



**ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT**  
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**NEWS RELEASE** *for Immediate Release*

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**June 12, 2019, 3:15 p.m.**

**Department of Economic Development and Torti Gallas + Partners Host  
Airport Innovation District Community Meeting**

*Community input requested for innovation district near St. Mary's County Regional Airport*

**Leonardtown, MD** - The Department of Economic Development and Torti Gallas + Partners will discuss the new Innovation District that is centered around the St. Mary's County Regional Airport at a community event Tuesday, June 25, 2019, from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at The University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland (USMSM)—previously known as the Southern Maryland Higher Education Center in Hollywood.

Aviators who use the St. Mary's County Regional Airport, residents of Wildewood, leaders and employees of businesses in and around the Airport area, people who frequent the Wildewood Shopping Center, land owners around the St. Mary's County Regional Airport, businesses in and near the Wildewood Shopping Center, students at USMSM, startup leaders and employees, future startup leaders, residents with an interest in unmanned and autonomous systems and aviation are invited to attend. Additionally, anyone interested in walkable environments with gathering places like breweries and coffee shops, and bike lanes and walking paths is welcome to come and hear more about the project.

The purpose of the event is to collect ideas from multiple members of the community to help create a vision for St. Mary's County's future live-work-play-learn environment.

The area within and around the St. Mary's County Regional Airport has undergone a transformation in recent years due to increased investment and interest by the private sector, the State of Maryland, the Federal Aviation Administration, the U.S. Navy and St. Mary's County Government.

“St. Mary's County Regional Airport is not only the State's fastest growing general aviation airport, it's also become the place where aviation and technology companies have clustered. Businesses and higher education want to be there,” said Ken Reed of S. Hunt Aero, a real estate development company that has invested heavily in the airport.

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“The momentum at the airport has been the result of a public-private partnership. We envision this next step to create a vision amongst property owners, residents, our higher education institutions and others. At the end of the day, we want different types of people and their ideas to converge, because that’s how you build even more innovation,” said Chris Kaselemis, Director of the Department of Economic Development.

The St. Mary’s Department of Economic Development, collaborating with the County’s Land Use and Growth Management Department and Department of Public Work and Transportation, worked with the Calvert-St. Mary’s Metropolitan Planning Organization to issue a request for proposal to create a vision and master plan for the innovation district.

Registration is suggested, but not required. To register, go to:  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/innovation-district-master-plan-community-meeting-tickets-62358429742>

For more information, contact Chris Kaselemis at [Chris.Kaselemis@stmarysmd.com](mailto:Chris.Kaselemis@stmarysmd.com) or (301) 475-4200 ext. 71405.

