Growth Management and Regional Planning

About the Course
Growth management is a set of regulatory practices and political arguments that agencies at various levels of government employ to formulate and implement development related policies. As a central tenant of growth management efforts, regional planning has become a dominant contemporary paradigm of planning thought and practice. It provides the theories and methodologies to identify the appropriate scale and context to evaluate decisions and take action. Each has its history, practices, promises and limitations.

In this class, we will examine each of these by looking at how spatial practices such as, smart growth, new urbanism, and social movements for regional equity address the issues of affordable housing, regional competitiveness, foreclosure risks, livability, and segregation. We will ask questions such as, how do regional boundaries and approaches vary for resource management, infrastructure planning, fiscal policy or land use planning? When are regional approaches more common and why? Who are its common supporters and opponents? How do different levels of governments coordinate their actions? How effective have past approaches been and what have been their unintended consequences?

Takeaways
By the end of this class, students will develop (a) a critical understanding of regional planning theories and methods; (b) a working knowledge of state and local government strategies and of techniques for evaluating their efficacy; and (c) the skills to critically assess growth management practices. We will look at both domestic and international cases. Students will also have the opportunity to learn and apply technical skills in policy analysis.

About the Instructor
Professor Chakraborty works with state and local agencies to identify development challenges and devise effective processes and policies. In the past, he played a leading role in multiple regional planning efforts, most notably in Washington D.C. and Maryland. He is currently working on a project that investigates the role of exclusionary zoning practices behind the sub-prime mortgage crisis. In another research project he is looking at possible future scenarios for the Mid-Atlantic mega-region to identify robust decisions that enhances long-term regional competitiveness.