



# SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

## APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION RENEWAL

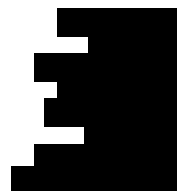
### Eligible Applicants:

- *Local Governments with a Sustainable Communities Designation*
- *Local Government Consortiums with a Sustainable Communities Designation*

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

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

SGSC Approved - 2.24



## **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.md.state.md.us/OurProducts/pfamap.shtml>

2) The proposed Sustainable Community is within or near a town center or transportation center, or there is a need for financing assistance for small businesses, nonprofit organizations or microenterprises;

3) The updated Plan must be consistent with other existing community or comprehensive plans;

4) A Sustainable Communities Workgroup is re-convened and a roster of members should be provided with the application.

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

## **Application Submission and Evaluation**

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

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

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

### **Incomplete applications will not be accepted.**

Deliver Sustainable Community Applications via email:

To: Carter Reitman

[carter.reitman@maryland.gov](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 410-209-5849 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 Carter Reitman at 410-209-5849 or by email at [carter.reitman@maryland.gov](mailto:carter.reitman@maryland.gov) or your regional project manager, found at this link: <https://dhcd.maryland.gov/Communities/Documents/SRP/PM-Map-ContactInfo.pdf>**

## **RENEWAL APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

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

### **A. Contact information, General Information, Organizational Capacity:**

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

### **B. Report on accomplishments over past five years:**

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

### **C. Sustainable Communities Action Plan Update:**

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

## **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PLAN ELEMENTS**

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

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

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

**ECONOMY:** Describes projects centered on economic growth and management.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN UPDATE**

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

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

### **Action Plan Guidance**

The Action Plan is comprised of six sections: . 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:** Montgomery County Government, Marc Elrich, County Executive

**NAME OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY:** Montgomery County, Maryland

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

- Section A - Sustainable Community Renewal Applicant Information**
  - [Applicant Information](#)
  
- Section B – Sustainable Community Renewal Report (Projects, Strategies and Partners)**
  - [Part 1: Qualitative Assessment](#)
  - [Part 2: Competitive Funding](#)
  
- Section C – Sustainable Community Renewal Action Plan Update (Matrix)**
  - [Action Plan](#)
  
- Section D – Sustainable Communities Workgroup Roster**
  
- Section E – Signature Letter (acknowledging Disclosure Authorization and Certification)**
  - [Disclosure Authorization](#)
  
- Section F – Additional Files:** The following contents should be included:
  - If requesting a boundary modification, map in pdf format and a GIS shapefile of the proposed Sustainable Community boundary
  - Photos (jpeg format) of your aforementioned accomplished projects of the last five years

## **SECTION A - SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RENEWAL** **APPLICANT INFORMATION**

<b>Name of Sustainable Community:</b>		Montgomery County, Maryland	
<b>Name of Applicant:</b>		Montgomery County Government, Marc Elrich, County Executive	
<b>Applicant's Federal Identification Number:</b>		52-6000980	
<b>Applicant's Street Address:</b>		101 Monroe Street	
<b>City:</b> Rockville	<b>County:</b> Montgomery	<b>State:</b> MD	<b>Zip Code:</b> 20850
<b>Phone Number:</b> 240-777-2550	<b>Fax Number:</b> 240-777-2517	<b>Website:</b> www.montgomerycountymd.gov	

**Sustainable Community Application Local Contact:**

<b>Name:</b> Kristina Ellis	<b>Title:</b> Senior Planning Specialist, DHCA
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

**Sustainable Community Contact for Application Status:**

<b>Name:</b> Jake Weissmann	<b>Title:</b> Assistant CAO
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

**Other Sustainable Community Contacts:**

<b>Name:</b> Roger Stanley	<b>Title:</b> Chief, Neighborhood Revitalization, DHCA
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

**(1) Sustainable Community Boundary and Description**

- (1) Are you requesting any changes to your Sustainable Community boundary? Describe why or why not? **No, there were no projects or initiatives identified at this time requiring a boundary change to Montgomery County's current Sustainable Community boundary.**
- (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: **87 square miles/55,581 acres**



## Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section A

(4) Existing federal, state or local designations:

- Main Street  National Register Historic District  Local Historic District  
 Arts & Entertainment District  State Enterprise Zone Special Taxing District  BRAC  
 State Designated TOD  Other(s): Heritage Areas (MHP) & Priority Funding Areas (MDP)

(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?

The following data is pulled from various sources including: The U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS), MRIS, the Housing Opportunities Commission, the Department of Housing and Community Affairs Affordable Housing Database, and several Montgomery County Planning Department reports.

### Population/Demographics

- Montgomery County's estimated population in 2022 was 1,052,521. This represents an 8% increase from 2010 and a 0.5% increase from 2017. However, the population experienced a decrease of nearly 1% since April 2020, when the last U.S. decennial census was taken.
- 51% of the population in 2022 was female.
- In 2022, 236,871 residents (23% of the population) were under age 18, and 181,334 residents (17% of the population) were 65 years or over. The population has shifted slightly older since 2017, when 23% of the population was under age 18, and 15% was 65 years or over.
- In 2022, non-Hispanic whites were 40% of the population (422,009), and People of Color were 60% of the population (630,512). Among People of Color, Hispanics were the largest reported race/ethnic group (213,926 persons or 20% of the population), followed by Black or African Americans (191,073 persons or 18%), and Asians (160,930 persons or 15%). Racial and ethnic diversity has increased since 2017, when People of Color were 57% of the population.
- In 2022, 34% of the population (358,504) was foreign born, an increase from 2017 when foreign-born residents were 32% of the population. Of the foreign-born residents in 2022, 37% (130,861) were from Asia, 36% (127,765) were from Latin America, and 17% (62,228) were from Africa.
- Among persons 5 years and older, 43% (428,773) in 2022 spoke a language other than English at home (compared to 42% in 2017).

### Housing

- Montgomery County had 406,850 housing units in 2022. This represents an 8% increase from 2010 and 4% increase from 2017.
- In 2022, 66% of households (257,587) lived in owner-occupied units (compared to 2017 at 65%).
- The median value of owner-occupied homes in 2022 was \$614,000, an 8% increase from the median value in 2017 even after adjusting for inflation.

## Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section A

- Year to date (through September 2023), the median sales price of homes in the county was \$581,000.
- Since FY20, the County has invested in affordable housing to create or preserve almost 12,000 affordable units and the County's inclusionary zoning requirements have led to the creation of an additional 1,350 affordable units.
- In 2023, over 21,000 affordable units are available via inclusionary zoning (the Moderately Priced Dwelling Unit Ordinance), Section 8, LIHTC, and other affordable federal, state, and county programs. Additionally, there are around 7,000 Housing Choice Vouchers in the county.

### Education/Employment/Income

- Among persons 25 years and older in 2022, 92% (672,132) had at least a high school degree. 61% (445,874) had a bachelor's degree or higher, of which 54% (242,803) had a master's, doctorate, or professional school degree. The percentage of adults ages 25 and above with at least a bachelor's degree increased from 58% in 2017.
- As of June 2023, the County's labor force was 555,531, and the unemployment rate was 1.5%. Compared to June 2019, when the unemployment rate was 2.5%, the size of the labor force had decreased by 17,486.
- The County's median household income in 2022 was \$118,323. The County's poverty rate in 2022 was 7.9% (82,410 persons) in 2022 (compared to 6.9% in 2017).

### **(2) Organizational Structure, Experience and Public Input:**

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

The Montgomery County Department of Housing & Community Affairs (DHCA) was the lead county department again for this application process. DHCA staff solicited data, information, input and participation, as needed, from various county departments as well as from our incorporated municipalities and partner organizations, all of whom play a role in updating our SC action plan. Like before, most of the input and collaboration for this application was done via email and/or phone. Data, information and input was obtained primarily from the following department and agencies, among others:

- Montgomery County Departments of Transportation, General Services, Environmental Protection, Recreation and Health & Human Services
- County Regional Service Centers
- City of Rockville, City of Gaithersburg and City of Takoma Park
- Montgomery Planning Department
- Housing Opportunities Commission of Montgomery County
- Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation
- Montgomery Housing Partnership
- VisitMontgomery

## Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section A

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

Once again, the broad range of participation and input received from various county departments and related agencies and staff illustrates the ongoing commitment by Montgomery County to work collaboratively with respect to our SC application and stated action plan, goals and strategies. Although some staff, fiscal priorities and planning objectives have changed over the past five years, the overall goal of creating and maintaining a well-planned, livable and safe community that offers a high quality of life for a growing, aging and diverse population remains the ultimate end goal.

A challenge to the Sustainable Communities designation process, particularly this year, is the relatively long period of time (five years) between application submittals. While the five-year designation period is appropriate, it may better serve internal processes in updating and preparing subsequent renewal applications to have the SC workgroup meet at the mid-point of the five-year period to reassess the required Action Plans to ensure that programmatic, legislative and/or budgetary objectives to that point are being implemented, to the extent possible, to align with the Action Plan items. If not, then workgroup members can document, at that time, how and why modifications are needed based on new local, state and regional government priorities, unforeseen

national/international circumstances (i.e., the Covid pandemic), changes in local revenue/shifts in budget priorities, and other factors that may come into play based on the ever-changing world in which we live. This would help streamline the application process for subsequent submittals by identifying and logging such modifications in a timelier manner.

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

The main guiding framework for this update to the County's Sustainable Communities Action Plan and current renewal application is the recently approved Thrive Montgomery 2050, the long-awaited update to Montgomery County's General Plan. This data-driven, community-informed plan emphasizes critical issues, including racial equity, diverse pedestrian needs, and climate concerns that weren't considered when the General Plan was adopted in 1964, but are now integral to our community and our priorities.

Over a two-year period, Montgomery Planning engaged the community to imagine what life in Montgomery County will be like in 2050 and what we need to put in place now and moving forward to allow us to thrive in the decades to come. This included a comprehensive outreach and communication program to gather input of external (residents, business owners, nonprofit and other organizations, experts and influencers) and insider (county government) audiences. Together, Montgomery Planning and the community drew on lessons of the past, current experiences and research on trends to propel us forward.

Thus, selected initiatives and implementation strategies highlighted in the Action Plans of the application were derived from the following Functional Plans, Active Project Reports and/or Policies and Guidelines, many of which have been or will be updated to incorporate the key recommendations of Thrive Montgomery 2050:

- Countywide Transit Corridors Functional Master Plan
- Purple Line Functional Plan
- Master Plan of Highways and Transitways

## Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section A

- Attainable Housing Strategies
- Bicycle Master Plan
- Agritourism Study
- Growth and Infrastructure Policy
- Climate Action Plan (*Thrive Montgomery 2050* was drafted in parallel with an initiative by Montgomery County's executive branch to develop a Climate Action Plan (CAP), which outlines ways to reduce the county's net greenhouse gas emissions to zero by 2035).

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

No assistance is required.

# **SECTION B - SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RENEWAL**

## **REPORT**

### **PART I: QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT**

**Purpose:**

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

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

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

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

**Accomplishment 1: Thrive Montgomery 2050** is the long-awaited update to Montgomery County’s General Plan—the policy document that envisions what the future of Montgomery County could look like when we come together to realize an equitable vision that works for all of us. The plan was approved by the Planning Board on April 8, 2021, and approved by the Montgomery County Council on October 25, 2022.



**Outcome: Racial Equity and Social Justice:** *Thrive Montgomery 2050* strives to create racially integrated and just communities by advancing just planning policies and public investments in underserved communities, promoting the racial and economic integration of neighborhoods, and focusing on the potential for the design of communities to help build social trust and inclusion while encouraging civic participation.

**Environmental Resilience:** *Thrive Montgomery 2050* focuses on a compact form of development with a mix of uses supported by a stronger focus on walking, biking, and transit infrastructure to make alternatives to driving practical and attractive to fight climate change. The environmental benefits of dense, walkable neighborhoods dovetail with the increasing preference across age groups to live in walkable places served by a mix of uses and amenities.

**Economic Competitiveness:** *Thrive Montgomery 2050* will strengthen the County's economic competitiveness by creating the kind of places where people with diverse choices want to live and work. Its recommendations for land use, transportation, parks, and other public and private infrastructure lay the groundwork for economic development initiatives undertaken by other entities. The Plan's compact land use pattern and walkable communities supported by an efficient transit network will connect the county's diverse population to economic opportunities.

**Projects:** Recommended *Thrive Montgomery 2050* actions to be undertaken for plan implementation include:

- Reviews of existing policies, regulations, and programs
- Studies and new master, functional, or facility plans to delve more deeply into the topics addressed in the policies, collect and analyze data, and identify detailed strategies for decision making and implementation
- Development of tools and strategies to support master planning, regulatory review and other planning processes
- Changes to agency governance and practices that shape how decisions are made (view the full Actions Report via the link above)

**Partners:** All County department and agencies; Montgomery Planning Department and Board; Montgomery County Council and local, regional and national non-profit and private-sector partners





*Impact: Thrive Montgomery 2050* will serve as a guidebook for the County on how best to work together across departments, agencies and with our non-profit and private-sector partners to collectively increase accessible housing, improve transit, and strengthen businesses in equitable, sustainable ways throughout the County over the next 25+ years.

**Accomplishment 2:** The County implemented several successful affordable housing, senior affordable housing and community/neighborhood revitalization projects over the past five years. Following are highlights from some of the most notable accomplishments.

*Outcome:* Preserved, constructed and/or provided financing to ensure the availability of affordable/senior affordable housing projects within the County.

*Project 1: Elizabeth House/The Leggett*

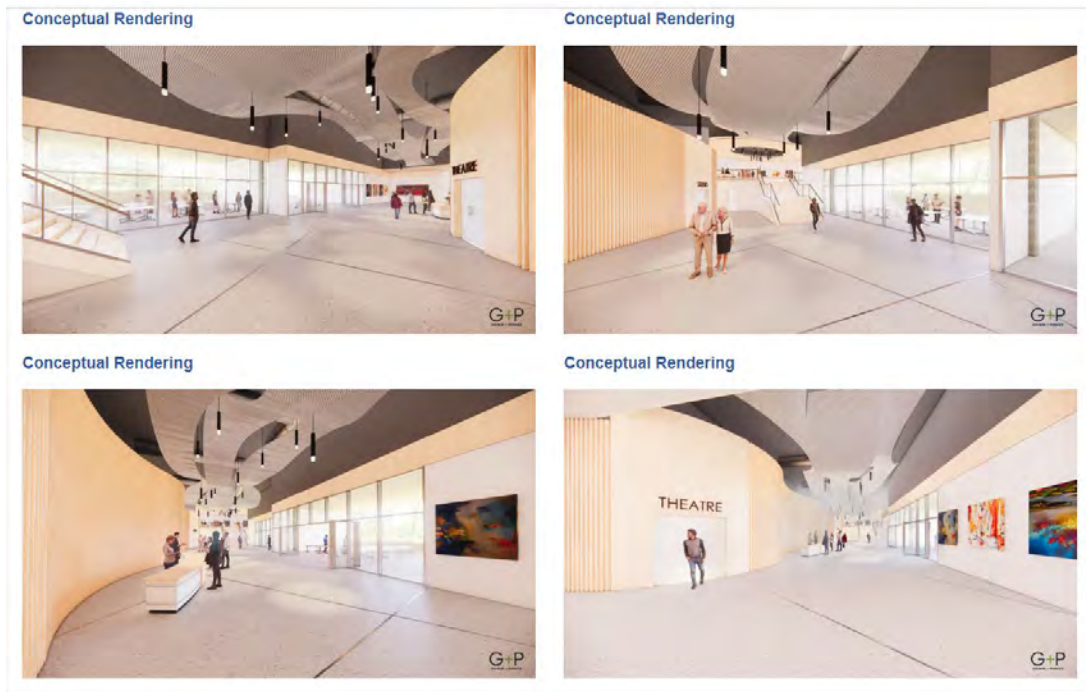
Elizabeth Square, located in downtown Silver Spring, is a multi-generational, mixed-income, mixed-use project featuring residential coupled with a state-of-the-art recreation facility and other community amenities. The second phase of the project is The Leggett. Formerly Elizabeth House III, The Leggett is a 267-unit, 16-story high-rise development for seniors aged 62 and older. This development includes 106 RAD replacement units set aside for current Elizabeth House residents making 30% AMI. Adjacent to The Leggett will be the new 133,000 sq. ft. *South County Regional Recreation and Aquatic Center*. The Center is part of a public-private partnership between HOC and Lee Development Group in the Central Business District of Silver Spring and will offer a state-of-the-art recreational facility with basketball courts, a public Olympic size pool, a therapy pool, spa, a gym, exercise and weight rooms, movement and dance studios, a culinary arts kitchen etc. This project has already invigorated the entire Silver Spring community and demonstrates how HOC's partnership with the county is re-imagining affordable housing.



*Partners:* Montgomery County Housing Opportunities Commission

*Impact:* New-constructed 267-unit, 16-story high-rise development for seniors aged 62 and older, of which 106 are RAD replacement units set aside for current Elizabeth House residents making 30% AMI with the balance the units serving residents at and above 60% AMI.

Project 2: Wheaton Arts & Entertainment Center



The County is co-locating a new arts and cultural center with an affordable housing development by Montgomery Housing Partnership (MHP) in the Wheaton Arts and Entertainment District. MHP will develop the former WMATA site with affordable rental and for sale housing units, as well as a parking garage. The arts center will be included on the ground floor of the multifamily building fronting on Georgia Avenue. The center will include two performance spaces, classrooms, gallery space, back of house support space, and administrative offices.

*Partners:* Montgomery Housing Partnership, Montgomery County Departments of General Services and Recreation.

*Impact:* This project will add another valuable cultural and affordable housing development to the County, leveraging the benefits of Wheaton Arts and Entertainment District and adding to the overall vibrancy of recent redevelopment projects in the Wheaton community.

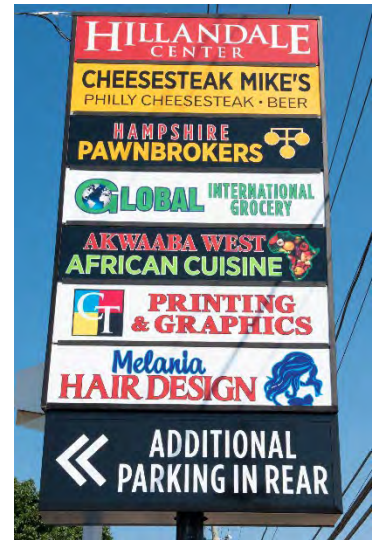
Project 3: Hillandale Center, located at 10210-10222 New Hampshire Avenue in the Hillandale community, is the first project to be completed under the Countywide Façade Improvement Program (CFIP), launched July 1, 2022. The County Council appropriated \$3.5 million through FY28 in DHCA’s budget for the Neighborhood Revitalization Section to encourage and facilitate significant façade improvement projects by property and business owners throughout the County. For this project, the property owner invested nearly \$580,000 for the façade improvements, including new façade color and design, new tenant awnings, new façade and parking lot lighting, new center pylon signage, parking lot re-stripping and a vibrant new mural. The CFIP requires owners to cover expenses for all project components up front, and the Program reimburses them up to 50% for eligible project costs upon project completion and an executed Deed of Easement on the façade and site improvements for a specified period of time to ensure the maintenance of the improvements. The County has three new CFIP projects in the cue totaling more than \$1.865 Million in private-sector investment.



Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B



(Above: Before image of Hillandale Center)





*Partners:* Ben Bran Associates, LLC, Office of the County Executive, Montgomery County Council

*Impact:* Significant façade and site improvements enhancing the visual appeal of the Center, benefiting the seven business tenants and contributing to the enhancement of the surrounding community.

**Accomplishment 3:** The County’s thriving tourism sector, managed by VisitMontgomery, develops and promotes unique and culturally diverse experiences, initiatives and activities to enhance the quality of life for both non-County visitors and County residents alike, while adding to the County’s economic vitality.



*Outcome:* Retained and increased tourism activity and related-revenue through unique and creative new outdoor, cultural and agritourism initiatives, marketing and promotion activities by VisitMontgomery, particularly in the wake of the unexpected and wide-reaching health, social and economic setbacks cause by the COVID-19 pandemic.

*Projects:* In March 2020, VisitMontgomery capitalized on the budding winery and breweries industry with the development of a new product, the **Tastemakers Trail**. Launched just weeks prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Tastemakers Trail was designed as a self-guided tour of the wineries, breweries and cideries located throughout the County. To this day, the success of the Tastemakers Trail is evidenced by it being the most visited page on the Visitmontgomery.com website. The shift to outdoor tourism experiences imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic has held steady and helped spark additional outdoor cultural tourism initiatives like “Rural Montgomery” – which capitalizes on the County’s “hidden gem,” our 93,000-acre Agricultural Reserve. VisitMontgomery will use a recently awarded MD Tourism Grant recently awarded to expand the Tastemakers Trail to include culinary experiences and develop a website and related branding of “Rural Montgomery” to include development of themed destination products and weekend packages featuring overnight experiences in the historic C&O Canal Quarters Lockhouse and at local bed and breakfast establishments, campgrounds and nearby hotels. The goal is to support and promote the farms, wineries, breweries, cideries, artisans and makers that will help make “Rural Montgomery” a destination of choice for residents and visitors alike.

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*Partners:* Montgomery County Food Council, Montgomery County Office of Agriculture, Rustic Road Advisory Committee, Germantown Community Alliance, Countryside Alliance, Heritage Montgomery, Montgomery Parks, Montgomery County Revenue Authority, Maryland Wineries and Breweries Association, C&O Canal Trust, Canal Towns Partnership, National Park Service, Town of Poolesville

*Impact:* Over \$500 million in tourism-related federal, state, local and hotel tax revenues were generated in 2022 and a significant increase in day, overnight and total visitors in 2020 versus 2021.

**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:*

*Narrative:*

## Part II: Competitive Funding

<b>COMPETITIVE FUNDING:</b> Use the rows below to list competed funds sought for sustainability or revitalization projects since receiving Sustainable Communities designation.	<b>Source (federal, state, foundation, etc.)</b>	<b>Amount Received</b>	<b>If no funding was received, what technical or other assistance from the state would help with future applications?</b>	<b>Other Notes</b>
<p><b>National Capital Strategic Economic Development Fund (NED) Program</b></p> <p><u>City of Gaithersburg</u> Old Towne Façade Program (FY23) Russell Avenue Enhancements (FY23)</p> <p><u>City of Takoma Park</u> Leeland Apartments – conversion to a limited equity cooperative in October 2022</p>	DHCD	\$50,000 \$200,000  \$600,000		
<p><b>Community Legacy (CL):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kimberly Place FNA Program (DHCA)</li> <li>• Olde Towne Park Plaza (Phases 1 and 2)</li> <li>• B&amp;O Train Station Renovation</li> <li>• Park Plaza Project</li> </ul>	DHCD	\$100,000 \$200,000 \$80,000 \$100,000		
<p><b>Strategic Demolition Fund (SDF):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fishman Redevelopment</li> <li>• Park Plaza Project</li> </ul>	DHCD	\$200,000 \$100,000		
<p><b>Regional Infrastructure Accelerators (RIA) program</b></p>	U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT)	\$2 Million		MCDOT, to support expansion of the Flash Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) in the County
<p><b>Community Safety &amp; Enhancement Program:</b></p>	MDOT			
<p><b>Maryland Bikeways Program:</b> Various bikeway projects throughout the County, including those in the City of Rockville &amp; City of Takoma Park</p>	MDOT	\$2.42M		
<p><b>Sidewalk Retrofit Program:</b></p>	MDOT			
<p><b>Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund:</b></p>	MDE			

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application

**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

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) <i>DHCA Housing &amp; Community Development Projects</i>	HUD	@ \$25Million		Rcvd. btw. 2018-2022
HOME Investments Partnership Program (HOME) <i>Funds for DHCA housing development</i>		@ \$10 Million		Rcvd. btw. 2018-2022
Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC)	State	\$147,592,272		For nine DHCA affordable housing projects btw. 2019-2023
Transportation Land-Use Connections Program	MWCOG	\$60,000		MCDOT, for development of multilingual & ADA materials to educate pedestrians, bicyclists & drivers on use of new bicycle infrastructure
State Secretary's Grant	MDOT	\$360,000		MCDOT, North Bethesda Metro Station Access Improvements
FY24 EDA Tourism Grant	MD Department of Commerce, Office of Tourism	\$170,000		VisitMontgomery, to support its "Rural Montgomery" project
Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) FY23 Grant	U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT)	\$360,000		City of Gaithersburg
Kim Lamphier Bikeways Network Program <i>I-270/NIST East Shared Use Path:</i>	MDOT	\$200,000 \$176,000		City of Gaithersburg
Program Open Space Community Parks and Playgrounds	MD Dept. of Natural Resources	\$66,000		City of Gaithersburg

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application

National Recreational Trails Grant	State	\$30,000		City of Rockville
Safe Routes to School	State	\$269,122		City of Rockville
Transportation Alternatives Program	Federal	\$99,703		City of Rockville
Transportation Land-Use Connections Program	MWCOG	\$60,000		City of Rockville
				<b>City of Takoma Park</b> <i>(detailed list of funding received is included as Attachment A)</i>

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

No existing source of federal, state or local **“GAP FUNDING”** for non-CDBG eligible communities and/or individual property owners who are just above HUD income requirements but still far below the AMI for the County. Many of these communities and/or individual properties were built in the late 70’s/80’s and are in dire need of improvements to bring them up to code and/or offset years of deferred maintenance that individual owners and community HOA’s could not afford. The greatest need is in County SCs with large populations of low-income, transit dependent, non-English speaking youth and seniors living in multi-family residencies. For most, their current residence is the only one they can afford so they remain there, despite the unsafe and deteriorating condition of their homes. Since the last application, we have identified several communities facing such dire, long-standing safety-related interior and exterior building hazards needing immediate repair/replacement, including Hermitage Woods in the Aspen Hill area *(shown in the photos below from a 2016 Wash. Post article)*, built in 1973 this multi-story, apartment-to-condo 37-unit complex units has such extensive structural damage that it is on the verge of being condemned by the County, potentially displacing hundreds of low-income County residents.



Sustainable Communities Renewal Application



The Hermitage Woods condominium complex in Silver Spring has never fully recovered from the housing bust. (Michael S. Williamson/The Washington Post)



The crumbling walkway on the second floor at Hermitage Woods. The elevator in the aging five-story complex hasn't worked for at least six months. Parts of the wraparound balcony are cordoned off because of structural weakness. (Michael S. Williamson/The Washington Post)

## SECTION C - SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACTION PLAN

### Montgomery County

#### Example Section

<u>Example Section</u>	
<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>Strategies and Action Items</u>	<u>Implementation Partners</u>
<p>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.</p> <p>Progress Measure: What will you use to measure success toward outcome? Is it quantifiable or qualifiable?</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Which community stakeholders need to be involved to realize each action step and strategy? Name specific public and/or private sector partners.</p>
<p>Example Outcome 1: Code violations and complaints are reduced in the Sustainable Community residential areas.</p> <p>Example Progress Measures: Code violations reduced by 25% in Sustainable Community residential areas</p>	<p>Example Strategy A: Review and revise, as needed, code compliance program to reduce frequency and number of residential code violations.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Example Action 2: Conduct outreach program to determine barriers to code compliance.</p> <p>Example Action 3: Analyze code compliance program for potential inefficiencies and opportunities for proactive engagement.</p> <p>Example Action 4: Pursue façade improvement funding to assist low-income homeowners overcome barriers to code compliance.</p>	<p>Maryland Department of Planning Maryland Department of Housing, M_NCPPC Individual homeowners association</p>



## 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

- Residents and elected officials are supportive of activities and programs related to environmental protection.
- Department of Environmental Protection with comprehensive programs related to waste reduction and recycling, watershed management and protection, and climate change.
- Dedicated funding sources for recycling/waste management and watershed protection programs.
- Focus on addressing needs of historically underserved communities during development and implementation of environmental programs.

### Weaknesses

- Significant funding is needed to address the County’s environmental goals and objectives.
- Population growth and development places additional pressure on environmental resources.

### Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures

Outcome 1: Implement the County’s [Climate Action Plan](#), released in 2021, which outlines 86 actions to address climate change through the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and increasing climate resiliency. The actions cover seven different areas: clean energy; buildings; transportation; carbon sequestration; climate adaptation; climate governance; and public engagement, partnerships, and education. This outcome builds on Outcome 2 described in the

### Strategies and Action Items

Strategy A: Reduce GHG emissions from commercial and multifamily buildings by expanding the County’s existing energy benchmarking program to incorporate energy performance standards.

### Implementation Partners

- Commercial & multifamily building owners, operators, and industry groups
- Residential real estate industry groups and representatives
- Energy services companies (e.g., HVAC companies, energy efficiency providers)
- County and Municipal officials

## Sustainable Communities Renewal Application

<p>2018 Sustainable Communities Application to implement the recommendations of the <a href="#">Montgomery Climate Mobilization Workgroup</a>.</p> <p>Progress Measures: Track decrease in GHG emissions on a regular basis; track implementation of actions specified in the Climate Action Plan</p>	<p>Strategy B: Develop policies and programs to address GHG emissions from single-family buildings, including electrification of HVAC, hot water, and other energy systems.</p> <p>Strategy C: Convert the government fleet to electric vehicles (EVs) and promote the adoption of EVs in the private sector through programs and incentives; expand the availability of EV charging infrastructure.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maryland Public Service Commission</li> <li>• Maryland Department of the Environment</li> <li>• Maryland Energy Administration</li> <li>• Other State entities</li> </ul>
<p>Outcome 2: Develop a comprehensive approach to understanding and addressing flood risks in the County, which are increasing due to a changing climate, continued development, and aging stormwater drainage infrastructure built to outdated standards.</p> <p>Progress Measures: Track decrease in GHG emissions on a regular basis; track implementation of actions specified in the Climate Action Plan</p>	<p>Strategy A: Develop detailed hydraulic and hydrologic models, by watershed, to determine flood risks and vulnerabilities.</p> <p>Strategy B: Identify potential flood mitigation solutions based on identified flood risks and vulnerabilities.</p> <p>Strategy C: Revise County policies and programs; design and development standards, regulations, and guidelines; and budgets and staffing that address or contribute to flooding issues.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Montgomery County Departments of Environmental Protection, Transportation, and Permitting Services</li> <li>• Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security</li> <li>• MNCPPC</li> <li>• Local Municipalities</li> <li>• Community Based Organizations</li> <li>• Neighborhood/Community Organizations</li> <li>• U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</li> <li>• Federal Emergency Management Agency</li> <li>• Maryland Department of the Environment</li> </ul>
<p>Outcome 3: Reduce the amount of wasted food disposed in the waste stream and increase the amount of food scraps collected for food scraps recycling and processing to further reduce the amount of food disposed in the County's disposed solid waste stream. These efforts support the County's goal to reduce waste and recycle more, aiming for Zero Waste.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Continue DEP's Commercial Food Scraps Recycling Partnership Program. Solicit participation of additional businesses/organizations and provide on-site education and training, food scraps recycling collection service, and transportation and processing of food scraps to businesses generating food scraps for a limited duration of time and provide recommendations for contracting food scraps recycling collection service with a private food scraps recycling service provider.</p> <p>Strategy B: Continue DEP's Single-Family Residential Curbside Food Scraps Recycling Pilot. Solicit additional households to voluntarily participate in the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Businesses and organizations</li> <li>• Single-family residents</li> <li>• Multi-family property residents</li> <li>• Chambers of Commerce</li> <li>• Montgomery County Food Council</li> <li>• Food Assistance Providers</li> </ul>

## Sustainable Communities Renewal Application

<p>Progress Measures: Measure the amount of food scraps collected for recycling from participating businesses and residents. Track the number of businesses participating in the Commercial Food Scraps Recycling Partnership Program and the number of businesses that “graduate” from the program and continue to recycle food scraps through contracts with private food scraps recycling collection service providers. Track the number of single-family households that sign-up to participate in the single-family food scraps recycling pilot.</p>	<p>food scraps recycling collection pilot in three pilot areas, provide educational materials and weekly food scraps recycling collection service, capture data on the frequency and amount of food scraps put out for recycling, and conduct period surveys and focus group research to assess and evaluate pilot program.</p> <p>Strategy C: Continue DEP’s efforts to reduce wasted food and development of recommendations for a County-wide edible food recovery program. Provide focused education and outreach campaign “Food Is Too Good to Waste” to encourage and motivate residents and businesses to reduce wasted food, conduct focused education to shoppers providing tips to reduce wasted food, and continue research and survey assistance to measure the amount of edible food available for recovery from commercial food establishments.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services</li> </ul>
<p>Outcome 4: City of Rockville - Reduce the impacts to residents, businesses and the environment from future flooding threats.</p> <p>Progress Measures: Track future flood prone areas of the City, and record any decreases to water levels, stormwater run-off and/or damage to homes, businesses and other surrounding structures.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Develop a Flood Resiliency Master Plan to provide a holistic and comprehensive evaluation of the entire City’s stormwater system and potential flood risk areas.</p> <p>Strategy B: The Master Plan will evaluate current system capacity and flood impacts; identify flood hazard areas; forecast potential impacts; develop a stakeholder-informed project prioritization tool based on risk tolerance; develop feasibility level designs; and recommend high-priority projects</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• USACE</li> <li>• Maryland Department of Natural Resources</li> <li>• FEMA</li> <li>• Local/regional environmental partners</li> </ul>

## Economy

This section is centered on economic growth and management.

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

<u>Strengths</u>	<u>Weaknesses</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Highly educated workforce, 59.2% of population aged 25+ earning a bachelor’s degree, 32% of which hold a graduate or professional degree</li> <li>Historically low unemployment rates</li> <li>Array of cultural, art and music venues including Strathmore Hall Music Center, The Fillmore, AFI Silver Theater, Bethesda Blues and Jazz Supper Club</li> <li>80 historical sites with 117 historical structures</li> <li>40 Federal Labs, including NIH, NOAA, FDA, and Walter Reed Army Institute</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Average weekly wages fell 4.1% for year end 2022</li> <li>Limited availability of land for new industrial and R&amp;D development</li> <li>Residential development outpacing commercial development</li> <li>Sustained remote work has increased commercial vacancy rates</li> <li>Complicated State and local incentive programs</li> </ul>

<u>Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures</u>	<u>Strategies and Action Items</u>	<u>Implementation Partners</u>
<p>Outcome 1: Accelerate Innovation Economic Drivers and Entrepreneurship: <i>Grow key innovation clusters from life sciences to advanced technologies.</i></p> <p>Progress Measures: Growth of businesses and jobs in targeted clusters; market capitalization of County businesses by specific industry; amount of private investments in County businesses by industry; number of annual SBIR grants; number of graduating businesses from Montgomery County Government Incubators</p>	<p>Strategy A: Aggressively recruit life sciences companies to increase the density of the County’s leading biotech sector by creating bold and consistent marketing campaigns that clarify the County’s strengths and opportunities for this targeted sector.</p> <p>Strategy B: Support minority-owned businesses by highlighting success stories and helping to ensure equitable access to ecosystem resources.</p> <p>Strategy C: Develop public-private partnerships that stimulate applied research with commercialization potential and facilitate collaboration between research institutions and local industry to advance research in the related bio/health/technology sectors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Montgomery County EDC</li> <li>Montgomery County DEP</li> <li>Industry Partners</li> <li>WorkSource Montgomery</li> <li>Academic Institutions</li> <li>Montgomery Planning Department</li> <li>VisitMontgomery</li> <li>Connected DMV</li> </ul>

## Sustainable Communities Renewal Application

<p>Outcome 2: Create An Inclusive Economy for Shared Prosperity: <i>Create business opportunities and build a more inclusive economy that supports racial equity and social justice through increased and sustained prosperity Countywide</i></p> <p>Progress Measures: Number small, women, or minority-owned businesses that are created, attracted, and retained; percent of County investment in targeted distressed areas; percent of small, minority and women owned businesses assisted by the Montgomery County Business Center; number of newly created mentorship programs for small, women, and minority owned businesses; number of mentored businesses that remain in business for three or more years</p>	<p>Strategy A: Expansion of robust entrepreneurship innovation hubs networked throughout the County to support greater entrepreneur and innovator diversity.</p> <p>Strategy B: Increase networking opportunities for small, minority and woman-owned businesses/potential start-ups with successful entrepreneurs.</p> <p>Strategy C: Expand training and development tools geared for business startups and provide broader access to start-up, business expansion capital.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Montgomery County EDC</li> <li>• Hispanic and Black Chambers</li> <li>• Black Collective</li> <li>• Montgomery County Govt.</li> <li>• Industry/Community Partners</li> <li>• Local/State/Regional Business</li> </ul>
<p>Outcome 3: Increase participation in the Countywide Façade Improvement Program (CFIP) and attain new participation in the recently created Façade Refresh Grant Program (Refresh Grant) to help revitalize and reactivate older commercial/retail areas within the County.</p> <p>Progress Measures: Track number of projects completed under both programs, private investment leveraged, and local businesses benefited.</p>	<p>Strategy A: DHCA staff will continue to identify potential participants through referrals from other County departments, Regional Service Centers, Councilmembers, local community and non-profit partner organizations and online/direct marketing and outreach to local property and business owners.</p> <p>Strategy B: Continue to augment County funding for both programs through attainment of state, federal and/or private foundation grants to allow for increased participation in both programs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Service Centers</li> <li>• Office of the County Executive</li> <li>• Montgomery County Council and staff</li> <li>• Montgomery Housing Partnership</li> <li>• Local community advocacy organizations</li> <li>• State Representatives</li> <li>• Private sector property and business owners</li> </ul>
<p>Outcome 4: Relieve financial stress on farmers and encourage start-up agritourism businesses in/around the County’s 93K-acre Ag Reserve to help increase farm-related profitability, generate additional tourism spending and increase the County’s tax revenue while developing tourism products in the County’s rural areas that are open, accessible and identifiable to the County’s diverse residents and visitors.</p> <p>Progress Measures: Track new agritourism start-ups in the County and any increases in the numbers of day and overnight visitors and farm-related tourism spending.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Fully leverage the \$170,000 MD Tourism Grant to develop, market and brand the new “Rural Montgomery” project, with the County’s “Ag Reserve” anchoring this initiative, by utilizing visitor research and focus group feedback to guide VisitMontgomery’s packaging of agritourism, outdoor recreation, driving tours and historical attractions into themed destination experiences.</p> <p>Strategy B: Incorporate tourism development strategies for “Rural Montgomery” that align with the Montgomery Planning Department’s 2019 Agritourism Study, the Maryland Office of Tourism’s Strategic Pillars (Market Expansion, Maximize Opportunities, Leverage Partnerships and Transactional Outcomes) and build upon Maryland’s “Trail System Second-to-None” and “Open Road Scenic Byways” tourism initiatives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Montgomery County Food Council</li> <li>• Montgomery County EDC</li> <li>• Montgomery County Office of Agriculture</li> <li>• Rustic Road Advisory Committee</li> <li>• Germantown Community Alliance</li> <li>• Countryside Alliance</li> <li>• Heritage Montgomery</li> <li>• Montgomery Parks</li> <li>• Germantown Alliance</li> </ul>

## Sustainable Communities Renewal Application

Strategy C: Consultants will be hired to explore, develop and seek out culturally varied content about creative makers, artisans, brewers, wine makers, and multi-generational farms/farming in the County to incorporate storytelling tools in “Rural Montgomery” branding that weave in the county’s diverse narratives and attractions.

- Montgomery County Revenue Authority
- Maryland Wineries and Breweries Association
- C&O Canal Trust
- Canal Towns Partnership
- National Park Service
- Town of Poolesville

## 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

- Accessible, high-frequency, large-capacity regional transit system that includes Metrorail and MARC.
- Zero emissions, efficient, reliable County Ride On bus service with a fleet of 365 buses, including state of the art technology and features such as free Wi-Fi.
- Construction of traffic alleviating public transit projects including the County’s Bus Rapid Transit system and the Purple Line project, in collaboration with the State.
- Substantial implementation of new pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

### Weaknesses

- Fiscal and practical challenges for sustainable transportation projects implementation.
- Challenges retrofitting roads and rights-of-way to dedicate them to new transit, pedestrian, and bicycle facilities.
- Pedestrian safety is still an on-going concern.
- Significant daily traffic congestion along I-495, I-270 and major arterial corridors in the County.
- Slower than desired fleet electrification.

### Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures

Outcome 1: Completion of Purple Line project and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) program implementation.

Progress Measures: Track timely completion of these projects, then annual ridership once completed.

### Strategies and Action Items

Strategy A: Continue collaboration with Federal, State and local partners to complete construction of Purple Line project and finalize implementation plan of BRT system.

Strategy B: Develop funding plan and implement BRT projects.

### Implementation Partners

- MNCPPC
- MCDOT
- MDOT
- SHA
- FTA
- City of Rockville
- City of Gaithersburg

## Sustainable Communities Renewal Application

<p>Outcome 2: Improve operations on major roads in the County.</p> <p>Progress Measures: Track traffic performance measures such as volume to capacity (v/c) ratio, level of service (LOS), crashes, vehicle delay, travel time, mode share and capacity.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Complete I-270 Innovation Congestion Management project; ensure multi-modal outcomes for any expansion project of the American Legion Bridge, I-495 and I-270.</p> <p>Strategy B: Invest in traffic signal modernization and advanced traffic management systems (ATMS).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MCDOT</li> <li>• MDOT/SHA</li> <li>• City of Rockville</li> <li>• City of Gaithersburg</li> </ul>
<p>Outcome 3: Increase alternative travel behavior with focus on increasing number of new shared-use and transit dedicated lanes, biking, and walking facilities.</p> <p>Progress Measures: Improve Vision Zero outcomes; track increase of installed miles of tactical lanes, sidewalks, and bikeways.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Expand design and construction of transit, walking and biking infrastructure projects.</p> <p>Strategy B: Continue Vision Zero implementation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MCDOT</li> <li>• MDOT Maryland Bikeways program</li> <li>• MDOT Community Safety and Enhancement Program</li> <li>• MDOT SHA</li> <li>• WMATA</li> <li>• MCPD</li> </ul>
<p>Outcome 4: Increase adoption of zero emissions private vehicles and County fleet.</p> <p>Progress Measures: Track number of transitioned vehicles.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Continue implementation of County Electric Vehicle Purchasing Co-op (EVPC); expand public electric vehicle charging infrastructure.</p> <p>Strategy B: Finalize and implement the County's zero emissions bus transition plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MCDOT</li> <li>• MCDGS</li> <li>• MCDEP</li> <li>• MCPD</li> <li>• MCFRS</li> <li>• MCPS</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>● Montgomery County has 22 Community Recreation Centers with 13 locations offering a twice weekly Active Adult 55+ Neighborhood Program and seven Senior Centers operating 5-6 days a week.</li> <li>● Providing high quality Social Engagement events/programs for older adults that promote socialization, connection, engagement, fellowship, etc. (i.e., BBQ Bonanza over 700 registered, Centenarian Celebration 77 Centenarians registered plus family/friends, Boat Regatta 75 registered, Senior Adventures Camp 3 session = 58 registered and a 1 day offering with 24 registered)</li> <li>● Strong Recreation Department offering 622 various programs throughout the year serving more than 15,000 participants.</li> <li>● Multi-Cultural offerings that are instructed in another language other than English or bi-lingual instruction.</li> <li>● Direct Care Workforce Task Force generated 26 recommendations to the County on ways to attract direct care workers and increase their numbers in this County.</li> <li>● County offers tax credit to make homes accessible and created an upgraded website to clarify how program this works.</li> <li>● The Alcohol and Other Drug Addiction Advisory Council (AODAAC) meets monthly to discuss and continue learning about substance use issues facing our community and provides guidance to the County Executive and County Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ample transportation to and from programs for older adults.</li> <li>● Participation growth is outpacing resources to offer more programs (funding &amp; space) as affordable low-cost or no cost services are in high demand.</li> <li>● Program growth is outpacing staff retention, staff time and staff resources.</li> <li>● A lack of sufficient, affordable housing for older adults, as well as a need to produce and preserve more affordable units for the growing older adult population.</li> <li>● A need for partnerships between agencies, with programming and outreach to strengthen older adult public safety, consumer protection and identity theft/fraud prevention, and social services.</li> <li>● Engaging and re-engaging older adults in County programming following the pandemic.</li> <li>● Recruiting and retaining skilled direct care staff to meet needs for home care and support services.</li> <li>● Reductions in transportation services due to driver shortages following the pandemic, resulting in reduced mobility for older adult residents.</li> <li>● Identify pathways to provide training and supplies to the families of students who experience an overdose or are otherwise confirmed to be misusing opioids. Increase public awareness and education on acute</li> </ul>



## Sustainable Communities Renewal Application

to identify alcohol and other drug prevention and treatment needs in Montgomery County and reviews the County's efforts to address those needs.	cannabis overdose toxicity, edibles, flavored vapes and tobacco products, and other substances targeted at or attractive to youth.
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Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: Develop an innovative approach to expand programs/resources to better service the aging population and meet their recreational needs.</p> <p>Progress Measures: Tracked through community participation/engagement/attendance and percentage of departmental resources leveraged to support the older adult population through time, funding, donations, etc.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Leverage as many County Department of Recreation resources as possible to support the older adult population.</p> <p>Strategy B: Ensure Age Friendly workgroup leaders continue to provide information on programs and resources to serve the senior population via platforms like monthly informative pages in the Beacon paper and other online and community platforms targeted to the senior population.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Service Centers</li> <li>• HHS</li> <li>• Non-profits</li> <li>• MNCPPC</li> <li>• Libraries</li> </ul>
<p>Outcome 2: Develop new ways to deliver services, programs and resources to targeted populations, including youth and senior populations.</p> <p>Progress Measures: Track the number of participants under 18 and over 55 who access County programs, services and resources increases.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Seek community feedback to support/confirm community program needs to ensure quality opportunities are offered.</p> <p>Strategy B: Enhance inter-agency/inter-departmental collaboration efforts to maximum the quality and quantities of services, programs and resources delivered.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreation</li> <li>• Regional Service Centers</li> <li>• HHS</li> <li>• Non-profits</li> <li>• MNCPPC</li> <li>• Libraries</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.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Strong affordable housing requirements for new residential developments to provide 12.5% to 15% of affordable units for developments of 20 units or more or to provide contribution to Housing Initiative Fund if providing 11-19 new residential units.</li> <li>● Strong County commitment to affordable housing with increasing annual commitments that culminated in over \$140Million in FY23 for housing preservation, construction, and renovation support.</li> <li>● The innovative Countywide housing policy to encourage housing development on County-owned sites has created 30% affordability for new developments including some units affordable to very low-income households.</li> <li>● County’s DHCA has proactive, successful Community Development and Code Enforcement programs, including a Neighborhood Revitalization Section helping transform residential and retail properties throughout the County, particularly in sustainable communities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate supply of affordable housing to address population’s needs and variety of income levels, specifically for elderly, very low-income levels, and people with disabilities.</li> <li>● Current interest rates and real estate market conditions reduce attainability of for-sale options for middle- and low-income households.</li> <li>● Too few rental communities that offer family-sized units of three- or more bedrooms.</li> <li>● Increasingly high condominium fees and homeowner association fees prevent long-term affordability for middle- and low-income households.</li> </ul>

## Sustainable Communities Renewal Application

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: Create more affordable senior housing to include services.</p> <p>Progress Measures: Track affordable senior housing as distinct unit type throughout County and monitor services provided with each development.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Develop a workgroup to consider new senior affordability legislation to implement and monitor senior affordability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Action Item: Revise Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA) internal tracking to better identify senior housing developments and services and convey that information to the public.</li> </ul> <p>Strategy B: Create more accessibility for seniors within both homeowner and rental units.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Action Item: Continue to implement and improve home accessibility programs to both design and retrofit units to accommodate increasing accessibility needs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● State of Maryland and local municipal governments.</li> <li>● Nonprofit senior developers such as Victory Housing, Montgomery Housing Partnership.</li> <li>● For-profit senior developers.</li> <li>● Montgomery County Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC)</li> <li>● Montgomery County agencies and departments such as Department of Permitting Services (DPS), Health and Human Services (HHS), and DHCA.</li> <li>● Rebuilding Together and Habitat for Humanity.</li> </ul>
<p>Outcome 2: Create more diversity in units through both size and affordability levels.</p> <p>Progress Measures: Track number of affordability housing units for sale and rental throughout various programs in the County.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Provide a sufficient housing supply to serve the County’s existing and changing needs to accommodate various family sizes, income levels, and stages of life.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Action Item: Make housing affordable to all income levels a priority in all parts of the County by creating and providing incentives for development of diverse housing.</li> </ul> <p>Strategy B: Develop holistic communities for all stages of life.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Action Item: Encourage programs and design that will create complete communities to create and preserve housing that will allow both families with children and seniors to remain in their communities.</li> <li>● Action Item: Encourage redevelopment and rehabilitation of deteriorating or aging residential multi-family properties while maintaining the affordability of naturally occurring affordable housing stock and minimizing displacement of residents.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Federal, State of Maryland, and local municipal governments.</li> <li>● Montgomery County Planning Department</li> <li>● Montgomery County Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC)</li> <li>● Montgomery Housing Partnership</li> <li>● Montgomery County agencies and departments such as Department of Permitting Services (DPS), Health and Human Services (HHS), and DHCA.</li> </ul>
<p>Outcome 3: Continue to expand DHCA’s Focused Neighborhood Assistance (FNA) Program.</p> <p>Progress Measures: Track new FNA Program projects annually for five years to maintain quality of improvements.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Identify new residential neighborhoods for FNA Program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Action Item: Collaborate with various agencies and departments to gather feedback to identify communities that would benefit from FNA Program; especially with the Commission on Common Ownership and DHCA’s Code Enforcement Section.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Federal, State, and municipal governments.</li> <li>● Montgomery County Planning Department.</li> <li>● Montgomery County Regional Services communities</li> <li>● DHCA Sections</li> </ul>

## 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>• Strong Transit Oriented Development (TOD) emphasis in Master Plans and development review</li> <li>• Montgomery County/Montgomery Planning has made several strides to reduce the development review timeline, especially for affordable housing</li> <li>• Residential and commercial planning focused on proximity to transit including Metro, the Purple Line, BRT, and bus lines</li> <li>• Many walkable communities with strong pedestrian and multi-modal connections</li> <li>• Innovative and nationally recognized Planning Department</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited land available for new development; difficulty of redevelopment on land left for development/redevelopment</li> <li>• Small lots owned by multiple entities; difficult to redevelop</li> <li>• High land costs</li> <li>• Housing affordability issues</li> <li>• A third of all County land has zoning that generally only allows detached housing leaving limited land available for medium to high density housing</li> <li>• High impact taxes relative to other jurisdictions</li> </ul>

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: Increase the supply of new housing in the county</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Progress Measures: Monitor and compare the number of new building permits issued annually</p> <p>Outcome 2: Decrease costs to build housing in the county</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Progress Measures: Monitor costs associated with building new housing</p>	<p>Strategy A: Amend the zoning ordinance to allow more types of housing beyond single-family detached in more places.</p> <p>Strategy B: work through the Master Planning process to allow more increases in density, especially along Corridors and near transit stations.</p> <p>Strategy A: Work through the Growth and Infrastructure Policy to examine and reduce impact taxes when appropriate.</p> <p>Strategy B: Use Growth and Infrastructure Policy to incentivize more types of housing and guide the location of new housing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Montgomery County Departments of Housing and Community Affairs, General Services, Environmental Protection, Permitting Services, Transportation</li> <li>• Montgomery County Council</li> <li>• Montgomery County Planning Department and Planning Board (M-NCPPC)</li> <li>• Municipal governments</li> <li>• Market-rate and non-profit developers.</li> </ul>

<b>Montgomery County 2023 Sustainable Communities Workgroup</b>		
<b>Organization</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>
Montgomery County Office of the County Executive	Jake Weissmann	Assistan Chief Administrative Officer
Montgomery County Dept. of General Services	Ronnie Warner, LEED Green Associate	Chief, Office of Planning and Development
Montgomery County Dept. of Transportation	Maricela Cordova,	Acting Deputy Director, Transportation Policy
Montgomery County Dept. of Housing & Community Affairs	Julia Chen	Senior Planning Specialist, Neighborhood Revitalization Section
Montgomery County Dept. of Housing & Community Affairs	Kristina Ellis	Senior Planning Specialist, Neighborhood Revitalization Section
Montgomery County Dept. of Housing & Community Affairs	Cynthia Butler	Senior Planning Specialist, Neighborhood Revitalization Section
Montgomery County Dept. of Housing & Community Affairs	Somer Cross	Acting Chief, Housing Division
Montgomery County Dept. of Police	Lieutenant Sunyoung Kim	Executive Officer / Office of the Chief
Montgomery County Planning Department	Rebecca Ballo	Historic Preservation Program Supervisor
Montgomery County Planning Department	Lisa Govoni	Research and Special Projects
Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation	Patty Simonton	Strategic Initiatives Manager
Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation	Nadia Khan	Special Projects Manager
Montgomery County Dept. of Environmental Protection	Stan Edwards	Division of Environmental Policy & Compliance
Montgomery County Dept. of Environmental Protection	Ryan Zerbe	Watershed Outreach Planner
Montgomery County Dept. of Recreation	Sara Swarr	Manager, Senior Programs
Montgomery County Dept. of Health & Human Services	Odile Brunetto	Aging and Disability Services
Montgomery Housing Partnership	Chris Gillis	Director, Policy & Neighborhood Development
VisitMontgomery	Kelly Groff	Executive Director
City of Gaithersburg	Sharon Disque	Economic Development Manager
City of Gaithersburg	Maureen Walker	Housing and Community Development Chief
City of Gaithersburg	Brittany Marinello	Housing & Community Development Manager
City of Gaithersburg	Anthony Berger	Director of Public Works
Rockville Economic Development, Inc.	Cindy Rivarde	Chief Executive Officer
City of Takoma Park	Rosalind Grigsby	Community Development Manager
City of Takoma Park	Sara Daines	Community Development Director
Town of Kensington	Matthew Hoffman	Town Manager
Town of Glen Echo	Beth Stickler	Mayor
Chevy Chase Village	Shana R. Davis-Cook	Manager
Town of Chevy Chase View	Jana S. Coe	Manager
Montgomery County Regional Services Centers:		
Bethesda-Chevy Chase	Peter Fosselman	Director
Eastern Montgomery	Jewru Bandeh	Director
Mid-County	Luisa Cardona	Director
Silver Spring	Jacob Newnam	Director
UpCounty	Greg Wims	Director

## Attachment A

### **2023 -- SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES RENEWAL APPLICATION Montgomery County Application – Takoma Park Information**

COMPETITIVE FUNDING from 2012 to 2023

#### **Community Legacy – Takoma Park**

For this period, the total awarded funding is \$2,575,000.

- FY15 6450 New Hampshire Ave -- \$100,000
- FY15 Streetscape Improvements, Parkview Tower -- \$100,000
- FY17 Takoma Park Revolving Loan Fund -- \$75,000
- FY19 Takoma Cooperative School -- \$200,000
- FY20 New Hampshire Avenue Façade Fund -- \$100,000
- FY21 Affordable Homeownership Opportunities Fund -- \$500,000
- FY21 6530 New Hampshire Ave -- \$500,000
- FY22 6530 New Hampshire Ave -- \$500,000
- FY23 Tenant Opportunity to Purchas Support Fund -- \$500,000

#### **Maryland Bikeways Program Kim Lamphier Bikeways Program – Takoma Park**

For this period, the total awarded funding is \$1,768,000.

- FY14 Bike Improvements -- \$100,000
- FY16 Bikeshare expansion -- \$100,000
- FY18 New Ave Bikeway – Section A, semi-final design plans -- \$240,000
- FY19 New Ave Bikeway – Section B, semi-final design plans -- \$235,000
- FY20 New Ave Bikeway – Section A, final design plans -- \$254,000
- FY21 New Ave Bikeway – Section B, final design plans -- \$70,000
- FY22 Maple Avenue Connectivity Project – final design plans -- \$304,000
- FY24 Metropolitan Branch Trail – final designs -- \$465,000

#### **CDBG– Takoma Park**

The City of Takoma Park has received an annual allocation of CDBG funds through Montgomery County for Takoma Park Housing and Community Development projects.

For this period, the total awarded funding is \$1,194,000.

- FY13 to FY 15 -- \$125,000 annually
- FY16 to FY24 -- \$91,000 annually

#### **Program Open Space – Takoma Park**

The City of Takoma Park has received an annual allocation of Program Open Space, which are tapped for specific, pre-approved projects. The City currently has a balance, awaiting a project.

**Safe Routes to School – Takoma Park**

The City of Takoma Park has received regular funding from MD-SHA for the City's Safe Routes to School. For this period, the total awarded funding is \$1,215,000.

- Grant Year F (2013) -- \$168,000
- Grant Year G -- \$98,000
- Grant Year H -- \$813,000
- Takoma Park Improvement Project (TPIP2020) -- \$86,500
- Enhancing Biking and Bike Safety -- \$50,000

**Federal Highway Administration's Transportation Alternatives Program ( via Maryland State Highway Administration)**

For this period, the total awarded funding is \$2,290,000.

- FY13 Ethan Allen Gateway Project: \$1.25 million
- FY13 Flower Avenue Green Street Project: \$1,040,330

**WMCOG -- Transportation Land-Use Connections Program – Takoma Park**


For this period, the total awarded funding is \$ 470,000. COG-TLC grants are all in technical assistance

- FY12 Streetscape Standards -- \$30,000
- FY13 New Hampshire Ave Multi-way Blvd Feasibility Study -- \$50,000
- FY16 Parking Study -- \$40,000
- FY17 New Ave Bikeways (Section A) -- \$60,000
- FY20 Bus inventory -- \$50,000
- FY21 Maple Ave Complete Streets -- \$50,000
- FY23 Met Branch Trail -- \$60,000
- FY23 New Ave Bikeways (Section D)-- \$70,000
- FY24 Laurel Ave Traffic Study -- \$60,000

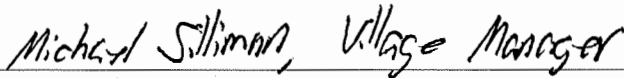
## SIGNATURE LETTER

On behalf of [INSERT *Applicant local government full name*], I hereby approve the application for renewal of the Sustainable Communities designation for [INSERT *Sustainable Community Name*]. I understand that the Disclosure Authorization and Certification from the original Sustainable Communities application continues to apply to the applicant local government, and as such the applicant agrees that not attaching an objection constitutes consent to the information being made available to the public, and a waiver of any rights the applicant may have regarding this information under Maryland's Access to Public Records Act, State Government Article, Section 10-611 et seq. of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

I also confirm that I am named, or a former holder of my current title is named, as an authorized official for the Sustainable Communities designation for my local government in the Local Government Authorization submitted with the original application.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Signature



\_\_\_\_\_  
Type Name and Title



\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



## SIGNATURE LETTER

On behalf of The Commissioners of Barnesville Maryland, I hereby approve the application for renewal of the Sustainable Communities designation for Barnesville, Maryland. I understand that the Disclosure Authorization and Certification from the original Sustainable Communities application continues to apply to the applicant local government, and as such the applicant agrees that not attaching an objection constitutes consent to the information being made available to the public, and a waiver of any rights the applicant may have regarding this information under Maryland's Access to Public Records Act, State Government Article, Section 10-611 et seq. of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

I also confirm that I am named, or a former holder of my current title is named, as an authorized official for the Sustainable Communities designation for my local government in the Local Government Authorization submitted with the original application.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Signature

Michael S. Zuckerman, Commissioner  
Type Name and Title

01/03/2024  
Date