



SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION RENEWAL

Eligible Applicants:

*Local Governments with a Sustainable Communities
Designation*

*Local Government Consortiums with a Sustainable
Communities Designation*

Application must be submitted
on or before the expiration date of
Sustainable Communities designation.

Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development
Division of Neighborhood Revitalization
2 N Charles Street, Suite 450
Baltimore, MD 21201
410-209-5800
<http://dhcd.maryland.gov/>

SGSC Approved - 6.24

review of Sustainable Communities

The Sustainable Communities Act of 2010 established a framework for reinvestment and revitalization of Maryland's existing communities creating a single, locally designated geographic focus area. Since that time the "Sustainable Communities" designation has provided an efficient means of targeting scarce public and private resources for multiple State agency investments and prioritizations.

Purpose or Renewal and Streamlined Application

The Sustainable Communities (SC) designation must be renewed every five years. This renewal application provides an opportunity for local governments to update their existing SC action plan and report on the accomplishments made over the past five years. Through the renewal process, local governments can request additional technical assistance and highlight any areas from the original action plan for which progress must still be made.

Application Eligibility and Threshold Requirements

Local governments (municipal or county) are eligible to apply.

Eligible applicants are to reconvene their **Sustainable Communities Workgroup** to discuss the accomplishments and challenges of their Sustainable Community Action Plans in addition to any update they may like to make to the Action Plan. The applicant may choose to select new members to participate in the Workgroup. The purpose of this workgroup is to continue and reinforce working relationships and collaborations among local governmental departments and better align community development priorities and strategies. In addition, this is an opportunity to assess if the Workgroup would like technical assistance from State government agencies to implement certain action items or develop strategies to address local challenges.

Threshold Requirements

All Sustainable Community applications must meet the following threshold requirements:

- 1) Sustainable Community Area boundaries must be entirely within a Priority Funding Area (PFA) and should be an area in need of renewal and reinvestment that would benefit from a targeted long-term strategy. Applicants can verify Priority Funding Area boundaries by visiting the MDP website at:
<http://www.mdp.state.md.us/OurProducts/pfamap.shtml>
- 2) The proposed Sustainable Community is within or near a town center or transportation center, or there is a need for financing assistance for small businesses, nonprofit organizations or microenterprises;
- 3) The updated Plan must be consistent with other existing community or comprehensive plans;
- 4) A Sustainable Communities Workgroup is re-convened and a roster of members should be provided with the application.

Applications that do not meet these threshold requirements will not be considered.

Application Submission and Evaluation

The Sustainable Community application will be evaluated based on thorough assessment of strengths and weaknesses and how well desired outcomes, strategies and action steps are connected to the local conditions.

The first page of the electronic application is the Table of Contents. This should also serve as a checklist and be used to provide corresponding tabs.

Please submit all materials (application, maps, pictures, and/or shapefiles) via email to the Sustainable Communities project management team.

Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Deliver Sustainable Community Applications via email:

To: Carter Reitman

carter.reitman@maryland.gov

Copy: Olivia Ceccarelli-McGonigal

olivia.ceccarelli@maryland.gov

Site Visits, Follow-up, and Technical Assistance

Attendance at a minimum of one application consultation session or training is mandatory for all applicants. Consult with Carter Reitman at 410-209-5849 or by email at carter.reitman@maryland.gov if you would like to schedule a meeting.

If requested, the Department can provide technical assistance to local governments to prepare their Sustainable Communities applications. When needed, the Department may offer technical assistance, in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Planning, to local governments with limited capacity to prepare their Sustainable Communities applications.

During the application review process, the review team may make site visits and/or hold meetings with applicants. In addition, applicants may be contacted by the Department for follow-up discussions prior to awards.

Approval

Approval of applications will be made by the Governor's Smart Growth Coordinating Committee on the recommendation of an inter-agency review team. The review team is coordinated by the Department of Housing and Community Development. The Governor's Smart Growth Coordinating Committee can defer the approval of a Sustainable Communities renewal to the Governor's Smart Growth Subcabinet.

All questions related to the application, please contact Carter Reitman at 410-209-5849 or by email at carter.reitman@maryland.gov or your regional project manager, found at this link: <https://dhcd.maryland.gov/Communities/Documents/SRP/PM-Map-ContactInfo.pdf>

RENEWAL APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

The Sustainable Communities application for renewal has **three** sections:

A. Contact information, General Information, Organizational Capacity:

In this section, applicants are asked to update their contact information, provide information about demographic shifts over the past five years, discuss the strengths and weaknesses of their Sustainable Communities workgroup, and share any technical assistance needs the workgroup may have.

B. Report on accomplishments over past five years:

The report is an opportunity to reflect on any accomplishments achieved in the Sustainable Community area. It is a tool used to evaluate if the SC applicant achieved its intended outcomes and identify what state resources were used, if any, to achieve those outcomes. Renewal applicants are encouraged to discuss how priorities, actions, and objectives were or were not achieved across the Sustainable Communities plan elements, including how any of the elements may have interrelated during the five initial years of SC designation.

C. Sustainable Communities Action Plan Update:

The Sustainable Communities Action Plan details revitalization outcomes and strategies to achieve those outcomes over the next five years. Renewal applicants are encouraged to use their previous Sustainable Communities applications as a basis for their updated Action Plan. You may identify which weaknesses have not yet been addressed or which strategies have not yet been implemented. Include your revitalization priorities for the next five years, basing them on your community's current strengths and weaknesses.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PLAN ELEMENTS

The table below provides a description of each subject area/element of the Sustainable Communities Action Plan. Included are examples of common strengths and weaknesses within each subject area and the types of projects that might be implemented to address said strengths and weaknesses.

ENVIRONMENT: Describes projects involving the natural environment, our use of natural resources, and our relationships to the natural environment.

This category includes projects focusing on (but not limited to): the quality of land, water, and air; watershed maintenance and preservation; tree canopies and green spaces; climate change mitigation and adaptation; energy conservation; green infrastructure; stormwater infrastructure and management; water and sewer capacity; recycling, pet waste, and organic waste programs; the mitigation of environmental hazards; and parks and recreation.

ECONOMY: Describes projects centered on economic growth and management.

This category includes projects focusing on (but not limited to): business attraction & retention; improving and maintaining the health of business districts, downtowns, and main streets; commercial vacancy reduction; workforce attraction and retention; employment/job training; marketing, branding, and tourism; improving or creating economic impact of cultural and historic assets; providing technical and financial assistance to businesses; commercial building acquisition, rehabilitation and/or adaptive re-use; and creating a sense of place and vibrancy through streetscaping and beautification.

TRANSPORTATION: Describes projects involving the way people in your community get from place to place.

This category includes projects focusing on (but not limited to): access to transit corridors; pedestrian safety and accessibility; sidewalks; alternative modes of transportation, such as bikeways and trails; public transit, such as bus and rail; carpooling; proximity to transportation centers; parking; and road conditions.

HOUSING: Describes projects involving the homes in which people in your community live and which make it easier for them to find and stay in a place to call home.

This category includes projects focusing on (but not limited to): affordability; increasing homeownership; increasing rental housing; diversifying the kinds of housing available; improving housing conditions (interior or exterior); housing programs; aging in place; preventing foreclosures; and reducing residential vacancies.

COMMUNITY HEALTH & QUALITY OF LIFE: Describes projects concerned with public health, community culture, and the day-to-day life of community residents.

This category includes projects focusing on (but not limited to): improvement of public safety and the reduction of crime; libraries; educational facilities and programs; health and wellness facilities and programs; senior facilities and programs; youth facilities and programs; facilities and programs for the disabled; civic amenities, access to quality food options; collaborations with faith-based organizations; arts and entertainment education; and homelessness prevention, services, and facilities.

LOCAL PLANNING & STAFFING CAPACITY: Describes projects concerned with a local government's ability to plan for the community's future and to meet the current needs of residents.

This category includes projects focusing on (but not limited to): updating zoning ordinances or land use; updating municipal/local policies, taxes, fees, etc.; increasing local government staff capacity; and updating planning documents like sector plans or comprehensive plans.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN UPDATE

The Sustainable Community Action Plan (SC Plan or Plan) is meant to be a multi-year investment strategy – a strategic set of revitalization initiatives and projects that local partners believe will increase the economic vitality and livability of their community, increase prosperity for local households and improve the health of the surrounding environment. The Plan should be flexible enough to be updated regularly and renewed every five years as the community envisions new goals. The priority initiatives and projects identified in the action plan are your priorities for improving the livability of community places -- residential, commercial, or other public or private properties – and the sustainability of new work, retail, recreational and housing opportunities for residents. At the same time, the plan should only discuss the strategies that will impact the geographic area targeted for revitalization so that resources have the best opportunity to have the intended effect. These projects can also be designed to reduce the environmental impact of the community through water and energy resource conservation and management strategies. In this way, the Plan can be a road map for local stakeholders as well as State agencies to work together to create a more livable and sustainable community.

All communities submitted an SC Plan when the community earned its original designation. Some applicants may want to take advantage of the designation renewal process to outline new strategies, set new priorities, or reaffirm existing strategies for their Sustainable Community. Changes to SC Plans may reflect changes in external factors affecting the community or changes in the priorities of the applicant.

Action Plan Guidance

1) For each element, identify the essential strengths and weaknesses of your community.

Example:

Strength - Good sidewalk connectivity

Weakness - Insufficient bicycle infrastructure

2) Based on those strengths and weaknesses, formulate specific outcomes that address the most pressing issues or greatest opportunities. Identify a way to measure the success of that outcome.

Example:

Outcome - Expand fiber optic broadband Internet connections in Town

Progress Measure - Linear measurement of broadband fiber laid

3) After defining the outcomes, list detailed strategies and discrete actions that will serve as the means to achieve those goals.

Example:

Strategy A - Increase number of Town sponsored events

Action A - Organize a workgroup tasked with planning weekend events

Action B - Develop, with community input, a series of weekend events that the Town could host

4) List potential partners that can support the successful implementation of these strategies through different types of resources.

Example:

Partner 1 - DHCD (Community Legacy program)

Partner 2 - Small Business Administration (Services and financial assistance)

CHECKLIST AND TABLE OF CONTENTS

APPLICANT: City of Annapolis

NAME OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY: City of Annapolis

Please review the checklist of attachments and furnish all of the attachments that are applicable. Contents of the application should be tabbed and organized as follows:

☐ **Section A - Sustainable Community Renewal Applicant Information**

- [Applicant Information](#)

☐ **Section B – Sustainable Community Renewal Report (Projects, Strategies and Partners)**

- [Part 1: Qualitative Assessment](#)
- [Part 2: Competitive Funding](#)

☐ **Section C – Sustainable Community Renewal Action Plan Update (Matrix)**

- [Action Plan](#)

☐ **Section D – Sustainable Communities Workgroup Roster**

☐ **Section E – Signature Letter (acknowledging Disclosure Authorization and Certification)**

- [Disclosure Authorization](#)

☐ **Section F – Additional Files:** The following contents should be included:

- If requesting a boundary modification, map in pdf format and a GIS shapefile of the proposed Sustainable Community boundary
- Photos (jpeg format) of your aforementioned accomplished projects of the last five years

SECTION A - SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RENEWAL

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name of Sustainable Community:		City of Annapolis	
Name of Applicant:		City of Annapolis	
Applicant's Federal Identification Number:		52-6000764	
Applicant's Street Address:		160 Duke of Gloucester	
City: Annapolis	County: Anne Arundel County	State: MD Zip Code: 21401	
Phone Number: (410)260-2200	Fax Number: (410) 263-1129	Web Address: www.Annapolis.gov	

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
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(1) Sustainable Community Boundary and Description

- (1) Are you requesting any changes to your Sustainable Community boundary? Why or why not? If you are requesting an expansion of your boundary, identify at least one outcome in your Action Plan that would serve the expanded area and at least one State benefit that would support achievement of that outcome (e.g., Community Legacy grants, Safe Routes to School, etc.)

The City of Annapolis is requesting to increase its Sustainable Community Boundary by 118 square Acres. Within the proposed SC Boundary increase, we included the remainder of the Admiral Farragut community, the Victor Haven Community surrounding Georgetown East Elementary, and several low to moderate income communities along Bywater Road. Anne Arundel County in partnership with the City is beginning to implement a recently completed Safety Study for the Forest Drive corridor that would improve safety for all users of the Forest Drive corridor. Annapolis is implementing expanded bike lane access along Hilltop Lane that would improve pedestrian and mobility access for residents. Annapolis has outlined within its draft Comprehensive Plan, Annapolis Ahead 2040, how the city plans to improve sidewalk safety and expand the bikeway network for the proposed communities serviced by Forest Dr, Bay Ridge Avenue, and Hilltop Lane.

- (2) If yes, Include the following in as an attachment:
- PDF or JPEG of modified Sustainable Communities boundary map,
 - GIS shapefiles of modified Sustainable Community boundary (mapped to the parcel boundary),

- (3) Approximate number of acres of entire SC Area: **2,522**

(4) Existing federal, state or local designations:

☒ Main Street ☒ National Register Historic District ☒ Local Historic District
☒ Arts & Entertainment District ☐ State Enterprise Zone Special Taxing District ☐ BRAC
☐ State Designated TOD ☒ Other(s): **Tax Increment Financing (TIF)**

- (5) Describe the SC Area's current demographic trends (with respect to age, race, household size, household income, educational attainment, number of housing units, or other relevant factors). How have demographics changed in the last five years?

Demographic trends within the Sustainable Community boundary are largely consistent with Annapolis citywide and have changed somewhat over the past five years. Residents aged 65 or older have begun to grow into one of the larger age demographic cohorts within Annapolis, now comprising 18.5% of the population. The Hispanic population continues to be the fastest growing racial demographic group within Annapolis. The city's median household income is \$87, 850. The distribution of households between family and non-family households is as follows: family households (53.5%) and non-family households (46.5%). Annapolis has seen the number of non-family households grow over the past 5 years.

(2) Organizational Structure, Experience and Public Input:

- (3) Describe any changes to the Applicant's organizational structure. Specifically, how has membership of the Sustainable Communities Workgroup changed in the last five years? Who are/were the leaders, and how will/did the Workgroup advisor or staff manage implementation of the SC Area Plan?

Annapolis' Sustainable Communities Workgroup membership consists of core Planning and Zoning staff including the Chief of Comprehensive Planning, Comprehensive Planner, Community Development Administrator, Economic Development Manager, and the Director of Planning and Zoning. This group has remained consistent since the prior Plan was submitted although specific personnel have changed due to staff turnover. Comprehensive Planning takes on the majority of the planning effort for implementing the Sustainable Communities plan. Implementation of the plan revolves around staff providing recommendations during planning or redevelopment efforts to create synergy between projects to reach or implement portions of the existing sustainable community goals and actions.

- (4) What have been the strengths and challenges of the capacity of the Sustainable Communities Workgroup with respect to implementation of the SC Plan?

Much of the strength that exists within the Sustainable Community Workgroup comes from the planning efforts within the Department of Planning and Zoning which has sufficient capacity and mandate to accomplish the type of planning envisioned by the Sustainable Communities program. With key staff dedicated to all focus areas of the Sustainable Communities, the group is able to coordinate and provide feedback quickly and responsively. To the extent that challenges exist, every project requires robust community participation and engagement, and there are no shortcuts to doing this outreach work effectively. Every project has a unique community profile and set of stakeholders and the process for engaging them must be tailored to the dynamics of the project.

- (5) How did residents and other stakeholders in the community provide input to the Sustainable Communities Action Plan update? On which existing local plans (comprehensive plans, economic development plans, sector plans, etc.) is the Sustainable Communities Action Plan based?

The proposed updates to the Sustainable Communities Plan are heavily informed by the extensive multi-year community engagement effort for the draft Annapolis Ahead 2040 Comprehensive Plan as well as the two-year community engagement for the Eastport Choice Neighborhood Initiative (CNI) Redevelopment Planning Effort, the 18-month engagement effort for the city's draft Public Water Access Plan, and Annual Reporting. Additionally the draft Sustainable Communities Plan update has been posted on the Planning & Zoning website for public comment.

- (6) Would you like any technical assistance from State agencies to help expand the capacity of your SC Workgroup or implement your SC plan? Please describe with which revitalization strategies you would like assistance.

There are several priority initiatives underway in Annapolis that will benefit from technical assistance. The most prominent of these initiatives is the Eastport Choice Neighborhood Initiative (CNI) which is focused on revitalizing the city's largest public community. Supported by a CNI planning grant from HUD, the City and the Housing Authority of the City of Annapolis (HACA) recently completed a community-led Transformation Plan which proposes to fully redevelop the existing property into a mixed income and mixed use community better integrated with the surrounding neighborhoods while preserving affordable housing options. This Plan has been approved by HUD and next steps include selection of a developer partner and identifying funding sources for what will likely be a \$300 million redevelopment project.

Two other major initiatives within the SC boundary are aimed at equitable mobility and public water access. Both of these initiatives will have enormously positive impacts on quality of life, health outcomes, community and economic development, and resilience. Equitable mobility efforts are focused on creating viable alternative transportation options that can reduce automobile dependency, including improvements to the city's bicycle and pedestrian network and transit service to increase ridership. Both of these efforts will require substantial funding for design and implementation.

The City is also looking to address access to healthy foods and eliminate an existing food desert within the Sustainable Community area. Land use limitations have proven to be a challenge to this effort but a new focus on creating a food cooperative that would require a smaller development footprint than a conventional grocery is gaining momentum. Technical assistance will be needed to complete a feasibility study for this concept and potentially additional investment.

Finally, the City is looking to better activate and leverage its Arts & Entertainment District and will be seeking technical assistance for a strategic planning effort.

SECTION B - SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RENEWAL REPORT

PART I: QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT

Purpose:

The purpose of this assessment is to capture significant projects/ improvements that have been completed since the approval of your local government's Sustainable Communities designation.

In relation to the goals stated in your local government's Sustainable Community Action Plan, **please highlight at least three major accomplishments from the last five years**, including how you achieved them. When writing your narrative, consider the questions below and refer to the six elements discussed in the General Information section of this document (page iv) – Environment, Economy, Transportation, Housing, Quality of Life, and Land Use/Local Planning.

- 1) **Outcome:** Which outcomes identified in your Sustainable Community plan were you able to achieve?
- 2) **Projects:** Which projects did you implement in order to achieve the outcome? Also indicate when you started and completed these projects.
- 3) **Partners:** With whom (i.e. state agencies, local stakeholders) did you partner to complete projects?
- 4) **Impact:** What kind of measurable impact did the achieved outcome have on your community? Are there other intangible benefits?
- 5) **Photos:** Please also include pictures that depict your accomplishments.

Descriptive Narrative: Please list the most significant accomplishments that apply.

Accomplishment 1: Improved Transportation Options

Outcome: Increased the number of alternative travel options for residents and visitors in Annapolis.

Projects: Annapolis GO (new name - GO TIME)

Downtown Circulator Bus – re-branded with more frequent service

Bike Share / Scooter Share Program - BIRD Partnership

Partners: Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)

Baltimore Gas and Electric

BIRD

Impact: While the Hillman Garage in downtown Annapolis was being renovated, the city launched multiple programs that would lessen the burden of residents and visitors traveling to/from/through downtown Annapolis. All of these services have proven to be highly successful. Annapolis GO is in the process of being relaunched as a City-owned service but the Bird Rideshare program and Downtown Circulator Bus are still operating unchanged to help get residents around Annapolis even after the garage finished its redevelopment.

Accomplishment 2: Increased Housing Equity

Outcome: Improved housing conditions in public housing

*Projects: Wilbourne Estates - redevelopment of 78 public housing units - LIHTC - Fully Occupied
Morris Blum - Major Rehabilitation of 154 subsidized housing senior and disabled units - rehabilitation in place and underway.*

Partners:

*Wilbourn Estates - Pennrose and the Housing Authority of the City of Annapolis (HACA)
Morris Blum Apartments - The Community Builders and HACA*

Impact: 78 public housing units redeveloped into public/private

Outcome: Increased availability of affordable housing

*Projects: Towne Courts : New construction of 42 affordable units- LIHTC - fully occupied
Parkeside Preserve - construction of 19 Moderately Priced Dwelling Units - All sold and occupied
The Willows - new construction of 58 affordable units - LIHTC- closing in April 2024*

*Partners: Towne Courts - PIRHL and the Housing Initiative Partnership
Parkeside Preserve - Lennar
The Willows - Ingerman and Housing Initiative Partnership*

Impact: 61 new affordable units completed

Outcome: Increased availability of affordable housing

Accomplishment 3: Climate Resiliency Planning

Outcome: Strategic plans in place to adapt critical infrastructure to evolving climate threats

Projects: City Dock Resilience and Revitalization Project; Military Installation Resilience Response Study; Resilience Authority of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County

Partners: Resilience Authority of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County, U.S. Naval Academy / NSA-A, Anne Arundel County, State of Maryland, FEMA

Impact: Through successful climate resilience planning efforts, the City has been able to prioritize critical projects, adopt new legislation, raise necessary funds, develop new protocols and operating procedures, and establish consistent coordination among key partners.

Accomplishment 4: Economic Resiliency

Outcome: Increased number of small businesses located within Annapolis.

*Partners: Annapolis Small Business Recovery Task Force
Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation
MD Small Business Development Center
U.S. Small Business Administration*

Impact:

From 2019 to 2023 the City of Annapolis added 160 small businesses who now call Annapolis home. The largest number (39) was actually added in 2021 during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic. This significant accomplishment is in large part due to the hard work the City spearheaded to provide direct support for small businesses during the pandemic. In 2020 an Annapolis Small Business Recovery Task Force was launched which engaged over 500 businesses in an attempt to develop recommendations for how the City could support the small business community. From these efforts, 81 businesses received free business counseling and 83 specific recommendations were made to the City Council. In addition, the Annapolis Recovery Zones were instituted and this catalyzed a robust outside dining initiative that supported restaurants and the health of their patrons. The essence of this program has continued to this day and several restaurants participate in Annapolis' popular outside dining programs.

Accomplishment 5: Equitable Planning Efforts across Annapolis.

Outcome: Increased public engagement and planning implementation.

Projects: Eastport Choice Neighborhood Initiative (CNI) Transformation Plan;

West East Express Trail (WEE!); Equitable Public Water Access Plan; Annapolis Ahead 2040 - Comprehensive Plan;

Partners: Housing Authority of Annapolis (HACA), Maryland Department of Transportation, Department of Housing and Urban Development, National Park Service

Narrative: Over the last five years, the City has advanced several planning initiatives oriented toward equitable access to services and amenities. The Eastport CNI Transformation Plan is the result of a partnership between the City and HACA to revitalize the city's largest public housing community. Through a two-year community led planning process funded by a Choice Neighborhood Initiative grant from HUD, the Eastport CNI Transformation Plan was completed and approved by HUD. The WEE! is a major trail project which will convert the former WB&A railroad corridor into the spine for the city's bicycle network. Connecting downtown Annapolis to the Parole area— the two most important economic centers for the area— with numerous neighborhoods, schools, parks, community services, and other destinations, the trail will provide a viable transportation option to residents and visitors to the city. The Equitable Public Water Access Plan is the city's first citywide planning effort for public water access and the result of a partnership with the National Park Service. Over more than 18 months of community engagement, the plan has used a public survey, focus groups, and meetings with community organizations to develop a draft plan that will soon be released for public comment. Finally, Annapolis Ahead 2040, the draft Comprehensive Plan, is the result of nearly four years of community outreach to all wards of the city. This equity driven plan provides a robust vision for the city to address the needs of all residents. As all of these projects demonstrate, Annapolis planning efforts focused on equity have benefitted by reaching residents from every corner of Annapolis to get involved in the development or redevelopment projects of the amenities around them.

Descriptive Narrative: Please use this section to describe any major outcomes or projects from your last Sustainable Communities Action Plan that have NOT been accomplished and why.

Outcome: Elimination of food deserts across the entire city.

Narrative: Similar to the previous Sustainable Communities renewal, food deserts are still a concentrated issue within Annapolis that have yet to be eliminated within a portion of the city. The major obstacles to achieving the outcome have been the cost of land and development within the city, and not having a project champion. However, the Choice Neighborhood Initiative (CNI) is an important first step in redeveloping the Eastport Terrace/Harbour House Community and with the redevelopment there is an opportunity to bring in a smaller scale grocery store or food alternative that would allow residents within Annapolis' largest public housing community and surrounding neighborhoods to gain access to healthier food options and eliminating a food desert within the city. Additionally, Planning & Zoning staff are also supporting a new community organization which is working to create the city's first food coop.

Outcome: Extension of the Poplar Trail.

Narrative: Since the last SC renewal, the Poplar Trail widening has not broken ground but the project has made substantial headway. The project scope now includes extensions both eastward to downtown and westward to Parole, has completed raising more than \$5.5 million toward design and construction, and the project is moving towards 65% design with a groundbreaking anticipated in late 2024 or early 2025. While gathering the necessary external funding to do the entire project, and conducting the broad community engagement to accommodate the needs of the immediate residents have both taken substantial time, both have yielded great results that will lead to an exemplary project and connect residents around Annapolis.

Outcome: Complete Streets plan

Narrative: The major obstacles to achieving this outcome have been funding and a dedicated champion. However, since the last SC renewal, Annapolis has made headway on both fronts. In 2022, Annapolis identified a funding source through the US DOT Safe Streets for All grant program, submitted an application, and received funds in 2024 to develop the plan. Kickoff for the planning effort is anticipated in early Fall 2024. The project will be led by Planning & Zoning which has developed a new focus on equitable mobility and is championing several major initiatives.

Part II: Competitive Funding

Use the rows below to list awards for sustainability or revitalization projects your community has received through the Sustainable Communities designation. Add rows as necessary.				
	Source (federal, state, foundation, etc.)	Amount Received	If no funding was received, what technical or other assistance from the state would help with future applications?	Other Notes
Community Legacy (CL): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universal Lodge #14 • Robert Eades (College Creek) Park • Skipper's Lane Extension • Enterprise/Bates 	DHCD	\$200,000 \$200,000 \$250,000 \$300,000		
Strategic Demolition Fund (SDF): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newtowne Twenty 	DHCD	\$350,000		
Maryland Facade Improvement Program (MFIP)	DHCD	\$0		
Operating Assistance Grant (OAG)	DHCD	\$15,000		
National Capital Strategic Economic Development Fund (NED)	DHCD	\$0	Not eligible for this grant.	
Safe Routes to School:	MDOT	\$0	Although the City of Annapolis is eligible for this program, Anne Arundel County leads these efforts as all public schools within the city are owned and managed by Anne Arundel County Public Schools. The City supports the projects as a major stakeholder.	Anne Arundel County has received recent funding through this program to address schools within Annapolis including Tyler Heights Elementary and Germantown East Elementary.
Bikeways Network Program:	MDOT	\$912,000		Funding support through this program has been a difference maker in advancing numerous projects and our larger goals.
Sidewalk Retrofit Program:	MDOT	\$0		

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section C

Other Funding Programs: *examples are U.S. HUD Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), or grants from USDA, EPA, Appalachian Regional Commission, Chesapeake Bay Trust, Maryland Heritage Areas Association, Preservation Maryland, Safe Routes to School, Maryland Rural Development Corporation, Maryland Energy Administration, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, etc.*

*Please add more rows if necessary

Choice Neighborhood Initiative	HUD	\$450,000		Revitalization of Eastport Terrace and Harbour House communities
African American Heritage Preservation & Projects	Maryland Historic Trust	\$100,000		Maynard Burgess House
African-American Heritage Preservation Program	Maryland Historic Trust	\$495,000		Hoppy Adams House and Brewer Hill Cemetery
Transportation Alternatives/ Recreational Trails Program	USDOT/MDOT	\$4,752,000		West East Express trail
Community Development Block Grant Program	HUD	\$303,000		Entitlement
Electric or Low-Emitting Ferry Pilot Program	USDOT/ FTA	\$2,975,000		Pilot fixed-route passenger ferry project connecting Eastport to Downtown Annapolis
Safe Streets for All	USDOT	\$683,200		Citywide safe streets action plan and implementation of quick-build improvements along Forest Drive corridor.
MDE Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program	MDE	\$3,100,000		Awarded in three installments to build a pump station on Compromise Street

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section C

FY 2023 Pre-Disaster Mitigation Congressionally Directed Spending	Congressional Appropriation directed via FEMA	\$3.46 Million		Storm drain realignment on the northern end of Compromise ST
Economic Adjustment Assistance Program - American Rescue Plan Act	Economic Development Administration of US Commerce Department	\$3,191,000		City Dock Engineering and Design

COMPETITIVE FUNDING: Are there any types of projects/needs for which your Sustainable Community needs funding; however, there isn't a funding source?

SECTION C - SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACTION PLAN

City of Annapolis

Environment

This section describes projects involving the natural environment, our use of natural resources, and our relationships or access to the natural environment.

This category includes projects focusing on (but not limited to): the quality of land, water, and air; tree canopies and green spaces; green infrastructure; habitat improvement, climate change mitigation and adaptation; nuisance flooding,; stormwater infrastructure and management; water and sewer capacity; energy conservation; recycling, pet waste, and organic waste programs; the mitigation of environmental hazards; and parks and recreation improvements.

<u>Strengths</u>	<u>Weaknesses</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree Canopy - 41% existing tree canopy • Carbon Footprint - the City continues to expand mobility options to reduce automobile dependency • Climate Adaptation and Mitigation - Annapolis has advancing many plans, most notably for its City Dock area, that will protect the city from sea level and flooding risk in the most vulnerable areas of the city 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constrained land base - limited land area for new planting • Carbon Footprint - Automobile-dependent development pattern and proximity to US-50 maintains higher emissions • Geography - Peninsula context elevates the risk of sea level rise and other threats from climate change

<u>Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures</u>	<u>Strategies and Action Items</u>	<u>Implementation Partners</u>
<p>Outcome 1: Tree Canopy Expansion</p> <p>Progress Measures: 2% Tree Canopy Growth by 2029</p>	<p>Strategy A: No Net Loss of tree canopy by 2028</p> <p>Strategy B: Introduce new city policies that encourage tree plantings in residential areas of the city</p> <p>Strategy C: Increase dedicated funding for the City's tree planting program including new software to track tree canopy loss and gain</p>	<p>Anne Arundel County Watershed Stewards Academy</p>
<p>Outcome 2: Increase downtown Annapolis climate resilience</p> <p>Progress Measures: Complete the City Dock Resilience and Revitalization project</p>	<p>Strategy A: Gather funding to complete City Dock Redevelopment</p> <p>Strategy B: Increase connections with local partners to ensure that redevelopment of city dock does not disrupt local environments or projects</p>	<p>State of Maryland, FEMA, U.S. Naval Academy / NSA-A, Resilience Authority of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County</p>

Economy

This section is centered on economic growth and management.

Strengths and weaknesses might focus on the following: business attraction & retention; improving and maintaining the health of business districts, downtowns, and main streets; commercial vacancy reduction; workforce attraction and retention; employment/job training; marketing, branding, and tourism; improving or creating economic impact of cultural and historic assets; providing technical and financial assistance to businesses; commercial building acquisition, rehabilitation and/or adaptive re-use; and creating a sense of place and vibrancy through streetscaping and beautification.

<u>Strengths</u>	<u>Weaknesses</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Equidistant between Baltimore & Washington, D.C.• Maryland's State Capital and Anne Arundel's County Seat• United States Naval Academy• St. John's College• Noteworthy with regard to American History (Colonial, Revolutionary, Civil War & Civil Rights)• Robust Maritime Industry• Dynamic Retail and Restaurant Community• First Rate City of Annapolis Economic Development Team• Well educated and affluent population	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 8 Square Miles• Limited commercial space available to absorb large business relocations or expansions• City footprint is largely developed• Parking can be a challenge in some neighborhoods at certain times of the day• Sea level rise and persistent Downtown flooding• Some economically challenged neighborhoods

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Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: Raise the profile of Annapolis to facilitate the recruitment of businesses to the City</p> <p>Progress Measures: Number of new businesses opening in the City on an annual basis; Number of requests for information from businesses interested in moving to, opening or expanding in Annapolis</p>	<p>Strategy A: Recruit businesses to Annapolis that will add value to the local economy and add to the quality of life for Annapolis residents; Lead business recruitment missions</p> <p>Strategy B: Coordinate ribbon cuttings and ground breakings to help publicize new business arrivals and to connect new businesses with customers and resources</p>	<p>Anne Arundel Chamber of Commerce; Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation; MD Small Business Development Center; Downtown Annapolis Partnership; South Forest Drive Business Assn.; Eastport Business Association; Inner West Street Association; Annapolis Arts District; West Annapolis Business Affiliation; Annapolis Design District;</p>
<p>Outcome 2: Facilitate a positive business climate for the retention of businesses within the City</p> <p>Progress Measures: Number of businesses assisted by Economic Development Office; Number of site visits made to Annapolis businesses</p>	<p>Strategy A: Provide assistance to Annapolis businesses with regard to site selection, parking, permitting, zoning, general information, financing, public works requirements, workforce development, procurement, transportation, code enforcement, pre-application meetings, licensing, trash removal and city policies</p> <p>Strategy B: Conduct site visits to assess business needs and to proactively offer assistance if needed to ensure business success</p>	<p>MD Department of Commerce; MD Department of Housing & Community Development; Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation; Anne Arundel County; Annapolis - Department of Transportation; Department of Public Works; Department of Finance; Office of Law; Department of Planning & Zoning; Office of Emergency Management; Fire Marshal Office; Police Department;</p>

Transportation

This section describes the way people in your community get from place to place.

Strengths, weaknesses and outcomes can focus on: access to transit corridors; pedestrian safety and accessibility; sidewalks; alternative modes of transportation, such as bikeways and trails; public transit, such as bus and rail; carpooling; proximity to transportation centers; parking; and road conditions.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transit - Annapolis has a robust Bus Network that assists residents with navigating the city.• Commitment to Active Transportation - Annapolis is working through numerous trail plans to further connect pedestrians and cyclists around the city in a safer manner.• Micro-mobility - Annapolis Bike and Scooter Share has helped get cars off the road by giving residents and tourists more options to navigate the city.• Cost - a rebranded free circulator bus has expanded transit use in and around downtown Annapolis.• Size - at only eight square miles, and sufficiently dense, Annapolis is an ideal city for multiple high quality transportation options.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Historic - narrow roads have made retrofitting streets for wider sidewalks or more bike lanes difficult.• Funding - Annapolis is highly dependent on external funding to implement most of its transportation improvements beyond basic maintenance of existing services..• Outdated policies – the predominance of suburban-style transportation policies which privilege automobiles and parking mandates over other modes of transportation have limited the development of viable alternatives.

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Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: Provide more alternatives for residents and tourists to traverse Annapolis</p> <p>Progress Measures: Increase in CIP budget for alternative modes.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Work with state and county partners to fund a study of how to rethink the Annapolis Transit system</p> <p>Strategy B: Promote alternative methods including micro-mobility or on-demand transit to reduce automobile dependency and help residents and visitors move around the city more efficiently</p>	<p>MDOT MTA</p> <p>Anne Arundel County</p>
<p>Outcome 2: Increased number of bike facilities along major corridors</p> <p>Progress Measures: Miles of new trails built</p>	<p>Strategy A: Ensure adequate dedicated funding in the CIP for bike infrastructure</p> <p>Strategy B: Complete Streets for All Plan. Plan for how to retrofit all roads in Annapolis for bike lanes and sidewalks</p>	<p>MDOT</p> <p>US DOT</p>

Housing

This section focuses on the homes in which people in your community live and efforts which make it easier for them to find and stay in a place to call home.

Strengths, weaknesses and outcomes might focus on the following: affordability; increasing homeownership; increasing rental housing; diversifying the kinds of housing available; improving housing conditions (interior or exterior); housing programs; aging in place; preventing foreclosures; and reducing residential vacancies.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordability – 42% of Multifamily rental developments are subsidized • Housing condition and value • Housing Programs available to low and moderate income residents • No neighborhoods impacted by a significant number of foreclosures • Residential vacancies are low 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Housing Units in poor condition • Property values very high • Lack of housing stock diversity by income • Restrictive zoning limits new construction of diverse housing options

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Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: Improved housing conditions in public housing</p> <p>Progress Measures: Number of public housing units improved</p>	<p>Strategy A: Convert Public Housing to public private partnerships</p> <p>Strategy B: Convert Public Housing into project based Section 8</p> <p>Strategy C: Coordinate with the Housing Authority of the City of Annapolis (HACA) and their redevelopment plans for their properties to ensure they conform to broader Sustainable Community goals</p>	<p>Housing Authority and Private nonprofit and for profit affordable housing developers, State Government</p>
<p>Outcome 2: Increase availability of Affordable housing</p> <p>Progress Measures: Number of units available for households with incomes less than 100% of median family income; Number of rental and for sale MPDU units</p>	<p>Strategy A: Support new construction of Low Income Housing Tax Credit Projects</p> <p>Strategy B: Improve the effectiveness of the Moderately Priced Dwelling Unit Program (MPDU)</p> <p>Strategy C: Amend the City's zoning standards to include more housing options</p>	<p>Private Nonprofit and for profit affordable housing developers, State Government</p>

Community Health and Quality of Life

This section is concerned with public health, community culture, and the day-to-day life of community residents.

This category includes projects focusing on (but not limited to): improvement of public health including improving community design to promote healthy behaviors such as walking and strengthening community support and connectedness through health and wellness programs and facilities that create inclusive communities. These projects may include built environment, indoor spaces, outdoor environments such as increasing community gardens and access to services including educational facilities and programs; health and wellness facilities and programs that serve multi-generations; senior facilities and programs; youth facilities and programs; facilities and programs for the disabled; civic amenities, access to quality food options; collaborations with faith-based organizations; arts and entertainment education; and homelessness prevention, services, and facilities. Projects should include community engagement that includes participation in the selection of strategies and outcomes, progress reports, and evaluation.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Well distributed and accessible network of parks and open spacesCitywide focus on expanding equitable public water access and trail connectionsRobust creative economy and cultural life with diverse arts and cultural institutions and events throughout the yearAttention to historic preservation and internationally renowned historic assetsWell established, accessible, and high capacity health facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Limited budget for parks and trails maintenanceMultiple barriers to expanding public water accessNo City staff dedicated to arts or cultural planningWell-documented food desertSchool facilities owned and managed by a separate jurisdiction (Anne Arundel County Public Schools) creates planning challengesLarge percentage of the city under purview of the State of Maryland or Federal government (Navy)

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Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: Expanded public water access</p> <p>Progress Measures: Increase in percent of overall shoreline that is publicly accessible; increase in number of accessible waterfront parks</p>	<p>Strategy A: Adopt the Equitable Public Water Access Plan</p> <p>Strategy B: Ensure consistent and adequate funding in the CIP to support expanded public water access</p> <p>Strategy C: Ensure staff resources are dedicated to improving public water access</p>	<p>Community Associations</p> <p>State of Maryland</p> <p>Anne Arundel County</p> <p>HACA</p>
<p>Outcome 2: Elimination of Food Desert</p> <p>Progress Measures: Identify opportunities for small grocery investment and dedicate staff resources to assisting local partners</p>	<p>Strategy A: Coordinate retail strategy as part of the Eastport CNI project to ensure a small grocery or other healthy food provider is part of the redevelopment</p> <p>Strategy B: Provide staff resources to support community partners from the business and non-profit sectors with an interest in addressing food access</p>	<p>HACA</p>
<p>Outcome 3: Expansion of art-oriented businesses and activities in the Arts & Entertainment District</p> <p>Progress Measures: number of new arts-oriented businesses locating in the Arts District</p>	<p>Strategy A: Arts District Strategic Plan</p> <p>Strategy B: Placemaking Initiative to expand funding and capacity to activate the Arts District</p>	<p>Arts & Entertainment District</p> <p>Inner West Street Association</p>

Local Planning and Staffing Capacity

This section is concerned with a local government's ability to plan for the community's future and to meet the current needs of residents.

Strengths, weaknesses and outcomes might focus on the following: updating zoning ordinances or land use; updating municipal/local policies, taxes, fees, etc.; increasing local government staff capacity; and updating planning documents like sector plans or comprehensive plans.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commitment to Public Engagement - City staff invest substantial time and resources in every public facing project to collect diverse input from residents and consistently look to improve outreach methods. History– the City has a strong track record of planning and numerous accomplishments to show for it. Limited Geography - the city is flanked by water on three sides and county to the other, there is no more farmland that can be developed so developing underutilized parcels is the focus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zoning - a restrictive zoning ordinance restricts the construction of many of the diverse housing types which have historically defined the city. The City lacks some of the specialized staff that are more common in larger cities such as a dedicated bike/ped planner or general transportation planner, arts & cultural planner, and parks or trails planners. Recruitment of qualified volunteers for the City's Boards and Commissions, particularly the ones of most consequence, is challenging. Ensuring that public participation is diverse and reflective of the city's broader demographic composition remains very challenging.

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: Public participation in planning work is diverse and reflective of the city's broader demographic composition.</p> <p>Progress Measures: City staff employ new or different approaches to outreach with each campaign to improve results.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Resources for outreach are adequately budgeted for each project.</p> <p>Strategy B: Staff maintain and regularly update standard procedures for conducting effective community engagement.</p> <p>Strategy C: Staff maintain a roster of community stakeholder contacts to aid in outreach.</p>	Community Associations
<p>Outcome 1: Local Boards and Commissions are adequately staffed and have diverse membership</p> <p>Progress Measures: No vacancies on the Planning Commission, Historic Preservation Commission, or Board of Appeals</p>	<p>Strategy A: Develop procedures for filling Board and Commission vacancies that are more proactive and leverage more staff involvement to identify qualified candidates.</p> <p>Strategy B: Develop improved public information designed for recruiting qualified candidates for the Boards and Commissions.</p>	

SECTION D - Sustainable Communities Workgroup Roster

All workgroup members are staff in the City of Annapolis Department of Planning & Zoning

- Casey Ortiz, Comprehensive Planner- ***Sustainable Communities Lead***
- Christopher Jakubiak, AICP, Director of Planning & Zoning
- Eric Leshinsky, AICP, Chief of Comprehensive Planning
- Theresa Wellman, Community Development Administrator
- Stephen Rice, Economic Development Manager

SECTION F - SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY MAP

