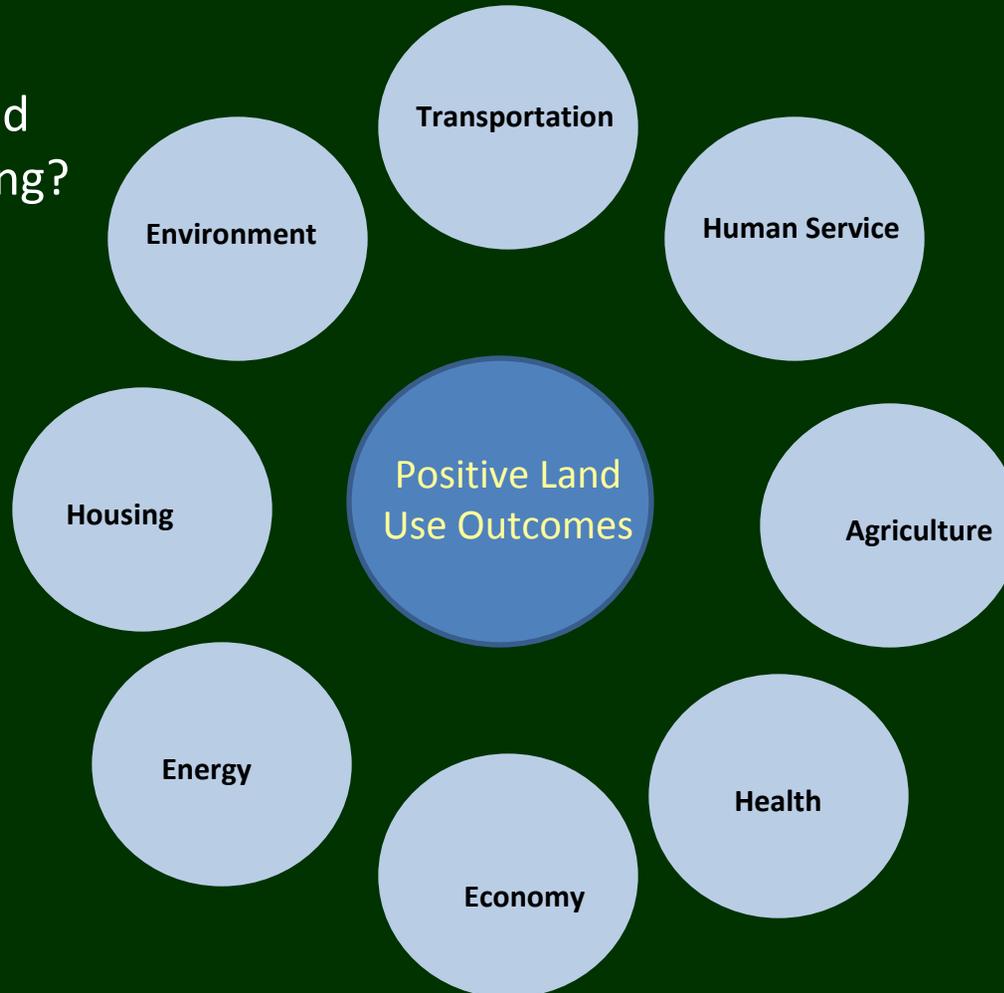


# Current Tools



# Considerations for State Level Coordination

Guiding  
Regulations and  
Capital Spending?

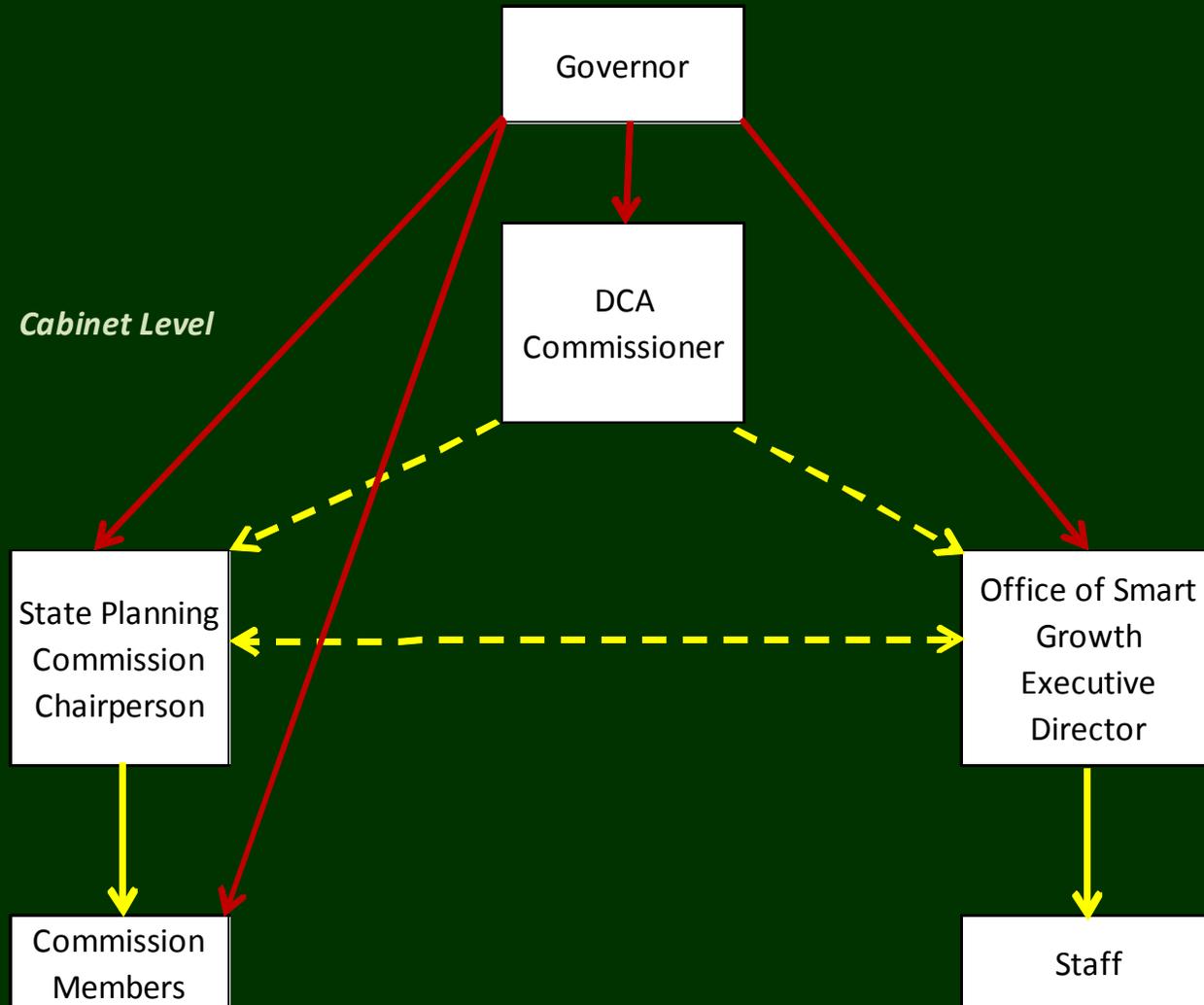


Balancing core  
missions and state  
plan outcomes?

Role of SPC?  
Role of  
Governor?

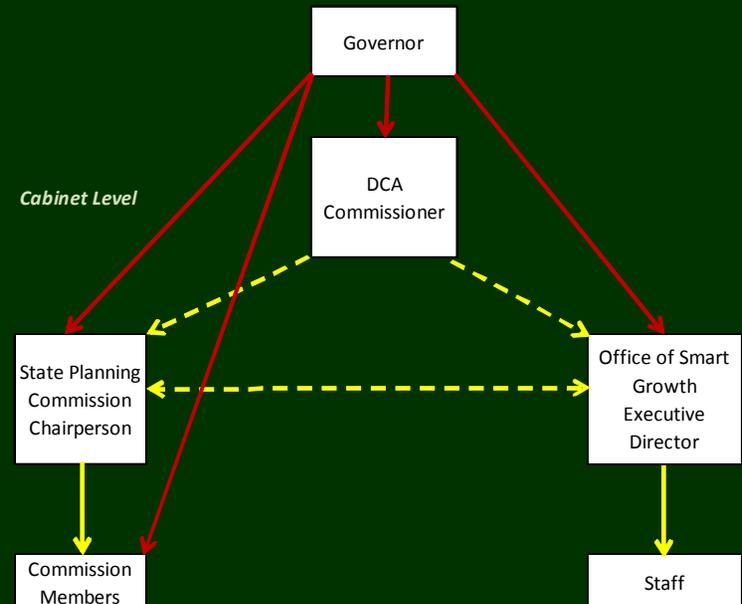
Structure of  
SPC?

# What We Have Now



# Shortcomings of What We Have Now

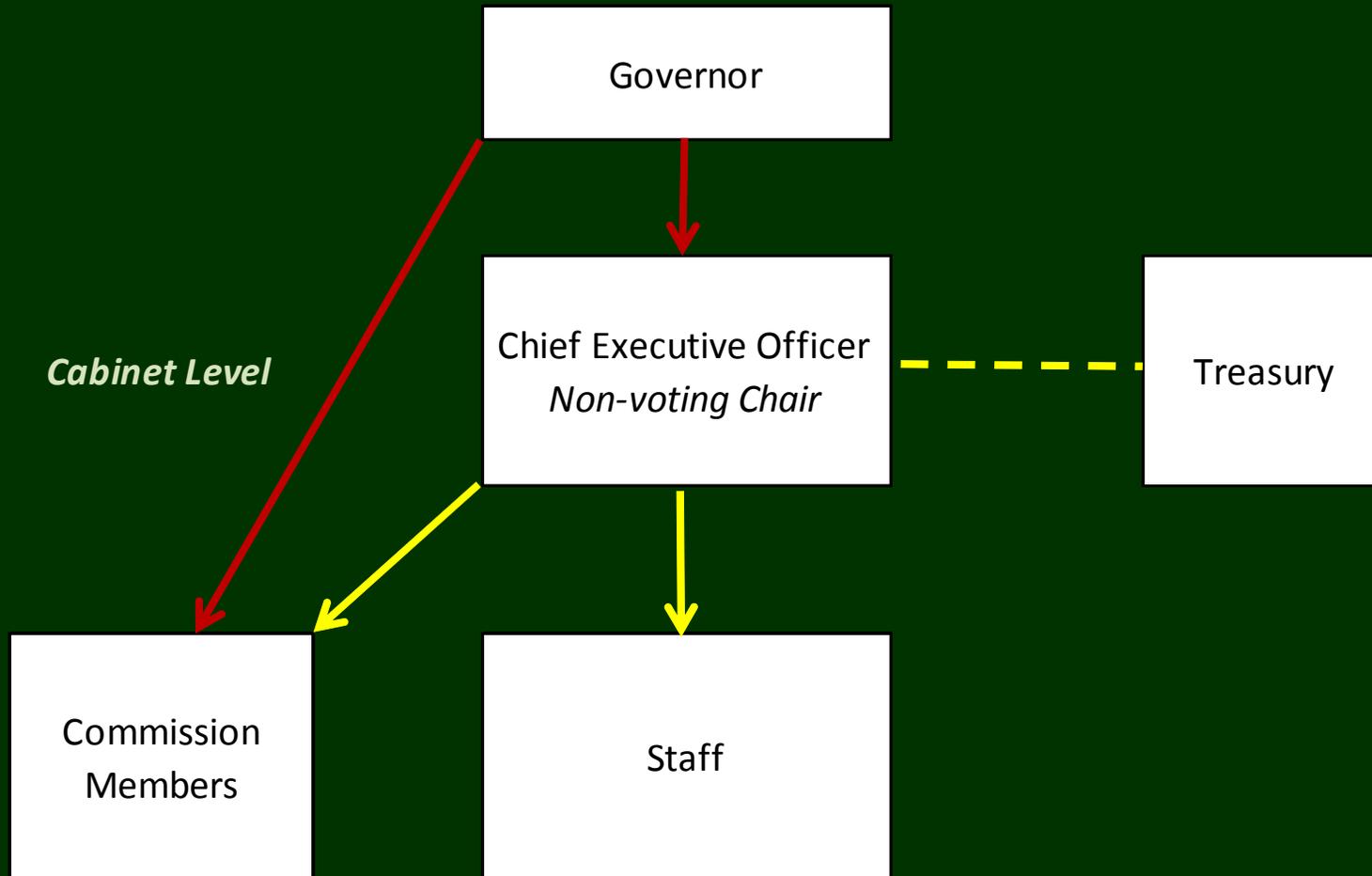
- The separation of the Commission from the staff leads to confusion and mission creep
- Commission lacks independence to act as a neutral advocate for the State Plan
- Commission lacks the stature to coordinate on a peer-to-peer level with other departments
- Commission lacks the authority to effectively challenge departments to conform to the State Plan
- The statutory mandate to update the State Plan through cross-acceptance every three years is too time and resource intensive



# Addressing Shortcomings

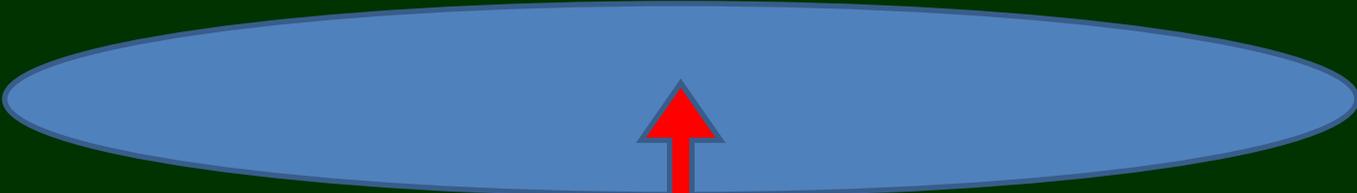
- The separation of the Commission from the staff leads to confusion and mission creep. 1) **Consolidate the Office of Smart Growth back into the State Planning Commission, like most state commissions.**
- Commission lacks independence to act as a neutral advocate for the State Plan. 2) **Move the State Planning Commission in, but not of, Treasury and re-focus the staff on state level planning and regional coordination.**
- Commission lacks the stature to coordinate on a peer-to-peer level with other departments. 3) **Create the State Planner as a cabinet-level position that oversees the staff, and is the non-voting chair of the Commission.**
- Commission lacks the authority to effectively challenge departments to conform to the State Plan. 4) **Give the Commission the authority to broker state department actions for consistency with the State Plan outcomes.**
- The statutory mandate to update the State Plan through cross-acceptance every three years is too time and resource intensive. 5) **Change the State Plan update cycle to every ten years.**

# Proposed Structure

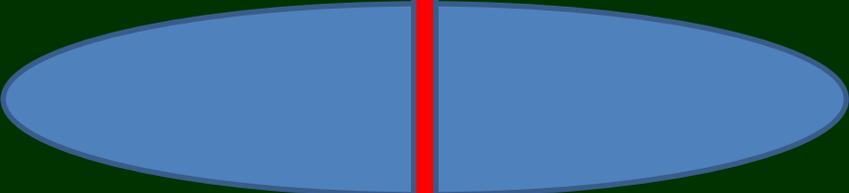


# Beyond State Coordination

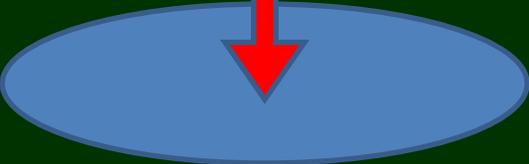
State



County



Municipality



# Criteria for Reviewing Options

- Account for regional systems and dynamics
- Effectively achieve the State Plan outcomes
- Simplify participation
- Preserve local authority to shape character and quality

# Addressing Criteria

Account for regional systems and dynamics

**1) Counties funded to play a larger coordinating role with municipalities.**

Effectively achieve the State Plan outcomes

**2) Counties given state growth projections and outcome-based targets to integrate into planning.**

Simplify participation

**3) Streamline the municipal plan conformance process focused on locations and intensity of growth. Counties delegated state authority to certify municipal plans.**

Preserve local authority to shape character and quality

**4) If local plans conform to State Plan, then the state will assist in the defense of local land use decisions.**



# Summary

Reposition the State Planning Commission to provide better state-level coordination



Provide better integration between municipal, county and state plans

