

*State of New Hampshire*  
*By Her Excellency*  
*Jeanne Shaheen, Governor*

**EXECUTIVE ORDER 2002-8**

**An order embracing certain principles of smart growth and directing the Council on Resources and Development to undertake actions necessary to assure conformance with RSA 9-B by all state agencies.**

**WHEREAS**, Executive Order 99-2 directed State agencies to take note of the land use impacts of their own actions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council on Resources and Development, in its 1999 report on the impacts of sprawl, identified the significant impacts that state agencies can have on local communities, both in their decisions relating to the location of offices and other facilities, and in those relating to rulemaking and grant awards; and

**WHEREAS**, through RSA 9-B, the General Court recognized the need for coordinated action among state agencies by requiring state agencies to consider issues of smart growth in their actions, policies, and regulations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Office of State Planning's report on Growth Management outlined several actions related to smart growth, many of which have already been accomplished, such as the coordination of local, regional, and state planning statutes, improved support for regional planning agencies, and the establishment of the State's Downtown Initiative; and

**WHEREAS**, the rapid rate of land consumption in New Hampshire continues, and in fact exceeds the rate of population growth, there remains an ongoing concern as to our ability to retain the open space and community character that are the hallmarks of our state.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, JEANNE SHAHEEN**, Governor of the State of New Hampshire, by the authority vested in me pursuant to Part II Article 41 of the New Hampshire Constitution,

Do hereby endorse the following principles of smart growth as an appropriate method of achieving the goal of RSA 9-B:2, namely, that state agencies act in ways that encourage smart growth.

1. **Maintain traditional compact settlement patterns** to use land, resources, and infrastructure investments efficiently.

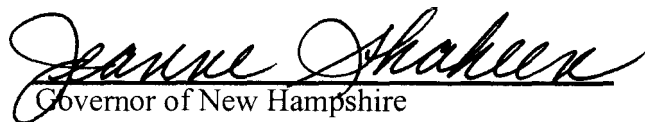
- II. **Foster the traditional character of New Hampshire downtowns, villages, and neighborhoods** by encouraging a human scale of development that is comfortable for pedestrians and conducive to community life.
- III. **Incorporate a mix of uses** to provide a variety of housing, employment, shopping, services, and social opportunities for all members of the community.
- IV. **Preserve New Hampshire's working landscape** by sustaining farm and forest land and other rural resource lands necessary to maintain contiguous tracts of open land and to minimize land use conflicts.
- V. **Provide choices and safety in transportation** to create livable, walkable communities that increase accessibility for people of all ages, whether on foot, bicycle, or in motor vehicles.
- VI. **Protect environmental quality** by minimizing impacts from human activities and planning for and maintaining natural areas that contribute to the health and quality of life of communities and people in New Hampshire.
- VII. **Involve communities in planning and implementation** to assure that development retains and enhances the sense of place and the traditions, goals, and values of the local community.
- VIII. **Manage growth locally in the New Hampshire tradition**, but encourage municipalities to work with their neighbors regionally to achieve common goals and to address common problems more effectively.

And further, do hereby order and direct that, effective immediately:

1. State agencies shall use the above-listed eight principles in planning, implementing, and evaluating their own actions to achieve compliance with the goal of RSA 9-B:2 as noted above; and
2. The Council on Resources and Development shall:
  - A. Undertake an education program to inform all state agencies of their responsibilities under RSA 9-B:2 and regarding the importance of the above-listed smart growth principles, and to assist state agencies in fulfilling the requirements of RSA 9-B:4 as they evaluate the impacts of their projects and programs as appropriate on local communities; and

- B. Establish a program of ongoing technical assistance for state agencies on a project specific basis relative to these eight principles. This will fulfill the requirements of RSA 9-B:4, namely, that agencies shall consider the state's smart growth policy when providing advice or expending state or federal funds, either for their own use or as pass-through grants, for public works, transportation, or major capital improvements projects, and for the construction, rental, or lease of facilities; and
  
- C. To ensure compliance with RSA 9-B:4 and 5, establish a process and criteria for evaluating the individual facility and office location decisions of state agencies for consistency with the above-listed principles. Incorporate as part of the evaluation process the convening of an ad-hoc interagency task force, including such agencies and offices as the requesting agency, relevant members of the Council on Resources and Development, the State Energy Manager, and others as may be appropriate.

Given under my hand and seal at the  
Executive Chambers in Concord, this  
\_\_\_\_\_ day of November in the year of  
Our Lord two thousand two.

  
Governor of New Hampshire