

# SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

## APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION

LARRY HOGAN  
Governor  
BOYD K. RUTHERFORD  
Lt. Governor  
KENNETH C. HOLT  
Secretary  
OWEN McEVOY  
Deputy Secretary

### 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 - 7.23

## **Overview 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:

Subject Line: Sustainable Community Application

To: Carter Reitman

[carter.reitman@maryland.gov](mailto:carter.reitman@maryland.gov)

Copy: Olivia Ceccarelli-McGonigal

[olivia.ceccarelli@maryland.gov](mailto:olivia.ceccarelli@maryland.gov)

## **Site Visits, Follow-up Discussion, Technical Assistance**

Attendance at a minimum of one application consultation session or training is mandatory for all applicants. Consult with Carter Reitman at 410-298-5849 or by email at [carter.reitman@maryland.gov](mailto: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 Olivia Ceccarelli-McGonigal at 410-209-5826 or by email at [olivia.ceccarelli@maryland.gov](mailto:olivia.ceccarelli@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, implemented the strategies initially envisioned, and identify what resources were used. Renewal applicants are encouraged to discuss how priorities, actions, and objectives were or were not achieved across the six elements listed on the previous page (v), 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 has been revised so that it is less time consuming and focused on developing a strategic implementation plan. 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.

## **Additional Guidance for Developing the Sustainable Communities Action Plan**

### **III. 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**

The Action Plan section has been broken down into the same six categories as the Comprehensive Assessment section of this document. These parts address key components of your Sustainable Community Action Plan. Follow the guidelines below to fill out the matrix.

- 1) For each section, pinpoint essential strengths and weaknesses of your community.** Example Transportation: Strength - Good sidewalk connectivity. Weakness - Insufficient amount of downtown parking.
- 2) Based on those strengths and weaknesses, formulate specific outcomes that address the most pressing issues or greatest potentials. Include a means of measuring the success of said outcome.** Example Economy: Outcome – Expand broadband fiber optics in Town. Progress Measure - Linear measurement of fiber laid and number of residential and business connections.
- 3) After defining the outcomes, list detailed strategies (break down to several action steps if needed) that will serve as the means to achieve those goals.** Example Economy: Strategy - Increase number of Town sponsored events . 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 Economy: DHCD (Community Legacy program), Small Business Administration (Services and financial assistance) etc.

## **CHECKLIST AND TABLE OF CONTENTS**

APPLICANT: Baltimore County Department of Planning

NAME OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY: Catonsville-Patapsco

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**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 Action Plan Update (Matrix)**
  - [Action Plan](#)
- Section C – Sustainable Community Renewal Report (Projects, Strategies and Partners)**
  - [Part 1: Qualitative Assessment](#)
  - [Part 2: Comprehensive Assessment](#)
  - [Competitive Funding](#)
- 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**

<b>Name of Sustainable Community:</b>	<b>Catonsville/Patapsco</b>		
<b>Name of Applicant:</b>	<b>Baltimore County Department of Planning</b>		
<b>Applicant's Federal Identification Number:</b>	<b>52-6000889</b>		
<b>Applicant's Street Address:</b>	<b>105 W Chesapeake Ave #101</b>		
<b>City:</b> Towson	<b>County:</b> Baltimore County	<b>State:</b> MD	<b>Zip Code:</b> 21204
<b>Phone Number:</b> 410-887-3480	<b>Fax Number:</b> 410-887-5862	<b>Web Address:</b>	<a href="http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov">www.baltimorecountymd.gov</a>

### **Sustainable Community Application Local Contact:**

<b>Name:</b> Sophie Kotzker	<b>Title:</b> Planner II		
<b>Address:</b> 105 W Chesapeake Ave #101	<b>City:</b> Towson	<b>State:</b> MD	<b>Zip Code:</b> 21204
<b>Phone Number:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Fax Number:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>E-mail Address:</b>	[REDACTED]

### **Sustainable Community Contact for Application Status:**

<b>Name:</b> Sophie Kotzker	<b>Title:</b> Planner II		
<b>Address:</b> 105 W Chesapeake Ave #101	<b>City:</b> Towson	<b>State:</b> MD	<b>Zip Code:</b> 21204
<b>Phone Number:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Fax Number:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>E-mail Address:</b>	[REDACTED]

### **Other Sustainable Community Contacts:**

<b>Name:</b> Ngone Seye Diop	<b>Title:</b> Community Planning Division Chief		
<b>Address:</b> 105 W Chesapeake Ave #101	<b>City:</b> Towson	<b>State:</b> MD	<b>Zip Code:</b> 21204
<b>Phone Number:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Fax Number:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>E-mail Address:</b>	[REDACTED]

### **Sustainable Community Boundary and Description**

(1) Are you requesting any changes to your Sustainable Community boundary? Describe why or why not?

Yes, we are requesting to expand the Sustainable Communities Boundary to the northeast of the existing boundary to include the neighborhoods and regions of Academy Heights and Ingleside Ave, south of Route 40, but east of 695. The expansion area is 458.58 acres. These neighborhoods are known as 'Legacy' neighborhoods of Catonsville, are closely linked to the rest of the existing Sustainable

## Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section A

Community area and have a need for various revitalization efforts. Including these neighborhoods will help to create a more unified and cohesive effort in the implementation of the Sustainable Communities Action Plan. Majority of Action Plan strategies apply to these areas, and there are additional specific action items that pertain to these areas.

*\*As requested, the existing boundary to the northwestern portion of the SC area will be reduced by an acreage commensurate with the above expansion area to foster a more focused and targeted revitalization area.*

(2) If yes, Include the following in as an attachment:

- a. PDF or JPEG of modified Sustainable Communities boundary map,
- b. GIS shapefiles of modified Sustainable Community boundary (mapped to the parcel boundary),

(3) Approximate number of acres of entire SC Area:

Original boundary: 5,821 acres

Expansion area: 459 acres

Removal area: 470 acres

**Total new boundary: 5,810 acres**

(4) Existing federal, state or local designations:

Main Street  Maple Street

**National Register Historic District  Local Historic District  Arts & Entertainment District**

State Enterprise Zone Special Taxing District  BRAC  State Designated TOD

**Other(s): Catonsville Commercial Revitalization District, Portion of Baltimore National Pike Commercial Revitalization District, ARPA areas, Catonsville Design Review Panel Area, Patapsco Heritage Area, Maryland Historic National Road Scenic Byway.**

(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?

*\*Due to changes to the boundary after submittal, the demographic data below does include the area that was removed from the boundary to the western portion of the SC area in the review process. Census Tract 4015.03 is the affected tract, but portions of the tract do remain in the SC area.*

The Catonsville Sustainable Community area (“SC area”) has an estimated 2021 population of 42,789, representing an increase of 5,662 individuals since 2018. Median age of this population is 41.2 years, slightly higher than the countywide median age of 39.1 years.

Approximately 20.5% of the SC area's population is 65 years of age and over. This age bracket's share of the total population increased by 2% from 2018. Additionally, 34.8% of the SC area's population is 24 and younger, which increased by just about 2% as well since 2018.

The racial profile of SC area is predominantly white, with 64.7% of population in the “White alone, Not Hispanic or Latino” racial group. This percentage decreased significantly from 2018, when 78.9% of population was white. Relatedly, the “Black or African American alone, Not Hispanic or Latino” population has increased by 6.2% since 2018, and the

## Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section A

“Hispanic/Latino of any race” population increased by 4% since 2018 (individuals of this ethnicity may be of any race, according to the federal definition).

There are 16,796 housing units in the SC area. 16,111 of which are occupied, representing a 95.9% occupancy rate. Since 2018, occupancy rate has steadily increased while the total number of vacant units has declined by 2.8%. Housing occupancy was split 67% to 26% among Owner-occupied and Renter-occupied units in 2018, and changed just slightly to 66.6% to 29.3%, respectively, as of 2021.

Among individuals 25 years old or over in the SC area, 93.7% graduated with a high school diploma or equivalent and 51.2% of individuals in the same range hold a bachelor’s or advanced educational degree. These two figures have only changed slightly since 2018, and educational attainment in the SC area remains higher than Countywide averages (91% for high school or higher, and 37% for bachelor’s or higher). The area’s median household income increased by \$10,088 to \$96,435 since 2018. It is significantly higher than the county’s median income of \$69,000.

Overall, the SC area has maintained a relatively steady population, has become more racially diverse, and has increased housing opportunities.

	2018 Sustainable Community Renewal	ACS 2021 5-Year Estimates*	Change
<b>Population</b>		<a href="#"><u>S0101   Age and Sex</u></a>	
Total estimated population:	37,127	42,789	+5,662
Median Age	41.8	41.2	-0.6
Estimated population 65 and older	6,789 (18.3%)	8,804	+2,105
Estimated population 24 and younger	12,214 (32.9%)	14,915	+2,701
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		<a href="#"><u>DP05   Demographic and Housing</u></a>	
Estimated White population	29,290 (78.9%)	27,753	-1,537
Estimated Black/African American population	4,380 (11.8%)	7,729	+3,349
Estimated Hispanic/Latino (of any race) population	1,385 (3.7%)	1,887	+502
<b>Housing</b>		<a href="#"><u>S2502   Demographic Characteristics for Occupied Housing Units</u></a> <a href="#"><u>B25004   Vacancy Status</u></a>	
Total housing units	14,122	16,796	+2,674
Vacant housing units	962 (6.8%)	685	-277
Occupied housing units	13,160 (93.2%)	16,111	+2,951
Occupancy – owner occupied	9,462	11,188	+1,726
Occupancy – renter occupied	3,698	4,923	+1,225
<b>Educational Attainment</b>		<a href="#"><u>S1501   Educational Attainment</u></a>	
Age 25 and over with high school diploma/equivalency or higher	94.0%	93.7%	--
Age 25 and over with bachelor’s degree or higher	49.0%	51.2%	+2.2%
<b>Income</b>		<a href="#"><u>S1901   Income in the Past 12 Months (in 2021 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars)</u></a>	

## Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section A

Average median household income of tracts within expanded area (excluding Tract 4925)	\$86,347	\$96,435	+\$10,088
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**\*Source:** 2021 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables

**\*Selected Geography:** Census Tracts 4001, 4002, 4004, 4005, 4006, 4007.01, 4007.02, 4008, 4009, 4010, 4014, 4015.03, 4925

### Organizational Structure, Experience and Public Input:

(1) 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?

The Sustainable Communities Workgroup is comprised of different partners compared to the 2018 application process. Baltimore County Department of Planning continues to take the lead responsibility for this application process. However, the Workgroup for the 2023 renewal application is comprised of significantly more community members, community leaders, and local organizations. The Baltimore County Department of Planning will be managing the implementation of the SC Action Plan through partnerships with the Workgroup, local organizations, and other County agencies.

The official Catonsville-Patapsco Workgroup for this renewal process included the following representatives:

- Namita Kumar; Greater Catonsville Chamber of Commerce
- Maureen Sweeney Smith; Catonsville Rails to Trails
- Jay Patel; Greater Oella Community Association
- Aaron Shapiro; Patapsco Heritage Greenway
- Monica Herber; Baltimore County Arts Guild
- Mary Ann Richmond; University of Maryland, Baltimore County Representative
- Lisa Akchin; University of Maryland, Baltimore County Representative
- Steve Whalen; Local Developer
- Matthew Riesner; Ingleside Neighborhood Association
- Bettina Tebo; Resident
- Marlon Samaniego; Catonsville Senior Center
- Miriam Levy; Catonsville Senior Center
- Bern-El Cooper; Winters Lane Representative

In addition to relevant county agencies, representatives of other State and Countywide organizations were invited to attend workgroup meetings depending on what area topics were discussed. These representatives include:

## Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section A

- Phyllis Joris, NeighborSpace
- Mitchell Posner, Community Assistance Network
- Darlene Smith, Community Assistance Network
- Cortly Witherspoon, Community Assistance Network
- Jamie Richardson, MDOT, MTA
- Jordan Vogt, MDOT
- Kimberly Livezey, Maryland SHA
- Claudine Myers, Maryland SHA
- Al Eilbacher, Baltimore County Public Schools
- Sarah Jane Brunson, Catonsville Public Library

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

The Workgroup has several members that represent local Community Development Organizations (Catonsville Rails to Trails, Patapsco Heritage Greenway, Catonsville Chamber of Commerce, and Baltimore County Arts Guild), and they have been successful in completing various 2018 Action Plan goals and related goals. These organizations have a strong ability to plan and execute various projects related to the revitalization and improvement of the Catonsville SC Area (as well as surrounding areas) and will remain helpful partners in the implementation of the 2023 Action Plan. One of the challenges the Workgroup faces is that some members, and some of the highly participatory community members, are not directly involved in a Community Development Organization that could be directly eligible to receive and utilize funds from various grant or loan programs that could be helpful in completed Action Plan goals. As a result, the existing higher capacity Community Development Organizations within the area are the only organizations that have the ability to complete several of the Action Plan Goals.

(3) 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?

During this Renewal Application process, the Baltimore County Department of Planning (BC Planning) led an extensive public engagement process to ensure the community could provide as much input as possible. The County held a series of public meetings and conducted several public surveys to collect input. There were six public, virtual meetings held. On October 11, 2022, BC Planning conducted a kickoff meeting to introduce the project and the process to the public. A similar kickoff meeting was conducted with faith organization leaders, held on October 19. 2022.

Following that, there were three focus group meetings, where the Workgroup, relevant Baltimore County Agency representatives, and interested community members, were invited to attend and discuss each of the six action plan topics. These were primarily formatted as open discussions led by the Baltimore County Department of Planning, where attendees could discuss strengths, weaknesses, and potential outcomes or action steps for each of the six topics. The meetings occurred between October and November of 2022 and were held virtually. Additionally, there were four surveys

## Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section A

created and distributed virtually on the [Catonsville Sustainable Community HUB](#), and physically at the Catonsville Library and Catonsville Senior Center, to gather further input on the six action plan topics between October and December of 2022. All surveys were open for approximately two weeks each. The Action Plan, once fully drafted, was posted on the Catonsville Sustainable Community HUB for a two-week public review period in March 2023.

The Action Plan update is based on community needs heard during the public engagement process, the previous 2018 Action Plan, existing County plans for projects to take place in the next five years, and existing initiatives being conducted, or soon to be conducted, by local organizations. Action Plan outcomes and strategies are consistent with County initiatives and goals, and with the existing adopted community plans that cover the Catonsville-Patapsco SC Area, including:

- The Catonsville Plan (1991)
- Patapsco Heritage Area Management Plan (2014)
- Southwest Baltimore County Revitalization Strategy (1997)
- Western Baltimore County Pedestrian and Bicycle Access Plan (2012).

There have also been several recent public participation processes held by organizations other than Baltimore County Department of Planning (including the Baltimore County Revenue Authority, and Baltimore County Arts Guild) that have provided valuable input that have helped guide the discussions during our Focus Group meetings in the fall of 2022.

(4) 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.

In Catonsville's newly designated Arts and Entertainment District, a large portion of the A+E District includes MD State Road 144, Frederick Road. The portion of this road that is included in the A+E District functions as Catonsville's 'Main Street' and is characterized by historic commercial development, small locally owned shops, local bikeways, and several murals and signs depicting Catonsville's atmosphere. Baltimore County Arts Guild, the organization that manages the designation, will be completing a Public Arts Plan shortly, and will soon begin the implementation of the plan. Several recommendations may suggest improvements relating to arts and entertainment along MD 144, and they may need assistance in communication about these projects with State Highway Administration.

## **SECTION B - SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACTION PLAN**

[Catonsville-Patapsco]

## Example Section

<u>Strengths</u>	<u>Weaknesses</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Insert bulleted list of strengths (provide some detail as to why and how this is a strength in your community)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Insert bulleted list of weaknesses (provide some detail as to why and how this is a weakness in your community)</li> </ul>

<u>Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures</u>  <u>Outcomes</u> Outcomes should be considered end results of actions and strategies. Based on the strengths and weaknesses, identify the strengths on which you would like to build and the challenges you would like to address.  <u>Progress Measure:</u> What will you use to measure success toward outcome? Is it quantifiable or qualifiable?	<u>Strategies and Action Items</u>  Identify strategies that will help your community to achieve each identified outcome to the left. If applicable, break down each strategy into specific action items that outline different steps of the strategy. Specify how you are planning to achieve the desired outcomes.	<u>Implementation Partners</u>  Which community stakeholders need to be involved to realize each action step and strategy? Name specific public and/or private sector partners.
Example Outcome 1: Code violations and complaints are reduced in the Sustainable Community residential areas.  Example Progress Measures: Code violations reduced by 25% in Sustainable Community residential areas	Example Strategy A: Review and revise, as needed, code compliance program to reduce frequency and number of residential code violations.  Example Action 1: Complete analysis of code violations over the past five years to determine areas, both geographically and topically, for which code violations are most frequent.  Example Action 2: Conduct outreach program to determine barriers to code compliance.  Example Action 3: Analyze code compliance program for potential inefficiencies and opportunities for proactive engagement.  Example Action 4: Pursue façade improvement funding to assist low-income homeowners overcome barriers to code compliance.	Maryland Department of Planning, Maryland Department of Housing, County Planning Department, local homeowners association

## 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.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The SC area features established watershed management, with two completed Small Watershed Action Plans-- Lower Patapsco and Middle Gwynns. Capital projects including stormwater conversion and retrofits, reforestation projects and stream restoration projects have been identified, and in some cases completed, within these areas. Additional opportunities for citizen actions have also been identified in these watersheds such as rain barrel installation and downspout disconnection.</li> <li>• The Catonsville area (as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau's "Census Designated Place") has substantial tree canopy cover, estimated at 49.4% as of 2018. This is higher than the County's goal of maintaining 40% within each Census Designated Place within the County. While the tree canopy has decreased by 1% (45.12 acres) in the CDP since 2013, The County is still meeting its canopy goals in this area. Since 2018, the County and its partners have planted 6.34 acres or 634 trees within the boundary of the Catonsville Sustainable Community.</li> <li>• Multiple access points into Patapsco Valley State Park throughout Catonsville</li> <li>• Availability of trails in the area (through Catonsville Rails to Trails, and Patapsco Heritage Greenway)</li> <li>• Strong markets for recyclables. Strong base for recycling, including curbside collection, recycling various materials at the Residential Drop off Centers (RDOCs), and processors and businesses that participate in recycling.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) exist in the watersheds covered by the SC Area for impairments including sediment, bacteria, and phosphorus. The area also contributes to the Baltimore Inner Harbor trash impairment, for which there is a TMDL. Implementation plans have been developed by Baltimore County to address these environmental weaknesses. Impairments without TMDLs in both watersheds include impaired non-tidal aquatic wildlife due to stream channelization, chlorides, and sulfates. Also, some species of fish caught in Gwynns Falls are unsafe to eat due to PCB contamination.</li> <li>• An analysis using 2020 impervious data shows that 28% of the SC area, including the proposed expansion, is covered by impervious surfaces, which is higher than the countywide average of 26.1% within the urban part of the URDL. Streams that have drainage areas with this amount of impervious are considered impacted and show signs of degradation such as erosion, channel widening, and a decline in stream habitat.</li> <li>• Out of the roughly 6,749 acres of land area covered by the SC area, only an estimated 1,271 acres (about 18.8%) drain to stormwater facilities that provide water quality benefit. This is lower than the countywide average of 21.2% within urban sections of the URDL.</li> <li>• Additional need for community gardens</li> <li>• Significant amount of invasive species in natural areas</li> <li>• Significant nuisance flooding along roadways and sidewalks</li> <li>• Too many recyclables still ending up in the trash; Public needs more education on recycling and zero waste</li> </ul>

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<u>Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures</u>	<u>Strategies and Action Items</u>	<u>Implementation Partners</u>
<p>Outcome 1: Improve water quality in non-tidal streams</p> <p>Progress Measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress implementing actions listed in SWAP Action Strategies Tables.</li> <li>• Reduced severity or elimination of water quality impairments.</li> <li>• Increase the amount of area treated by SWM practices with water quality benefit.</li> </ul>	<p>Strategy A: Work with institutional partners to reduce impervious cover at the sites identified in the SWAP.</p> <p>Strategy B: Reforest stream buffer at feasible sites with a minimum width of 35 feet.</p> <p>Strategy C: Redevelopment will lead to the creation of SWM facilities as well as retrofits and conversions of existing SWM facilities.</p> <p>Strategy D: Investigate the feasibility of implementing stormwater retrofits to treat runoff from impervious surfaces (parking lots) at the sites identified in the Lower Patapsco SWAP.</p> <p>Strategy E: Stream restoration project is planned for a portion of Miller Branch located behind the 40 West Shopping Plaza. Construction is scheduled to begin Winter 2023.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability</li> <li>• Patapsco Heritage Greenway</li> <li>• Blue Water Baltimore</li> <li>• Local businesses</li> <li>• Local institutions including hospitals and higher education institutions</li> </ul>
<p>Outcome 2: Improve tree canopy</p> <p>Progress Measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased tree canopy - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ *Measure tree canopy of the SC boundary when new land use data is available. It may take several years after trees are planted for them to be detected in the land use maps and GIS applications.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Strategy A: Tree Planting - Redevelopment may add shade trees and other vegetation to areas to the SC.</p> <p><i>Action item 1:</i> Tree Planting - Determine if there are locations for other tree plantings.</p> <p><i>Action item 2:</i> Utilize County and federal funding to improve streetscapes, including adding street trees, on County roads. Determine locations of roadways in need.</p> <p><i>Action item 3:</i> Promote initiatives that are offered to improve tree canopy to community members (including Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection's street tree replacement program).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection</li> <li>• Patapsco Heritage Greenway</li> <li>• Blue Water Baltimore</li> <li>• Baltimore County Department of Planning</li> <li>• Baltimore County Property Management</li> </ul>
<p>Outcome 3: Improve and maintain open park spaces</p> <p>Progress Measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased acreage of preserved land</li> <li>• Increased health of streams and natural features</li> </ul>	<p>Strategy A: Environmentally-conscious development of new Belle Grove Park.</p> <p><i>Action item 1:</i> The County acquired Belle Grove Park Site (6.68 acres) in February 2022. The property is currently unimproved and will be developed into park space with the input of community members.</p> <p>Strategy B: Tree planting within existing open spaces and parks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State of Maryland Program Open Space and Local Parks &amp; Playgrounds Infrastructure Program</li> <li>• Baltimore County</li> </ul>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased tree cover, especially within County-owned properties</li> </ul>	<p>Strategy C: Implementation of best practices for stormwater management in all park development projects.</p> <p>Strategy D: Increase invasive species management in stream areas, preserved areas, and natural areas.</p> <p><i>Action item 1:</i> Implement solutions recommended by the Bull Branch Watershed Assessment final report, which was completed in fall 2022.</p> <p><i>Action item 2:</i> Hold community cleanup events to remove invasive species</p> <p>Strategy E: Continue to promote County programs that support litter removal.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Department of Recreation and Parks</li> <li>Catonsville Rails to Trails</li> <li>Environmental Protection and Sustainability</li> <li>Patapsco Heritage Greenway</li> <li>Maryland Department of Natural Resources</li> <li>Community Assistance Network</li> </ul>
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## 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.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 National Register Historic Districts: Old Catonsville; Winters Lane; Central Catonsville &amp; Summit Park</li> <li>Heritage and Recreational tourism opportunities: Benjamin Banneker Park; Patapsco Valley State Park</li> <li>Relatively high level of educational attainment with 51% of the Catonsville CDP residents having a bachelor's degree, compared to 40% countywide (2021)</li> <li>Nearby major institutions – UMBC, CCBC – providing a large number of jobs and services to the community</li> <li>Catonsville has a County Commercial Revitalization District (CRD) that allows property owners and business owners to have access to a set of County Commercial Revitalization programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Downsizing federal workforce, increased teleworking environment, and space consolidation will likely impact the future growth of the federal employment center just north of Catonsville</li> <li>Could improve the connection with UMBC on events, projects, initiatives, and master plans</li> <li>Some commercial areas and businesses are in poor physical condition, and/or are more prone to vacancy</li> </ul>

## Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vibrant and creative small business community, thriving arts and entertainment scene, (both of which are supported by the Catonsville Chamber of Commerce and the Baltimore County Arts Guild)</li> </ul>	
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Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: Continue to improve Catonsville's sense of place and status as a thriving arts hub through marketing, branding, and tourism opportunities</p> <p>Progress Measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased signage</li> <li>Increased usage of MSAC, State, and County funds for local arts projects</li> </ul>	<p>Strategy A: Work with Baltimore County Department of Workforce and Economic Development (DEWD) to find strategies to increase or benefit from small forms of tourism (for example: hotels, B&amp;B's, promotional events, etc.).</p> <p><i>Action item 1:</i> Promote Catonsville events (Music festivals, arts and crafts festivals) outside of Catonsville to bring in visitors. Work with DEWD Tourism Manager to create strategies that will support local businesses in collaboration with local events.</p> <p><i>Action item 2:</i> Incorporate wayfinding signage, welcome signage, and historical plaques, into the fabric of the streetscape and community to highlight certain destinations. Utilize CRAG and additional state funding sources.</p> <p>Strategy B: Continue to support Catonsville's Arts and Entertainment District, and the community's status a hub for the arts.</p> <p><i>Action item 1:</i> Utilize benefits from the A&amp;E District Designation, as well as other available state or county funding resources.</p> <p><i>Action item 2:</i> Consider developing a more cohesive branding for Catonsville (colors, signage, logo, etc).</p> <p><i>Action item 3:</i> Implement recommendations from the Baltimore County Arts Guild's Public Arts Plan to support Catonsville's identity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Catonsville Chamber of Commerce</li> <li>Music City Maryland Association</li> <li>Baltimore County Department of Workforce and Economic Development</li> <li>Baltimore County Arts Guild</li> <li>Baltimore County Department of Planning</li> <li>UMBC</li> </ul>
<p>Outcome 2: Strategically develop Catonsville and UMBC's partnership</p> <p>Progress Measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased student involvement</li> </ul>	<p>Strategy A: Continue to work with UMBC to support their "Extend Beyond Campus" initiative to get UMBC students engaged with local businesses.</p> <p>Strategy B: Continue to build and support relationships between local Catonsville organizations and the UMBC community relations team.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UMBC</li> <li>Local Businesses</li> <li>Catonsville Chamber of Commerce</li> <li>Baltimore County Arts Guild</li> <li>Baltimore County Department of Planning</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Department of Economic and Workforce Development</li> </ul>
<p>Outcome 3: Continue revitalization of commercial areas within the SC area</p> <p>Progress measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quantity of grants awarded to property owners</li> <li>Quantity of grants awarded to local CDO's</li> </ul>	<p>Strategy A: Promote County and State commercial revitalizations programs, and encourage local property owners to take advantage of programs available to them (Including: Commercial Revitalization Tax Credit, Building Improvement Loan Program, Architect on Call, Commercial Revitalization Action Grant, Neighborhood BusinessWorks)</p> <p><i>Action item 1:</i> Update and distribute informational materials physically and online that property owners, residents, business owners, and local organizations can use to learn more about different funding opportunities.</p> <p>Strategy B: Continue to work with Catonsville Chamber of Commerce and the Baltimore County Arts Guild to implement commercial revitalization projects.</p> <p><i>Action item 1:</i> Continue to fund and support CRAG projects throughout the CRD.</p> <p><i>Action item 2:</i> Encourage CDO's to utilize State programs such as Community Legacy to reach revitalization goals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Catonsville Chamber of Commerce</li> <li>Local business and property owners</li> <li>Baltimore County Department of Planning</li> <li>Baltimore County Arts Guild</li> </ul>

## 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"> <li>Updated Baltimore County Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan</li> <li>Easy access to major transportation centers – highways, BWI, MARC and Light Rail.</li> <li>Downtown Catonsville (including the Commercial Revitalization District and the Arts and Entertainment District) are walkable and bikeable due to close proximity of businesses and restaurants.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited funding available for sidewalk and pedestrian improvements.</li> <li>Narrow road right-of-way restricts the ability to have fully implemented “complete streets” along many of the roadways within the SC area, especially the roadways connecting Route 40 and 144.</li> <li>No bicycle connection to US40 from neighborhoods inside the beltway (Ingleside/Academy Heights)</li> </ul>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abundance of trails throughout the SC area (Catonsville Rails to Trails, Patapsco Valley State Park trails).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No localized transit system offered to Catonsville residents, must be student or staff to use UMBC's transit system. There is a need for an improved localized transit system within the SC area that includes service to Old Ellicott City.</li> <li>• Many of the busier roads – Edmonson, Ingleside, and Rolling Road, have heavy congestion, and many vehicles speed. Creates and unsafe pedestrian environment.</li> <li>• Much of the SC area is designed for vehicles, and bicycle infrastructure is lacking (bike racks, bike lanes, signage, etc.)</li> <li>• Parking in downtown Catonsville is very disjointed, between private lots, confusing signage, and a lack of cohesiveness.</li> <li>• Condition of roadways throughout the SC area is not cohesive, there are some portions of the SC area with roads in significantly poorer condition.</li> </ul>
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Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: Increase and improve connectivity in communities</p> <p>Progress Measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amount of feet of increased sidewalk</li> <li>• Completion of feasibility studies</li> <li>• Implementation of feasibility studies' recommendations</li> <li>• Quantity and value of parking lots</li> </ul>	<p>Strategy A: Continue with feasibility and design of trails, and complete/connect existing trails to create a safer pedestrian environment.</p> <p><i>Action item 1:</i> Add on 755 feet of trail to extend the existing Mellor Ave trail to Frederick Road next to Bill Music, including a Trailhead Park at that corner.</p> <p><i>Action item 2:</i> Complete needed renovations and repairs to the Number 9 Trolley Line Trail</p> <p>Strategy B: Improve pedestrian and bicyclist accessibility.</p> <p><i>Action item 1:</i> Continue with increased sidewalk installation.</p> <p><i>Action item 2:</i> Consider and study different ways to slow traffic to make walking and biking safer on busier roads (for example, road diets, protected or separate bike lanes and walking paths etc.).</p> <p>Strategy C: Continue with transit feasibility options.</p> <p><i>Action item 1:</i> Baltimore County Catonsville Loop Study is currently being conducted to determine whether Catonsville would be a good fit for a localize circulator.</p> <p><i>Action Item 2:</i> MDOT MTA East West Corridor Study taking place (serves the northern portion of the SC area).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baltimore County Department of Public Works and Transportation,</li> <li>• Maryland Department of Transportation/State Highway Administration</li> <li>• Baltimore County Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee</li> <li>• Catonsville Rails to Trails</li> <li>• Patapsco Heritage Greenway</li> <li>• Baltimore County Revenue Authority</li> <li>• Baltimore County Department of Planning</li> <li>• Catonsville Chamber of Commerce</li> <li>• UMBC</li> <li>• Baltimore County Arts Guild</li> </ul>

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	<p><i>Action Item 3:</i> MDOT RAISE project study includes the Orange Line, in which the route serves the Catonsville SC Area, specifically the Ingleside neighborhood area.</p> <p><i>Action Item 4:</i> Baltimore Metropolitan Council conducting transit study to determine ways to connect Old Ellicott City and Oella.</p> <p>Strategy D: Seek out funding to support local active transportation networks.</p> <p>Strategy E: Implement the recommendations made in the recent Catonsville Parking Study.</p>	
<p>Outcome 2: Improve beautification and functionality of streetscapes</p> <p>Progress measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased mileage of continuous trails and paths and connect existing routes</li> <li>Feet of increased sidewalk</li> <li>Quantity of additional public art forms</li> </ul>	<p>Strategy A: Incorporate public art forms (murals, sculptures, and/or installations), in existing roadways, alleyways, trails, and pathways within the Catonsville A&amp;E District.</p> <p>Strategy B: Review recommendations of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan to prioritize and pursue alternative transportation projects.</p> <p>Strategy C: Utilize County, State, and/or Federal funding to study and conduct streetscaping projects on roadways in poor condition.</p> <p><i>Action item 1:</i> Focus on roadways in need of connectivity, beautification, pedestrian and/or vehicular safety improvements, and prioritize projects that aid in connections to Commercial Revitalization Districts.</p> <p><i>Action item 2:</i> Determine types of projects and funds required (types of projects may include traffic calming, street trees, pocket parks, etc.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Catonsville Rails to Trails</li> <li>Baltimore County Arts Guild</li> <li>Department of Recreation and Parks</li> <li>Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Council</li> <li>Baltimore County Department of Planning</li> <li>Local parking lot property owners</li> <li>Baltimore County Department of Public Works and Transportation</li> <li>Catonsville Chamber of Commerce</li> </ul>

## 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.

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Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>County and State Historic Rehabilitation Tax credits are available for those properties and projects that qualify for the program</li> <li>Wide range of housing options – single family homes, attached townhomes, condominiums, senior living facilities, and an increasing amount of approved ADU's.</li> <li>Strong housing value, with median house values higher than the countywide average</li> <li>Percent of vacant homes decreased from 6.8% in 2018 to 4% in 2021</li> <li>Baltimore County DHCD provides various housing counseling services and rental assistance opportunities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are portions of the SC area that have significantly higher proportions of rental housing than other portions. For example, census tracts 4001, 4002, 4007.01, and 4009 have much higher rates of renter occupied housing than neighboring tracts.</li> <li>Common to see housing in poor condition and/or functionally lacking in some areas, particularly in close proximity to the Beltway and between the Beltway and the city/county line.</li> </ul>

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: Increase awareness of housing types and improvements</p> <p>Progress Measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Availability of local educational materials</li> </ul>	<p>Strategy A: Create and distribute additional educational materials that can spread awareness of various housing initiatives to local residents. (ADUs, middle housing, affordable and attainable housing etc.).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Baltimore County Department of Planning</li> <li>Baltimore County Department of Housing and Community Development</li> <li>Local community leaders</li> </ul>
<p>Outcome 2: Improve housing conditions and opportunities in portions of the SC area with higher rates of rental properties and/or housing that is deficient in function or condition</p> <p>Progress Measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of owner-occupied housing</li> <li>Average housing value</li> <li>Quantity and value of various housing improvement grants and loans</li> </ul>	<p>Strategy A: Promote and strategically target funding available through various local, state, and federal programs that are available for residential renovations and improvements.</p> <p>Strategy B: Identify vacant and/or blighted structures that can be rehabilitated into livable homes.</p> <p><i>Action item 1:</i> Develop inventory of vacant buildings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residential property owners</li> <li>Community Assistance Network</li> <li>Baltimore County Department of Housing and Community Development in conjunction with other state, county, and federal agencies</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Baltimore County Department of Permits, Approvals and Inspections (PAI)</li> </ul>
<p>Outcome 3: Ensure that quality affordable housing options are available</p> <p>Progress measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quantity and value of completed projects at designated affordable housing residences</li> <li>Quantity and value of new grants and loans to property owners to affordable housing, and to companies that construct new affordable housing units</li> <li>Quantity of additional affordable housing units created</li> </ul>	<p>Strategy A: Continue to utilize the \$3 million per year that the County has dedicated to support the creation of “hard units” of affordable housing. Work with companies that offer and construct affordable housing to provide additional opportunities within the SC area.</p> <p>Strategy B: Continue to support affordable housing unit development along Winters Lane in partnership with St. Ambrose Housing Aide Center.</p> <p>Strategy C: Support the development of new accessory dwelling units (ADUs) within appropriate settings within the SC area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Owners and developers of affordable housing</li> <li>Baltimore County Department of Housing and Community</li> <li>St. Ambrose Housing Aide Center</li> <li>Baltimore County Department of Planning</li> </ul>

## 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"> <li>The Catonsville/Patapsco Sustainable Community Area contains many parks that are valued for recreation, such as the Catonsville Community Park and Senior Center and the Banneker Community Center, as well as facilities for historical and cultural education, including the Benjamin Banneker Historical Park and Museum, and for the arts, such as the Lurman Woodland Theater at Catonsville High School Recreation Center.</li> <li>There are multiple trails for recreation and active transportation, including the Number 9 and Number 8 Trolley Line Trails, the Catonsville Short Line Trail,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited space for indoor recreation in this densely populated part of the county, where demand is high. Limited lighted outdoor athletic facilities, making recreation in the evenings, especially in the winter, difficult for residents.</li> <li>Lack of public gathering spaces (for example, a Town Square, or small park space)</li> <li>Significant economic disparities within the SC area. The median household income of the highest earning census tract (4005) is more than</li> </ul>

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<p>and trails within Patapsco Valley State Park, Banneker Historical Park and Museum, and the Catonsville Community Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crime rate has decreased significantly over the past 5 years</li> <li>• Wealth of performing arts spaces and events including events held at UMBC, CCBC &amp; Lurman Woodland Theatre. Other events include Frederick Road Fridays, Catonsville Concerts at 3, Chapel concerts at Charlestown Retirement Community, and the Annual Catonsville Arts and Crafts Festival.</li> <li>• Strong sense of community, embodied by monikers such as “The Ville,” “Music City, Maryland,” and “Life is Great in 21228”</li> </ul> <p>Widespread access to quality educational opportunities (public and private at every level from pre-k to university), libraries, historic and cultural assets, civic amenities, and faith-based organizations.</p>	<p>double than of each of the lowest earning tracts (4001, 4002, 4009, and 4010)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certain areas within the SC area are disconnected to primary resources, ie. Academy Heights, Ingleside neighborhoods.</li> <li>• Lack of recognition of the historic Maryland National Road (Frederick Road) and the resultant failure to capitalize upon potential tourism.</li> <li>• Lack of local clinics, and there is only one large hospital in the area (St Agnes)</li> </ul>
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Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: Increase recognition and access to recreational, historical, and cultural resources</p> <p>Progress Measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase count of desired amenities, such as athletic fields, ball diamonds, paths, or playgrounds</li> <li>• Increase available indoor recreational facilities</li> <li>• Funding secured by local organizations</li> <li>• Number of Maryland Historic National Road Corridor Partnership Plan recommendations implemented</li> </ul>	<p>Strategy A: Develop Belle Grove Park Site in collaboration with the community.</p> <p>Strategy B: Add a destination playground to the Banneker Community Center.</p> <p>Strategy C: Increase the availability of indoor recreation facilities.</p> <p>Strategy D: Complete needed renovations and repairs to the Number 9 Trolley Line Trail.</p> <p>Strategy E: Increase and improve recreational facility lighting.</p> <p>Strategy F: Expand efforts to accomplish the recommendations of the Maryland Historic National Road Corridor Partnership Plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State of Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources (via Program Open Space and Local Parks &amp; Playgrounds Infrastructure programs)</li> <li>• Department of Recreation and Parks</li> <li>• Catonsville Rails to Trails</li> <li>• Catonsville, Arbutus, and Edmondson-Westview Recreation Councils</li> <li>• Maryland Historic Trust</li> <li>• Baltimore County Department of Planning</li> </ul>
<p>Outcome 2: Improve public spaces and access to local amenities</p> <p>Progress measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quantity of public art installations</li> <li>• Quantity and types of amenities offered throughout the entire SC area</li> </ul>	<p>Strategy A: Continue to support arts and cultural events through the investment of Baltimore County Arts and Sciences Grants, Community Revitalization Action Grants (CRAG), and other grants programs, and inform not-for-profit, tax-exempt organizations aware of additional grant funding available through the Maryland State Arts Council.</p> <p><i>Action Item 1:</i> Implement recommendations from the Baltimore County Arts Guild Public Arts Plan once completed, utilizing the above funds.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baltimore County Department of Planning</li> <li>• Baltimore County Arts Guild</li> <li>• MSAC</li> <li>• Local property owners</li> <li>• Local organizations including Music City Maryland</li> </ul>

	<p>Strategy B: Improve access and amenities for the Ingleside/Academy Heights areas.</p> <p><i>Action item 1:</i> Work to find new opportunities to provide an additional farmers market, additional events, additional open or park space, and/or additional public art installations to increase the number of amenities offered in those neighborhoods.</p> <p>Strategy C: Increase access to local emergency medical care by working with Baltimore County Department of Health and Human Services.</p>	<p>Association and the Children's Home</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baltimore County Department of Health and Human Services</li> <li>• Catonsville Chamber of Commerce</li> <li>• Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks</li> </ul>
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## 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"> <li>• County and State Historic Rehabilitation Tax credits are available for those properties and projects that qualify for the program</li> <li>• Various feasibility studies currently being drafted that provide a substantial amount of recommendations that help to guide Catonsville's future.</li> <li>• County Master Plan 2030 will be adopted in 2023</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scarcity of undeveloped properties within residential and commercial zones, thereby limiting the potential for larger scale new development or infill</li> <li>• Barriers to higher density development (including policies, development process, NIMBYs).</li> <li>• Majority current or proposed residential development plans are for single family dwelling units.</li> </ul>

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
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## Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

<p>Outcome 1: Provide suitable opportunities for growth that can develop Catonsville sustainably</p> <p>Progress Measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Number of effective zoning changes made during the 2024 CZMP.</li><li>• Permits for new construction and enhancements</li><li>• Quantity of vacant properties</li></ul>	<p>Strategy A: Utilize the 2024 Comprehensive Zoning Map Process (CZMP) to support appropriate zoning changes that will allow for sustainable growth.</p> <p>Strategy B: Provide suitable incentives for key projects through various County and State programs, especially those located in Commercial Revitalization Districts.</p> <p>Strategy C: Consider potential expansion of commercial revitalization zone(s), particularly in cases where suitable growth could result.</p> <p>Strategy D: Support the development of accessory dwelling units within appropriate settings within the SC area through the development process and policy development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Baltimore County Department of Planning</li><li>• Baltimore County Economic and Workforce Development</li><li>• State agencies and entities such as the Dept. of Commerce, Dept. of Housing &amp; Community Development, and the Maryland Economic Development Corporation</li><li>• Baltimore County Council</li><li>• Private developers</li></ul>
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## **SECTION C - 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.

##### **[EXAMPLE] Descriptive Narrative: Please list the most significant accomplishments that apply**

###### ***Example – Accomplishment 1***

*Outcome: Improved stormwater management*

###### *Projects:*

*Project 1: Stormwater Retrofit Plan – In October 2014, the Town Council approved the Town's stormwater retrofit plan which outlines various strategies and capital budget expenditures over the next five years. Strategies include reducing the amount of impervious surface in the community and improving stormwater management. One of the plan recommendations is to pass an ordinance that assesses an environmental protection fee on municipal permits.*

*Project 2: Green Streets – The Town added green elements to approximately 600 linear feet of roadway that had been experiencing severe flooding. Specifically, bioswales were constructed and trees were planted.*

###### *Partners:*

*Chesapeake Bay Trust – provided technical assistance*

*MD DHCD – provided financial assistance in form of a Community Legacy grant (totaling \$50,000).*

*Impact: The implementation of the projects had a significant impact on the community by improving stormwater runoff. The streets with the newly constructed bioswales no longer experience flooding.*

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

**Accomplishment 1:**

*Outcome: Catonsville designated as an Arts and Entertainment District; the first of which in Baltimore County.*

*Project: Catonsville received an Arts and Entertainment District designation in 2020, sought by Baltimore County Arts and Guild and Baltimore County.*

*Partners: Baltimore County Arts Guild, Maryland State Arts Council, Baltimore County*

*Impact: Baltimore County Arts Guild led the effort to create an Arts and Entertainment District in Catonsville to support and expand Catonsville's artistic and musical reputation. Maintaining the designation allows the Catonsville arts community to have access to various MSAC grant and loan programs that support local arts and artists. Baltimore County Arts Guild manages this designation, and regularly holds and promotes events, opportunities, and classes that not support the artists and businesses in the community, but bring in visitors and get residents more involved. The Arts and Entertainment District supports economic growth through job creation, increases tourism, and increases county tax revenue.*

**Accomplishment 2:**

*Outcome: Improved water quality in non-tidal streams and tree canopy improvement*

*Project: Acquisition of Belle Grove Park Site. Baltimore County acquired 6.68 acres of land in east Catonsville in February 2022. The property is currently unimproved and will be developed into park space with the input of community members.*

*Partners: Baltimore County, State of Maryland Program Open Space*

*Impact: Acquisition of this property protects open space in the Catonsville Patapsco region. Future development into a park will preserve natural resources, potentially implementing measures to improve water quality and tree canopy cover, and contribute to a higher quality of life for residents, with increased access to recreation. This acquisition serves the eastern Catonsville community, which previously only had access to the leased Christian Temple Tot Lot and the 0.3-acre Nunnery Lane Park.*



### Accomplishment 3:

*Outcome: Improve bicycle and pedestrian connectivity*

*Project 1: **Catonsville Short Line Trail Extension.** Catonsville Rails to Trails, a civic organization dedicated to enhancing bicycle and pedestrian access in the greater Catonsville community, constructed an additional segment of trail with multiple added access points to Catonsville Elementary School Recreation Center, partially upon a part of the Board of Education's property that is intended to be transferred to the Department of Recreation and Parks. This trail segment effectively extends the Catonsville Short Line Trail, getting closer to the objective of connecting that trail to Catonsville's "main street" area. The project was assisted by Maryland Bikeways funding from the Maryland Department of Transportation.*

*Partners: Catonsville Rails to Trails, Baltimore County, Baltimore County Public Schools, Maryland Department of Transportation*

*Impact: This project ensured continued connectivity by revitalizing a trail valued for recreation and transportation. It created a safer route and maintained ADA accessibility.*



*Project 2: **Boardwalk reconstruction on the Trolley #9 Trail.** The 1.25-mile Trolley #9 trail is valued for recreation and transportation by foot or by bicycle because it connects communities, trails, and parks, including Benjamin Banneker Historical Park and Museum, a valued cultural resource. The boardwalk portion of this trail was in need of reconstruction as a result of flooding, which caused severe damage. This boardwalk was reconstructed to comply with all ADA requirements. The reconstruction was completed in 2019, at a cost of approximately \$300,000, with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding assistance.*

*Partners: Baltimore County, FEMA*

*Impact: This project ensured continued connectivity by revitalizing a trail valued for recreation and transportation. It created a safer route and maintained ADA accessibility.*

## Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section C



### Accomplishment 4:

*Outcome: Greater recognition of and access to historical and cultural resources*

**Project: Roof and related renovations at Benjamin Banneker Historical Park and Museum.** There are ongoing efforts as of Fall 2022 to repair the roof of the Banneker Museum and repair any areas of water intrusion. By maintaining this important resource, the County is showing its commitment to its history and culture.

*Partners: Baltimore County*

*Impact: This project will help maintain access to the Benjamin Banneker Historical Park and Museum by updating deteriorating facilities. The museum highlights the accomplishments of Benjamin Banneker, who was born in Oella, MD as a free African American in 1731 and who was a mathematician, astronomer, author, surveyor of Washington DC, and an abolitionist. The improvements to the museum will help to increase visitation and create greater recognition of this important local history.*



### **Accomplishment 5:**

*Outcome: Investing funds for the provision of affordable housing preservation and construction  
Projects: Winters Lane Affordable Housing Improvements*

*Partners: St. Ambrose Housing Aide Center*

*Impact: The County's long-term affordable housing portfolio increased by 15 units for renters requiring affordability of 80% of the AMI or below.*

### **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: Continued Revitalization of the Catonsville Commercial Revitalization District*

*Narrative: This is a former outcome from the 2018 Action Plan, and though work on this outcome has continued to take place, only certain portions have been accomplished, and new issues have come up. The number of Commercial Revitalization Action Grants has remained steady, and Catonsville Chamber of Commerce has continued to apply and receive funding through the CRAG program. The Commercial Revitalization Tax Credit was utilized only three times in the past 5 years in Catonsville; however, it has been utilized at higher rates in other portions of the county – such as Towson. Additionally, plans for the Paradise commercial area streetscape were not completed as expected.*

## Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section C

*Outcome:*

*Narrative:*

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*Outcome:*

*Narrative:*

## **PART II: COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT**

**Purpose:**

The purpose of the comprehensive assessment is to capture indicators of accomplishments in each Sustainable Community. Indicators should reflect the five year time period since the adoption of the Sustainable Communities Action Plan. Thus, the following questions focus on the common outcomes that were identified in the various Sustainable Community Action Plans approved by the State. The assessment will be grouped in the sections of Environment, Economy, Transportation, Housing, Quality of Life, and Land Use.

**Please answer the following questions to the best of your knowledge.**

Check “YES” if applicable to your community. If you answer “YES” please quantify the accomplishment (i.e. Q: Has there been an increase in the number of businesses in your Main Street/commercial district? A: YES 4 new businesses have opened in the past five years). If necessary, please also provide a short description of the accomplishment.

Please check “NO” if the question item did not have any impact on your community. If you answer “NO” please briefly summarize what kept you from achieving your plan’s desired outcomes.

Check “N/A”, if the question item does not apply to your Sustainable Community.

## Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section C

ENVIRONMENT	YES	NO	N/A	If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?
1. Has there been an improvement in water quality? Have you completed any projects intended to improve water quality? Ex. impervious surface reduction, stormwater improvements etc.	X			<p>While there has been biological, bacterial, and trash water quality monitoring activities in the SC area, there is insufficient data to determine trends in water quality. There are no chemical water quality trend stations within the SC area.</p> <p>Impervious surface area in this SC area increased by approximately 25.44 acres from 2017 to 2020. Continued development and highway expansion within the plan area is largely responsible for this increase. The County does not have aerial imagery past 2020 so we are unable to report on any impervious added or removed after 2020 at this time.</p> <p>The County has completed seven shallow marsh stormwater conversion projects in the plan area since 2018.</p>
2. Have you improved wildlife habitat in your community? Ex. native plantings, pollinator gardens, rain gardens	X			634 native trees have been planted in the plan area by the County and watershed partners since the last renewal in 2018.
3. Have you increased access to green space, parks or outdoor recreational opportunities?	X			The acquisition of the 6.68-acre Belle Grove Park site protects this land from being developed and therefore protects wildlife habitat. Future plans for the park may include enhancements to habitat for a variety of wildlife.
4. Have you implemented operational sustainability practices (example: town hall enhancements) and/or community-based practices? (ex. Rain barrels or rain gardens at residences, recycling, composting etc)	X			<p>The acquisition of Belle Grove Park Site added 6.68 to the County's parkland in the Sustainable Community area. This site, which is currently undeveloped, already adds open space to a less well served area of the county. In the future, in collaboration with communities, Recreation and Parks will add recreational facilities to improve access within Catonsville-Patapsco, with design funding budgeted in the Fiscal Year 2023 capital budget.</p> <p>The County hosted a rain barrel sale in 2021 and 2022, from those sales 88 rain barrels have been purchased by residents in the plan area.</p> <p>For recycling, the County works with residents and businesses to increase recycling. This includes advertising, technical assistance, information on our website, articles on social media, and monthly newsletter. The County has switched from plastic bags to paper bags for yard</p>

## Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section C

				materials to improve the quality of our compost. The County has initiated twice per year bulk collection for each single family and town home. The collections have included recycling scrap metal. In April 2021, the Baltimore County Solid Waste Work Group, established by County Executive John Olszewski, Jr. completed the “Five Year Tactical Plan: Baltimore County’s Recycling & Solid Waste System.”
<b>OTHER:</b> Stream Restoration Project on Miller Branch.				A stream restoration project is planned for a portion of Miller Branch located behind the 40 West Shopping Plaza. Construction is scheduled to begin in Winter 2022/2023.

<b>ECONOMY</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?</b>
1. Has there been an increase in the number of new businesses in your Main Street/ Commercial District?			X	Data not available. However, COVID-19 negatively affected small businesses along the commercial district. Many businesses had to close during these years. There has been some turnover in commercial spaces along the commercial district in the past few years.
2. Did the Municipality/ Sustainable Community area receive any designations that support local economic development?	X			Arts and Entertainment District in Catonsville received in 2020, led and managed by Baltimore County Arts Guild. Catonsville has long had a Baltimore County Commercial Revitalization District designation along MD-144, which provides opportunities for various County commercial incentive programs including: Commercial Revitalization Tax Credit, Building Improvement Loan Program, Commercial Revitalization Action Grant, and Architect on Call.
3. Has there been an increase in foot traffic in the Main Street/commercial district?			X	Data not available. Foot traffic may have been affected by Covid-19. In 2022, Catonsville was back to holding public outdoor events for community members.

## Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section C

4. Have the number of commercial vacancies decreased?		X		According to CoStar data, since 2018, the vacancy rates in the SC area have increased by 1.1%. Currently, about 3.4% of commercial properties are vacant.
5. Has there been an increase in local jobs within the Sustainable Community for its residents?		X		Data not available.
6. Has there been an increase in workforce development training or other opportunities for connecting potential employees to well-paying jobs?		X		The training requests have remained steady, but no significant increase since pre-COVID. There has been an increase in connecting job seekers to better paying job opportunities post-COVID. Many businesses increased wages to attract talent. There has been an ongoing effort to increase training. In June, the workforce development team collaborated with Morning Star Baptist Church to host a Job Fair, resulting in a high turnout for both job seekers and employers.
<b>OTHER:</b>				

<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?</b>
1. Has the amount of bike trails/paths increased? How many linear feet do the trails cover?	X			<p>Access to the heavily utilized Trolley #9 Trail was maintained via the replacement and enhancement of the flood-damaged boardwalk portion of that trail.</p> <p>The 2.2 mile Short Line Trail has evolved through the efforts of the non-profit group Catonsville Rails to Trails (CRTT), which has made good use of substantial grants and donations. A 555 foot connection section behind Catonsville Elementary School was completed in 2022 and Baltimore County has a construction grant for the Bloomsbury section of the trail, which will make an at-grade crossing from Bloomsbury Avenue to the Short Line Trail.</p>

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2. Have there been improvements to the public transit infrastructure?			X	MDOT MTA is a state agency that provides the major transit services in Baltimore County.
3. Has there been an increase in sidewalks? (Amount in linear feet). Were accessibility elements added, such as more ADA-accessible ramps and signage/signals? Has there been a noticeable increased use of these walking places?	X			Approximately 3800 lf of sidewalk was installed on Ingleside Avenue sidewalk from Frederick Road to Edmondson Avenue. Approximately 850 lf of sidewalk was installed on Magruder Avenue from Newburg to Mellor Avenue. Approximately 215 lf of sidewalk was installed on Charing Cross Road. Approximately 225 lf of sidewalk was installed on Frederick Road from Maple Drive to S. Paradise Avenue. ADA ramps were installed as part of all projects. Signage and signal upgrades have been installed and/or performed over the past 5 years as part of maintenance and/or citizen requests.
4. Have there been any roadway improvements that support “Complete” or “Green” streets?		X		While there have not been a large amount of improvement with regard to green streets, DPWT has added a Green Infrastructure division which is actively hiring to increase the number of projects that involve installing small-scale stormwater practices within the county owned right-of-way to capture water from roadways.
5. Has traffic congestion along major roads decreased? (Amount in percent)			X	Baltimore County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT) is evaluating ways to decrease congestion on the roadways by researching opportunities for more transit options in the County. No percentage is available at this time.
<b>OTHER:</b>				
<b>HOUSING</b>	YES	NO	N/A	If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?

## Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section C

1. Have any residential facades or interiors been improved? Has the energy efficiency of any housing units been increased?		X	This is not tracked properly by the County/Data not available.
2. Has the homeownership rate increased?		X	<p>Based on aggregate data of owner-occupied households, according to the American Community Survey, the percentage of owner occupied households in the SC area is 66.6%, which is a slight decrease in percentage, however, the number of owner occupied housing units has increased by over 1,700 units.</p> <p>As it relates to Baltimore County-funded programming, the County's 2021-2022 Settlement Expense Loan Program (SELP) utilization data, it is inferred that homeownership among first-time homebuyers in Catonsville decreased largely due to COVID-19-related factors including but not limited to: supply chain shortages, the increased cost of building materials, record-high fuel costs, and the steep increase in real property costs overall. These factors significantly influence SELP users' ability to buy as they directly affect the inventory of homes available for sale for families, whose incomes are generally 80% AMI and below. An analysis from the National Association of Homebuilders found that between the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic and May 2022, the cost of building materials rose 35.6%. Real property costs are historically high with home prices having risen nearly 20% over 2021. This increase is exacerbated by the 10% increase from 2020 according to the S&amp;P Core Logic Case-Shiller US National Home Price Index. Locally, these financial concerns are the chief reason homebuyers have been slower to purchase homes in Catonsville and similar neighborhoods in Baltimore County regardless of the support local government programs.</p>
3. Has there been an increase in the number of housing units in the Sustainable Community area? What number and/or percent are affordable? How many are within .5 miles of a transit stop?	X		From 2018 and 2021, the number of housing units increased by 2,674 units. As it relates to the Baltimore County-funded portfolio, there are 200 income-restricted units in Catonsville. These are comprised of 3 communities specifically for seniors, who are 62 or older. There has not been an increase in the number of income-restricted affordable units located in Catonsville.

## Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section C

4. Has there been demolition of blighted properties?		X		No demolitions of blighted properties have occurred from 2016 and 2020. As the County has introduced legislation to update its vacant property definition, there is a high probability that demolitions and renovations of blighted properties will increase at least by 10% over the next year in Catonsville.
5. Has the residential vacancy rate decreased?	X			The number of vacant units has decreased by 277 units, and the vacancy rate has decreased by about 2.8%. This correlates with home sales in the area.
6. Has the jurisdiction partnered with any community development corporations to improve its housing stock, increase the availability of affordable housing, or support those experiencing homelessness or being threatened with eviction? Has the jurisdiction initiated any of its own programs to do the same?	X			<p>Baltimore County partners with Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) for the provision of Housing Counseling Services for first-time homebuyers. Housing Counseling Services are provided by the following organizations: St. Ambrose Housing Aid Center, Harbel Community Organization, Diversified Housing Corporation, Eastside Community Development Corporation, and Belair-Edison Neighborhoods, Inc. These groups lead the provision of first-time homebuyer training Countywide. Over the review period, the County partnered with the following housing provider organizations to create scattered-site affordable housing throughout the County: CR of Maryland, LLC, Remington Properties, LLC, Dominion Properties, and St. Ambrose Housing Aid Center. From these partnerships, fifteen (15) housing units were constructed in the Catonsville community for low-to-moderate income families.</p> <p>In terms of eviction prevention services, over \$50,000 in eviction prevention funds were distributed to families residing in Catonsville so that they could maintain they would not be displaced from their homes due to the temporary inability to pay rent.</p>
7. Has there been an increase in homeownership counseling services or individuals accessing such services?	X			The capacity of Housing Counseling Agencies have increased through additional funding. An additional \$300,000 has been used to serve constituents facing foreclosure through targeted community engagement
<b>OTHER:</b>				

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<b>COMMUNITY HEALTH &amp; QUALITY OF LIFE</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?</b>
1. How many historic properties were renovated/improved? To your knowledge, did the renovations mitigate certain environmental hazards such as lead and asbestos?	X			<p>Benjamin Banneker Historical Park and Museum is currently undergoing repairs to protect historical and cultural resources and improve community access. The roof and areas of water intrusion are being repaired. Additionally, a \$3 million grant was secured by State legislators representing Baltimore County, for future park and museum improvements, possibly to include a museum addition.</p> <p>Since January 2018 to November 2022, 22 historic properties received Part II tax credit approvals or for rehabilitation projects. None of those projects were for lead or asbestos mitigation.</p>
2. Have there been improvements and/or additions to your public or community available spaces? Examples include museums, community centers, public plazas, murals and public art.	X			<p>The improvements at Benjamin Banneker Historical Park are ensuring that this important cultural and historical site remain available to the community. The playground replacement at Oella Neighborhood Park was one of the first three projects funded through the County's new cycle of playground replacements. Finally, as of Fall 2022, design was about to proceed for the creation of a sizeable themed "destination playground at Banneker Community Center, utilizing funding from Recreation and Parks' Fiscal Year 2023 capital budget.</p>
3. Are there opportunities for residents to gather, communicate and celebrate? Do they serve multi-generations and all populations in the community? Examples are wide-ranging and may include fairs, community history days, neighborhood meetings, etc.	X			<p>The Benjamin Banneker Historical Park hosts many events and programs, including history workshops for school groups and scouts, summer camps, and an annual Colonial Market Fair. A number of parks and recreation sites (e.g., Banneker Community Center, Catonsville Community Park, Oella Neighborhood Park, and numerous public school recreation centers) provide outdoor and/or indoor spaces for community use. The recently acquired Belle Grove Park Site, once developed, will add to the presently available gathering opportunities.</p> <p>The Catonsville Senior Center, and the Catonsville Library, are available and hold various events and classes for multiple generations</p> <p>Catonsville has various annual and seasonal events, including the Arts and Crafts Festival and Frederick Road Fridays. Many neighborhoods within the SC area are close-knit and hold monthly community meetings.</p>

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				Baltimore County Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) have provided a series of community related outreach efforts through Child Welfare and Adult Services over the past five years that have included participation in community fairs, education sessions with citizens and professionals. FY 2019 (24 Adult Services Presentations, 4 Essex and 2 Catonsville). FY 2020 (8 Adult Services, 3 Essex and 1 Catonsville and 17 Child Welfare). FY 2021 14 Child Welfare and 15 Adult Services-3 Essex2 Catonsville). FY 2022 Child Welfare 8 and Adult Services 4-2 Catonsville).
4. Have there been any changes in access to health and wellness services? Examples include mobile clinics, hospitals, telehealth opportunities.	X			Since May 2021, the Baltimore County Department of Health and Human Services held 15 mobile COVID-19 clinics in Catonsville to allow access to free COVID-19 testing and vaccine for its residents.
5. Are there any residential health and wellness opportunities in place (i.e. athletic facilities, recreational indoor/outdoor courses or groups)?	X			<p>The recently acquired 6.68-acre Belle Grove Park Site adds to the wide range of health and wellness opportunities by adding a park site in a part of the Sustainable Community Area that was previously underserved in terms of park access. Overall, a wide range of health and wellness opportunities are available within the area, ranging from active recreational facilities at sites like Spring Grove Park, Banneker Community Center, Catonsville Community Park, and the numerous public school recreation centers, to the numerous trails throughout the area, including the Number Nine and Number Eight Trolley Line Trails, Catonsville Short Line Trail, and trail networks at Patapsco Valley State Park and the Banneker Historical Park and Museum.</p> <p>The Catonsville Senior Center and the Catonsville YMCA are available for athletic and wellness activities. The Catonsville Rails to Trails organization holds frequent group biking events throughout the year.</p>
6. Do all residents have access to healthy food options such as fresh food grocery stores, farmers markets, community gardens, etc., within the Sustainable Community?	X			<p>Catonsville residents have access to a variety of food resources ranging from but not limited to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baltimore County distribution sites</li> <li>• BCPL food resources</li> <li>• BCPS resources : Student Support and Maryland Food Bank food pantry sites</li> <li>• WIC centers/WIC farmers markets/WIC authorized stores</li> <li>• Maryland Food Bank Network and pantry-to-go partners</li> <li>• Summer Meals sites for children</li> <li>• Community and faith-based food pantry site</li> </ul> <p>Additional healthy food options include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weekly farmers market that typically runs the majority of the year off 144.</li> </ul>

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Various large grocery stores as well as specialty grocery stores within or just outside of the SC boundary area (H Mart, Walmart, Aldi, Giant, Safeway, most of which are located on Route 40)</li> <li>• 1-2 community gardens located within the SC area</li> </ul>
7. Has there been a decrease in crime rate?	X			<p>Overall crime in the Catonsville SC has decreased by more than 37% from 2018 through 2021 (2,410 incidents in 2018 to 1,508 in 2021). The crimes against persons crime rate (reported instances per 100,000 residents) decreased from 1,345 in 2018 to 870 in 2021. Likewise, the crime rate for crimes against property decreased by more than 33%, from 3,345 in 2018 to 2,217 in 2021. Crimes against society, the lowest overall category, also experienced a decline in the crime rate. In 2021, there were 117 reported incidents of crimes against society compared to 297 in 2018, a decline of over 60% in the four-year period.</p> <p>There has been a decrease in the reporting of Child and Adult Abuse and Neglect during these past five years but it was largely due to the schools being closed for children and for older adults they were not leaving their homes.</p>
8. Do all residents have access to the Internet and other basic utilities and services?		X		The county does not track this but it is presumed that there was an increase in the number of people accessing the internet services because that has been the primary source to contact with service agencies both public and private throughout the last five years, especially after Covid
<b>OTHER:</b>				
<b>LOCAL PLANNING &amp; STAFFING CAPACITY</b>	YES	NO	N/A	<p>If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years          If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?</p>

## Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section C

1. Have there been any infill developments?			X	The county does not track the number of infill development projects. However, there is a tendency in supporting this development type. There are currently 22 active development plans, including both residential and commercial development. The majority of subdivisions proposed and approved within the Catonsville SC Area are minor subdivisions (3 or less lots created out of one original property) that propose creating additional single-family dwellings within the existing zoning constraints.
2. Has there been an increase in the amount of preserved/protected land?	X			Yes the County recently acquired the 6.68-acre Belle Grove Park Site located in an area that was previously underserved in terms of park access
3. Have there been any developments hindered by growth constraints? If so, please describe. Example constraints could be inadequate infrastructure, insufficient zoning density/intensity, or lack of buildable land.			X	This is not something that the County tracts necessarily. However, all developments for the County must be reviewed by various agencies, and ultimately are reviewed by the Department of Planning's Development Review Division. The majority of zoning in the Catonsville SC area is low density residential, that primarily supports single family development. Along MD-144, there is commercial, residential, and mixed use zoning that allows for slightly higher density in terms of development. The 'developable' and 'buildable' land that remains throughout the SC area is primarily located in residential areas, which results in various subdivisions for new single family homes. The current residential zoning in the majority of the SC Area does not easily support higher density development.
4. Have there been any zoning or policy changes that have fostered growth or redevelopment in your Sustainable Community?	X			Zoning changes occur through the County's CZMP process in which any person can request a zoning change on any property, approved or denied by the County Council. This last took place in 2020, and there were 12 zoning issue requests; several of these requests for change were denied, though a few were approved to allow for mixed uses along MD 144. The 2024 CZMP filing process will begin in Fall 2023.  We are currently updating the Commercial Corridor update of the Comprehensive Manual of Development Policies, and will likely be adopted in early 2023.

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<p>5. Have there been any significant improvements to the municipal infrastructure within the Sustainable Community (i.e. street lighting, water/sewer lines)?</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<p>173 BGE maintained streetlights have been upgraded to LED.</p> <p>Water Main updates:</p> <p>Maidens Choice Lane and Kenwood Avenue Water Main Replacements. New 8" and 12" water mains replaced mains of the same size. Maidens Choice Lane was replaced from Garden Ridge Road to Wilkens Avenue.</p> <p>Powers Lane New 36" Water Transmission Main from Catonsville Reservoir to Baltimore National Pike.</p> <p>Johnnycake Road Water Main Replacement. New 4", 6" and 8" water main replacements along Johnnycake Road, Inwood Avenue, Woodcliff Avenue and side streets in between. New mains replaced old of the same size. (just outside the SC Area)</p>
<p>6. Have you hired any new staff members, reassigned duties, or procured the services of a contractor to increase or better align local capacity? Have you implemented any professional development programs?</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<p>There has been several new staff members and new roles, primarily within the Department of Economic and Workforce Development, and within the Department of Planning. There have been two consultants that have been hired to conduct two different studies and plans in Catonsville – for the Catonsville Parking Study and for the Catonsville A&amp;E District Public Arts Plan. There has not been additional services directly related to local capacity apart from these opportunities mentioned. Department of Planning staff has access to APA materials, and is able to attend APA conferences if desired.</p>
<p>7. Has your community initiated or completed any planning efforts that will support the Sustainable Community area, including comprehensive planning, small area planning, or planning studies?</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<p>Yes. The County is currently finalizing the Master Plan 2030, which will apply to Catonsville. The Baltimore County Revenue Authority hired a consultant to conduct a Parking Study in downtown Catonsville to determine the availability, and provide recommendations for improvement. Baltimore County Arts Guild is currently drafting a Catonsville Public Arts Plan to support the A&amp;E designation and create a cohesive plan for the arts district. Baltimore County DPWT is conducting a study to determine the feasibility of a circulator in Catonsville.</p>
<p><b>OTHER:</b></p>				

## Part III: Competitive Funding

Use the rows below to list competed funds sought for sustainability or revitalization projects since receiving Sustainable Communities designation.				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
<b>Program Open Space</b>	State	2022: \$562,750					Belle Grove (Burleigh Enterprises) Park Site Acquisition (Funds acquired by Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks)
<b>Local Parks and Playgrounds Infrastructure Program</b>	State	2022: \$700,000					Banneker Community Center Destination Playground (Funds acquired by Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks)

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CDBG	Federal	2021: \$175,297 2022: \$24,330		2021: Renovations and improvements to Key Point Health Inc., headquarters facility to re-purpose a commercial kitchen 2022: Renovations to a group home/alternative living unit serving people with disabilities at above address, with the Arc Baltimore Inc.

**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

Commercial Revitalization Action Grant (CRAG)	Baltimore County	Catonsville Chamber: 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2022: ~\$10,000 each; 2021: \$29,709  Baltimore County Arts Guild: 2021: \$28.050 2022: \$10,000		Catonsville Chamber of Commerce and Baltimore County Arts Guild both receive between 5-10k per year through the County's CRAG program for various small revitalization projects, events, or installations.
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<b>Maryland Heritage Area Authority</b>	State	2021 and 2022: \$55,000 total		For Catonsville Rails to Trails
<b>Bessor Landing Foundation</b>	Organization	2019: \$2,000		For Catonsville Rails to Trails
<b>Baltimore Bicycling Club</b>	Organization	2019: \$2,500		For Catonsville Rails to Trails
<b>Patapsco Heritage Greenway</b>	Organization	2020, 2021, 2022 combined: \$5,450		For Catonsville Rails to Trails
<b>Catonsville Women's Giving Circle</b>	Organization	2020 and 2022: \$2,025		For Catonsville Rails to Trails
<b>Mountain Club of MD</b>	Organization	2020: \$1,300		For Catonsville Rails to Trails
<b>Middendorf Foundation</b>	Organization	2020: \$20,000		For Catonsville Rails to Trails
<b>France-Merrick Foundation</b>	Organization	2021: \$37,000		For Catonsville Rails to Trails

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<b>Catonsville Historical Society</b>	Organization	2022: \$16,750		For Catonsville Rails to Trails
<b>Arts and Entertainment District Technical Assistance (MSAC) Grant</b>	State	2020: \$2,500		For Baltimore County Arts Guild
<b>Arts and Entertainment District Grant (County)</b>	Baltimore County (Department of Economic and Workforce Development)	2020: \$60,000 2021: \$150,000 2022: \$150,000		For Baltimore County Arts Guild
<b>Covid-19 Business Corridor Sustainability Grant</b>	Baltimore County (Department of Economic and Workforce Development)	2021: \$30,000		For Baltimore County Arts Guild
<b>MSAC Operating Grant</b>	State	2021: \$13,425		For Baltimore County Arts Guild
<b>MSAC Emergency Grant</b>	State	2021: \$15,000		For Baltimore County Arts Guild
<b>MSAC A+E District Grant</b>	State	2022: \$16,571		For Baltimore County Arts Guild
<b>State Capital Grant</b>	State	2022: \$3,000,000		Benjamin Banneker Historical Park Renovations (Funds awarded to Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks)

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

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