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/

LARRY HOGAN, *Governor*

KENNETH C. HOLT, *Secretary*

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD, *Lt. Governor*

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 OF 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 ASSISTANCE

If a local government has limited capacity, staff from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and Department of Planning (MDP) will be available to assist local government officials through the application process.

Please contact your Regional Project Manager at DHCD if you would like to request or learn more about this assistance (see page iv for contact information).

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES BENEFITS

The benefits of a Sustainable Community designation are substantial. The SC designation is a threshold requirement for application to several Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development revitalization programs (such as the Community Legacy Program and Strategic Demolition Fund listed below). Other programs from both the Department and other State agencies offer additional points or preference in the application process. The Sustainable Communities designation provides access to a suite of resources that can support housing and community development, local transportation enhancements, tax credit programs and programs to support a healthier environment. Taken together, these resources can promote safer, healthier and more attractive communities for families to live and put down roots.

While there are numerous benefits across multiple state agencies, below are two competitive capital revitalization grant programs are available to eligible applicants inside of Sustainable Communities.

Community Legacy Program is administered by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development and provides local governments and community development organizations with financial assistance to strengthen communities through such activities as business retention and attraction, encouraging homeownership and commercial revitalization. Community Legacy funds are restricted to Sustainable Community Areas.

Strategic Demolition Fund is administered by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development and provides grants and loans to local governments and community development organizations

for predevelopment activities including demolition and land assembly for housing and revitalization projects. The Strategic Demolition Fund catalyzes public and private investment in the reuse of vacant and underutilized sites. These funds are restricted to Sustainable Communities.

*Ask your regional project manager for additional information about Sustainable Communities benefits.

Application Eligibility and Threshold Requirements

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

Eligible applicants are to convene 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;

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 Evaluation

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

Priority Funding Areas

All Sustainable Communities must be located entirely within a Priority Funding Area. Applicants can verify Priority Funding Area boundaries by visiting the MDP website at:
http://www.mdp.state.md.us/OurProducts/pfamap.shtml

Application Training

All applicants must attend an application training prior to submitting a renewal application. Trainings may be conducted over the phone or in person. Contact your Regional Project Manager (contact information page iv) to schedule an application training.

Application Submission

Applications will be submitted both electronically/digitally and via postal mail. Each applicant must submit **one** hard copy of their application with all required attachments. DHCD reserves the right to not consider incomplete applications.

The first printed page of the electronic application is a Table of Contents (see page vii). This should also serve as a checklist and be used to provide corresponding tabs. In addition to the digital copy of the application, all pictures and maps are to be submitted on a CD-ROM or flash drive. Pictures should be burned to the CD in a JPEG format and maps should be burned to the CD in a pdf format. Please ALSO include GIS shapefiles of Sustainable Community boundaries and other GIS related data if a boundary change is requested. Be sure to label your files on the CD-ROM appropriately, i.e., "Proposed Sustainable Community Boundary," "Current Sustainable Community Boundary," etc.

No incomplete applications will be accepted.

Deliver Sustainable Community Applications to:
Sustainable Community Application
ATTN: Mary Kendall
Division of Neighborhood Revitalization
Department of Housing and Community Development
2 N Charles Street, Suite 450
Baltimore, MD 21201

Site Visits, Follow-up Discussion

During the application review process, the review team may make site visits, hold meetings or have for follow-up discussions with applicants prior to designation approval.

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.

Contact Information

All questions related to application content, please contact your regional project manager. Regional contacts listed in the table on the next page.

DIVISION OF NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION, STATE REVITALIZATION PROGRAMS **REGIONAL PROJECT MANAGERS**		
REGION 1: • Northwest Baltimore City • Northwest Baltimore County Larry Brown Assistant Director Phone: 410-209-5819 Email: larry.brownjr@maryland.gov	REGION 2: • Northeast Baltimore City • Northeast Baltimore County Garland Thomas Project Manager Phone: 410-209-5803 Email: garland.thomas@maryland.gov	REGION 3: • Southeast Baltimore City • Southeast Baltimore County Olivia Ceccarelli-McGonigal Program Officer Phone: 410-209-5826 Email: olivia.ceccarelli@maryland.gov
REGION 4: • Southwest Baltimore City • Southwest Baltimore County • Anne Arundel Nick Mayr Project Manager Phone: 410-209-5842 Email: nicholas.mayr@maryland.gov	REGION 5: Western Maryland • Allegany • Frederick • Garrett • Washington • Carroll Sara Jackson Project Coordinator Phone: 410-209-5812 Email: Sara.jackson@maryland.gov	REGION 6: Washington DC Metropolitan • Prince George's • Montgomery • Howard Duane Felix Assistant Director Phone: 410-209-5825 Email: Duane.Felix@maryland.gov
REGION 7: Upper Eastern Shore • Harford County • Caroline • Cecil • Kent • Queen Anne's • Talbot Ashlee Green Project Manager Phone: 410-209-5815 Email: Ashlee.Green@maryland.gov	REGION 8: Lower Eastern Shore, Southern Maryland Lower Eastern Shore • Dorchester • Somerset • Wicomico • Worcester Southern Maryland • Calvert • Charles • St. Mary's Jeremy Weiss Phone: 410-209-5848 Email: Jeremy.Weiss@maryland.gov	

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. **Qualitative and Comprehensive 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 people in your community live or making 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 condition (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 a 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 be due to 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 of the different sections, 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: Town of Myersville

NAME OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY: Sustainable Myersville

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**
- ❑ **Section B – Sustainable Community Renewal Report (Projects, Strategies and Partners)**
- ❑ **Section C – Sustainable Community Renewal Action Plan Update (Matrix)**
- ❑ **Section D – Sustainable Communities Workgroup Roster**
- ❑ **Section E – Signature Letter (acknowledging Disclosure Authorization and Certification)**
- ❑ **Section F – CD-ROM:** The CD-ROM should include the following contents:
  - If requesting a boundary modification, map in pdf format of the proposed Sustainable Community
  - **GIS shapefiles of the modified Sustainable Community boundary (if requesting a modification) and other GIS related data**
  - Pictures (jpeg format) of your accomplished projects of the last five years **(as indicated in Section B)**
  - Digital copy of completed Sustainable Communities Renewal Application

I. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RENEWAL APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name of Sustainable Community: Sustainable Myersville

Name of Renewal Applicant: Town of Myersville

Applicant's Federal Identification Number: 52-1458619

Applicant's Street Address: 301 Main St., PO Box 295

City: Myersville **County: Frederick** **State:** MD **Zip Code: 21773**

Phone Number: (301) 293-4281 **Fax Number: (301) 293-3080** **Web Address: Myersville.org**

Sustainable Community Renewal Application Local Contact:

Name: Brandon Boldyga **Title: Planning & Zoning Administrator**

Address: 301 Main St., PO Box 295 **City: Myersville** **State: MD** **Zip Code: 21773**

Phone Number: (301) 293-4281 **Fax Number: (301) 293-3080 E-mail Address: bboldyga@myersville.org**

Other Sustainable Community Contacts:

Name: Wayne Creadick, Jr. **Title: Mayor**

Address: 301 Main St., PO Box 295 **City: Myersville** **State: MD** **Zip Code: 21773**

Phone Number: (301) 293-4281 **Fax Number: (301) 293-3080 E-mail Address: mayor@myersville.org**

I. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY – General Information

A. Sustainable Community Boundary and Description

(1) Are you requesting any changes to your Sustainable Community boundary? Describe why or why not? **Yes. The Town would like to remove several large undeveloped areas from the sustainable community (SC) boundary, which are not in need of reinvestment, and will likely develop in the future through private developer investments. Additionally, the Town would like to add several parcels which better fit the intent of the SC program. These parcels include a church, Myersville Elementary School, an aging townhouse development, and an older portion of the Ashley Hills community developed as the Fox Rock Development in the 1960's. The proposed changes will decrease the SC area by roughly 16.6 acres overall.**

(2) Include the following in as an attachment (if requesting a modification to your current boundary):

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: **146.1**

(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): PFA

(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? **There has been minimal change to the demographics of the SC overall in the past five (5) years; however, more specifically in the past two (2) years, there has been a more noticeable transition of residents over 65 years of age, to younger residents with families. The Town expects this trend to continue, as younger residents with families fill vacancies in older construction dwelling units within the SC. This is primarily due to rising housing costs regionally, where less expensive older housing units with more space are more attractive than the more costly new construction homes with less space. Additionally, it appears that more young families are choosing to rent apartment homes within the SC than in 2014, where many of the apartment units within the SC were rented to single residents over the age of 65.**

B. 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? **There has been little change to the Sustainable Myersville Work Group (SMWG) or the**

manner in which it functions over the past five (5) years. The SMWG remains a volunteer committee-driven group, guided by Town staff, operating under the directive of the Mayor and Council. In the past five (5) years, the Public Relations Committee has become a new part of the SMWG, adding community outreach, programming aimed at SC residents, and a Town business and community organization directory to the Town's effort to improve the SC.

(2) What have been the strengths and challenges of the capacity of the Sustainable Communities Workgroup with respect to implementation of the SC Plan? **The SMWG has been very successful over the past five (5) years. The strength of the SMWG is that there are so many individuals and organizations working together towards a common goal. The Mayor and Council, Planning Commission, Public Relations Committee, Parks and Recreation Committee, Public Facilities Committee, Finance Committee, Myersville-Wolfsville Area Historical Society, Town staff as well as the residents and businesses within the SC all have defined roles and responsibilities as it relates to executing the goals set forth within the SC Plan. In this manner, no one group or individual is burdened with too much of the workload, or drastically deviate the SC from the SC Plan. The weakness of the SMWG is that the group, although comprised of several municipal government entities, is not solely a government agency, and therefore, often receives input from entities from a private property owner's point of view instead of what may be beneficial for the SC as a whole. Many private stakeholders do tend to attempt steer the goals and government process in a manner that is beneficial to their private property or personal interests. This can slow down progress at times, however, the group is large enough, and laden with enough experience to navigate these issues.**

(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? **Stakeholders were able to give input to the SC plan through the Comprehensive Plan and the associated public hearings. Additionally, many residents and businesses attend public meetings to introduce ideas, make recommendations for future projects, and voice their concerns regarding projects, issues, and services within the SC.**

(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. **The Town would like assistance from the State in partnering with another jurisdiction to offer residents and businesses within the SC a façade improvement program. Myersville is likely not large enough to warrant the expense of creating its own program, but perhaps Myersville could partner with another local jurisdiction to assist with the administration of a program here and host a vehicle to get funds to the property owners within the SC.**

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) **Pictures**: 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: **increase community connectivity or walkability**

Projects:

Project 1: Main Street Rehab Phase 1: In March of 2014, the Town funded and completed a retrofit of the sidewalks along the Town-owned and maintained portion of Main Street between Wolfsville Road (MD Route 17) and Church Hill Road. This eliminated non-ADA compliant sidewalks with compliant sidewalks on both sides of this portion of Main Street.

Project 2: Main Street Rehab Phase 2: In January of 2014, the Town applied for a sidewalk retrofit grant through MDOT SHA. In July of 2014, MDOT SHA completed a retrofit project between Myersville Road and Cedar Street along MD Route 17.

Project 3: Main Street Rehab Phase 3: In March of 2016, the Town applied for a second sidewalk retrofit grant through MDOT SHA. The project began in June of 2019. This project retrofitted the sidewalks between Cedar Street and Wolfsville Road along the remainder of MD Route 17 through Town on Main Street. The project is nearing completion currently.

Project 4: Gaver Park Trail: In September of 2015, the Town utilized $48,000 in DNR POS funds to acquire new parkland along Poplar Street; later named Gaver Park. In July of 2019, the Town utilized DNR POS funds to pave a roughly 600 LF asphalt trail connecting Poplar Street to the Myersville Municipal Center Lot, allowing direct access to Doub's Meadow Park from Poplar Street through the core areas of the SC.

Partners: **MDOT SHA – Over $2 million in construction costs, DNR - $15,000 in construction costs and $48,000 in acquisition costs**

Impact: **The 4 major projects listed above have had a major impact on connectivity, allowing pedestrians to safely traverse Main Street to access the businesses within the SC, Town Hall, parks, the elementary school, and places of worship without difficulty or the necessity to walk within travel lanes designated for vehicular traffic.**

Accomplishment 2:

Outcome: **establish a focal point within the community/increase access to green space**

Projects:

Project 1: Memorial Park: In May of 2016, the Town utilized DNR POS funds to acquire land and construct a 3,000 square foot memorial park on Main Street. The park highlights elements from the Town's past including several placards and monuments commemorating public service, first responders, agricultural traditions, and of course the Hagerstown and Frederick Railway. The park incorporates decorative plantings, a center pedestal for the annual tree and tree lighting ceremony, several benches, lighting and a 3-foot-high brick wall enclosing the space with a custom iron archway over the entrance.

Project 2: The Myersville Branch Library: In July of 2018, the Frederick County Public Library (FCPL) broke ground on a 7,500 square foot library along Harp Place within the SC. The library includes children's programming, computer access, meeting space, and a 1,000 square foot space dedicated to the Myersville 150 Trolley. The trolley was acquired by the Town from the Easterday Family and restored by various contractors hired by the Town. The trolley became an integral part of the library with an

agreement with FCPL that the trolley would be placed inside of the library for public display, learning opportunities, and tours. The library and trolley were completed in August of 2019 and opened its doors to the public the same month.

Project 3: Harp Park: In July of 2018, the Town utilized DNR POS and CP&P funds to rehabilitate and add amenities to Harp Park, a Town-owned and maintained park adjacent to the new Myersville Branch Library along Harp Place. Tennis courts and a basketball court were resurfaced, and reconditioned, a new playground was added, and a new pavilion with restrooms and a concession area was added to accommodate the playing fields and courts on-site.

Partners: **DNR – over $250,000 in construction costs, FCPL – over $3.2 million in construction costs, The Myersville-Wolfsville Area Historical Society – technical assistance and research, Easterday Family – technical assistance and the invaluable Myersville Trolley 150**

Impact: **These 3 specific projects have had a major impact on establishing focal points within the Town and SC. These projects have in essence created an identity for Myersville while providing the community places to gather and celebrate that identity. There were previously no places for such activities and a true lack of identity for this historic SC.**

Accomplishment 3:

Outcome: **preserve environmental resources/expand upon existing infrastructure**

Projects:

Project 1: Main Street Rehab Phase 1: In March of 2014, the Town funded and completed a full replacement of the potable water lines along the Town-owned and maintained portion of Main Street between Wolfsville Road (MD Route 17) and Church Hill Road. This eliminated nearly 40,000 gpd of potable water loss from the system.

Project 2: Main Street Rehab Phase 3: In March of 2016, the Town applied for a second sidewalk retrofit grant through MDOT SHA. The project began in June of 2019. In addition to retrofitting the sidewalks between Cedar Street and Wolfsville Road along the remainder of MD Route 17 through Town on Main Street, the project replaced the potable water lines along Main Street and Trolley Lane. This eliminated the 3-inch and 6-inch water line and replaced the two lines with a single 12-inch water line. The project is nearing completion currently, and has eliminated several additional large leaks in the system.

Partners: **MDOT SHA – technical assistance, cooperation and cost sharing for mutually beneficial aspects of the State's sidewalk and storm drain portion of the project and the Town's utility transmission line portion of the project.**

Impact: **The Town has recovered additional water resources and sewer capacity to allow additional service for business expansion within the SC, and has provided more reliable water service to the customers within the SC.**

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: **encourage infill development**

Narrative: **The Town has been unsuccessful in encouraging infill development within the SC. There are several elements in play that have contributed to this. The small nature of the Town is part of its charm; however, for businesses and investors, this limits the amount of return or capital those parties stand to gain when investing in the SC. This has made Myersville a "hard sell" to potential investors. Additionally, Myersville is traditionally a "bedroom community" with the exception of the SC located in the core of the Town. This aspect of the Town's character plays into political decisions made by the elected body; whereas, some of the leadership do not support infill development or change within the SC. This is largely due to the fact that many individuals work in the Washington, DC and Baltimore metropolitan areas during the week, and do much of their shopping and daily activities there. The Town must do better at improving conditions for infill development.**

Outcome: **encourage green development**

Narrative: **The Town has been unsuccessful in encouraging "green" development within the SC. This is largely attributed to the limited opportunities, as there has been limited development within the SC in the past five (5) years. Additionally, green development may be deemed financially unfeasible, with higher construction costs. The elected body has traditionally taken a "hands-off" stance as it pertains to development, not wanting to encourage or discourage any specific type of development. This makes it difficult for the Town to guide or direct development towards any specific goal.**

Outcome: **manage the affordability of housing**

Narrative: **The Town has struggled to manage the affordability of housing. As a traditional "bedroom" community, Myersville does not boast a wide array of affordable rental options for working class residents. Most of Myersville's housing stock is owner occupied single family detached dwelling units. Within the SC, there are a number of rental properties and apartments; however, with rental units hard to come by, and the good area schools, these units are highly coveted and often bring more rent than a comparable unit only 3 miles west in Washington County. While understanding the need for affordable housing for working class residents, the Town is often under pressure to take actions to keep the housing prices high for higher resale of real-estate. The Town will need to do a better job of incorporating affordable housing into future plans for the SC and the Comprehensive Plan.**

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RENEWAL REPORT

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.

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?	X			**Much of the stormwater which once ran directly into adjacent waterways is not piped into the Town's storm drain system. Furthermore, this water is routed to a bmp that is able to provide quality treatment up to 1" to the stormwater before it is discharged into the local water way. Run-off from over 2,400 linear feet of Main Street is now receiving treatment that was not doing so in 2014.**
2. Has the amount of impervious surface in your Community been reduced? (Amount in SF)		X		**The Town has focused much of its impervious surface restoration efforts required by the MS4 Phase II permit away from the core of the Town and the SC to areas where reductions can take place more efficiently.**
3. Have there been improvements and/ or additions to your park and/ or recreational green space?	X			**Memorial Park, Gaver Park and Harp Park account for roughly 1.76 acres of open space. These spaces were acquired and/or developed since 2014 utilizing State grant programs. The development of these open spaces have provided much needed open space within the existing core of the Town and within the SC.**
4. Did the Sustainable Community implement any recycling or waste reduction programs?		X		**The Frederick County Department of Recycling offers recycling service to the residents of the SC and the entire Town free of charge. The Town has mandated recycling for properties within the Town since 2009. The Town also employs yard waste recycling for all but four (4) months out of the year.**
5. Do all residents have access to healthy food options (i.e. fresh food grocery stores, farmers markets etc.) within the Sustainable Community?	X			**The Town has had an operating farmer's market since 2015 during both summer and winter months. The farmer's market operates every Saturday during summer months and every other Saturday during the colder months at the Myersville Municipal Center. The SC is also host to a seafood market and a general grocery market selling fresh produce and meats.**
OTHER:				

ECONOMY	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 increase in the number of new businesses in your Main Street/ Commercial District?	X			**Although Myersville is not large, a there are a number of businesses that have opened within the SC since 2014 when the SC was first adopted by the Town. A seafood market, a carpet cleaning operation, and two (2) pet grooming services have opened since 2014 within the SC.**
2. Did the Municipality/ Sustainable Community area receive any designations that support local economic development?		X		**Other than being a PFA and a sustainable community, the Town of Myersville has not pursued or received any additional designations in support of local economic development.**
3. Has there been an increase in foot traffic in the Main Street/commercial district?	X			**With the completion of three (3) sidewalk retrofit projects, two (2) supported by MDOT, the Town has seen a large increase in general foot traffic in the Town. Pedestrians are able to walk from their homes to the businesses within the SC unimpeded by vehicular traffic or crumbling sidewalk infrastructure as they had previously.**
4. Have the number of commercial vacancies decreased?	X			**There were a handful of vacant properties within the SC at the time of the original application that are now filled including a commercial suite at 309 Main Street, 313 Main Street and 308 Main Street. These properties are at the center of the SC and have increased the foot traffic in this area. The new businesses include a hair salon, a seafood market and a carpet cleaning business.**
5. Has there been an increase in local jobs within the Sustainable Community for its residents?	X			**Although there has not been a large increase in local jobs within the SC, there has been am increase overall in the number of local jobs available to the residents of the SC and Town. The seafood market in particular has hired local residents, many who are able to walk to work. Additionally, the McDonalds restaurant within the SC is under new management and appears to have hired additional staff, many of whom who walk to work from the SC.**
OTHER:				

TRANSPORTATION	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 the amount of bike trails/paths increased? How many linear feet do the trails cover?	X			**The Gaver Park trail is within the SC; therefore, bike trails have increased by approximately 600 linear feet. The SC is relatively compact; however, limiting the number of trails that can be constructed for bike/pedestrian travel. Much of that travel still takes place either on the local roadways or sidewalks within the SC.**
2. Have there been improvements to the public transit infrastructure?		X		**Without much of a public transportation system in Myersville, there are limited opportunities to make improvements to the public transportation system. MTA operates a commuter bus route from the MDOT SHA Park & Ride facility as the sole public transportation operation in Myersville. It is the Town's goal to improve pedestrian and Bike routes to this facility to facilitate the use of this public transportation option for commuting.**
3. Has there been an increase in sidewalks? (Amount in linear feet)	X			**There has been an increase of about 1,200 linear feet of sidewalk and a replacement of 4,800 linear feet of sidewalks in poor condition over the past five (5) years within the SC.**
4. Have there been any roadway improvements that support "Complete" or "Green" streets?	X			**The Town has completed three (3) roadway projects for different segments of Main Street, where improvements to the sidewalks, crosswalks vastly improved ADA accessibility, pedestrian safety, and bike safety. Additionally, these projects replaced aging and non-existent storm drains, to improve stormwater management practices and discharge quality from the SC.**
5. Has traffic congestion along major roads decreased? (Amount in percent)		X		**Myersville does not typically encounter any traffic congestion other than an occasional incident on I-70, which can route east bound and/or west bound traffic through the Town on Maryland Route 17 to detour traffic on to US 40.**
OTHER:				

HOUSING	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. Have any residential facades been improved?	X			**The SC has witnessed seven (7) residential façade improvement projects over the past five (5) years; however, all of the projects were unassisted by the Town and completed without any grant funding. The Town would like to be able to offer more assistance to property owners with these types of projects in the future.**
2. Has the home ownership rate increased?		X		**The rate of homeownership in the SC has increased over the past five (5) years, with a number of rental properties and apartment buildings reverting back to single family detached dwelling units.**
3. Has there been an increase in the number of housing units in the Sustainable Community area? What number and/or percent are affordable?		X		**The number of housing units overall has actually decreased within the SC, with a number of the rental units returning to owner-occupied single-family detached dwellings. Roughly 10 percent of the housing stock within the SC would qualify as "affordable" based on market pricing for both leased and owned homes within the SC.**
4. Has there been demolition of blighted properties?	X			**There have been two (2) blighted properties demolished within the SC. These properties were demolished without assistance from the Town or grant funding. There are limited opportunities for demolition of blighted structures within the SC since there are simply so few blighted properties within the SC.**
5. Has the residential vacancy rate decreased?	X			**There has been a small decrease in residential vacancies within the SC. The number of residential vacancies was miniscule in 2014, with roughly five (5) identified properties which is now non-existent.**
OTHER:				

COMMUNITY HEALTH & QUALITY OF LIFE	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 a decrease in crime rate?		X		**Myersville is known for being a very safe community to live in; however, there has been a slight increase in crime over the past five (5) years, concentrated in the SC area specifically. This is likely due to the easy access to I-70. Most of the crimes committed pertain to theft of personal property and are likely "crimes of opportunity" rather than an increase in "domestic" criminal activity.**
2. Have there been improvements and/ or additions to your public spaces (i.e. museums, community centers, public plazas)?	X			**The Town has added Memorial Park, a plaza-like space in the epicenter of town. Additionally, Frederick County has erected a public library that also houses the Town's restored Myersville Trolley 150. The SC now hosts a ceremonial tree lighting ceremony and is home to a state-of-the-art library. These have proven to be true treasures for the Town and community as these assets are visited by individuals from the community as well as visitors to the Town.**
3. Has there been an increase in public art/ arts & entertainment programs/venues (i.e. murals, movie theatre, music events)?	X			**There has been a relative increase of musical performances, and festivals within the SC. This can be attributed to the number of younger families who have since moved into the SC, bringing new ideas and expectations with them from more urbanized areas. Many of these families moved to Myersville from places in the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan areas due to increasing regional housing costs.**
4. How many historic properties were renovated/improved?			X	**A total of 12 historic properties were renovated/improved over the past five(5) years.**
5. Are there any residential health and wellness opportunities in place (i.e. athletic facilities, recreational indoor/ outdoor courses or groups)?	X			**There are many opportunities for use of recreational opportunities, including several Town-owned and maintained parks, exercise classes offered by private parties at the Myersville Municipal Center, Myersville Elementary School and several of the area churches, as well as numerous educational programs hosted by the Town at Town Hall.**

OTHER:				
LOCAL PLANNING & STAFFING CAPACITY	**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. Have there been any infill developments?		X		**The lack of infill development in Myersville truly stems from the lack of room for expansion within the SC. Most of the "green fields" and undeveloped lands are further from the center of Town or not included within the SC boundary.**
2. Has there been an increase in the amount of preserved/protected land?		X		**Preserved and protected lands are typically generated as a result of development or the acquisition of private lands by the Town. Much of the preserved land in Myersville is not within the core of the Town within the SC. This is not to say that the Town at-large has not preserved additional lands within the past five (5) years.**
3. Have there been any developments hindered by growth constraints?	X			**Several of the proposed developments in Myersville have been restricted by water availability for public consumption. Until parties with an interest in the expansion of the public water system are agreeable to assist in the funding of that system, development will be challenged and/or hindered by the ability of the water system to serve the needs of the new development.**
4. Have there been any zoning or any policy changes that have fostered growth in your Sustainable Community?	X			**In 2016, the Town processed a comprehensive re-zoning of the Town to include more properties along Main Street into the village center (VC) district. The VC district allows for a more diverse array of land uses including multi-family residential, townhomes, and commercial uses. This was a change in older policy, where a majority of the Town was zoned residential only. In 2017, the Town created the Historic Town Center (HTC) overlay district in the core of the SC. This overlay district promotes the preservation of the Town's historical characteristics in the center of Town by eliminating many of the setbacks that define modern development. This allows for a more compact design found in many older-style developments constructed before World War II.**

5. Have there been any significant improvements to the municipal infrastructure within the Sustainable Community (i.e. street lighting, water/sewer lines)?	X			**The Town has replaced many of the older water lines with newer lines sized more appropriately for modern uses. Roughly one mile of 3-inch and 6-inch lines have been replaced with new 12-inch lines. Additionally, the Town has replaced lighting around the center of town to increase visibility and make Main Street safer for those who are out at night.**
OTHER:				

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**
Community Legacy (CL): • **Poplar Street Sidewalks**	DHCD	**$100,000**		• **Not yet expended. The grant awarded constitutes ½ of total cost of project.**
Strategic Demolition Fund (SDF):	DHCD			
Community Safety & Enhancement Program:	MDOT			
Maryland Bikeways Program:	MDOT			
Sidewalk Retrofit Program: • Main Street Phase II • Main Street Phase III	MDOT	• **$500,000** • **$1.2 million**		• **Town Designed.** • **Town Design & $900,000 of Town funds.**

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**
Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund:	MDE			
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				
Program Open Space	DNR	• **$250,000**		• **$100,000 of Town funds**

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**

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

The Town currently does not have a vehicle for a residential or commercial façade program within the SC. The Town would like some assistance in either creating a program or partnering with another municipality that already has a program.

Sustainable Community Action Plan

Sustainable Myersville

Brandon Boldyga

Environment

This section focuses on the natural environment, our use of natural resources, and our relationships to the natural environment. Strengths and weaknesses might focus on the following: 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.

Strengths	Weaknesses
• **water resource awareness - The Town and its citizens practice good water conservation practices, which is reflected in the Town's decreasing three-year rolling average for total water consumption. The Town has passed several ordinances in place regarding water consumption, water source protection, and water allocation.** • **pet waste practices – The Town provides numerous pet waste stations with pet waste bags and disposal containers for pet owners to properly dispose of their pet waste while walking their pets. The Town has passed a pet waste ordinance and has a good record of enforcing this ordinance when possible.** • **recycling – Frederick County offers free recycling within the Town and SC. The Town has passed a mandatory recycling ordinance and works to educate the public in the importance of recycling and recycling properly.** • **parks and open space – The Town operates nearly a dozen parks, several which are included within the SC, offering ample opportunities for recreation and activities.**	• **climate change mitigation – The Town is small, and although important, climate change mitigation is challenging for a Town of 1,800 residents to implement.** • **green infrastructure – The Town has taken many steps to improve water quality, water protection, forest conservation and protect other natural resources; however, green infrastructure such as permeable asphalt, green roof technology or gray water systems, are most likely cost prohibitive for a Town this size.** • **green programs – The Town mandates participation in the Frederick County recycling program; however, community gardens, rain barrel programs and composting efforts have not been as successful. These programs are difficult to gain support for due to the rural location of Myersville, where many residents simply have enough property to grow their own gardens and utilize the yard waste service provided by the Town. Simply put, residents of Myersville do not enjoy community programs and would much rather participate in these activities to some degree on their own at home.**

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
Based on the strengths and weaknesses identify the strengths on which you would like to build and the challenges you would like to address.	**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.**	**Which community stakeholders need to be involved to realize each action step and strategy? Name specific public and/or private sector partners.**

What outcomes are you trying to achieve? Where/ in what area do you want those changes to happen? Progress Measure: Identify how you will know that you have achieved your outcome.		
Outcome 1: **implement an energy conservation program** Progress Measures: **Public response to the program will gauge how receptive the residents are to the program, and how likely those residents are to take steps to conserve energy at home and in their businesses. The Town's energy costs will determine if the amount of energy used has decreased.**	Strategy A: **Educate residents on ways they can conserve energy through the Town-led media outlets.** Strategy B: **Make capital improvements and changes at Town-owned facilities to improve energy conservation "in-house". Examples would include LED light fixtures for interior and exterior use, and timers on lighting and HVAC systems to reduce the amount of time those systems run.**	**Mayor and Council of Myersville, community residents and businesses**
Outcome 2: **implement an e-cycling program** Progress Measures:**The amount of e-waste collected would easily gauge whether or not the program has successfully engaged the public. Additionally, the amount of e-waste illegally dumped into recycling containers, solid waste receptacles and outdoors in surrounding areas would be apparent if the program is successful.**	Strategy A: **Contract with an e-cycling contractor to physically collect the e-waste in Myersville for a fee, or work with Frederick County to establish a satellite collection site in Myersville.** Strategy B: **Educate residents on where and how to e-cycle old electronics and e-waste.**	**Mayor and Council of Myersville, community residents and businesses, Frederick County Government and private e-cycling haulers**

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
• **strong tax base – The Town enjoys a strong tax base due to high property values, generally high-income earners and a large portion of utility taxes collected on public utilities.** • **educated workforce – There are many skilled and highly educated residents within the Town who do not work full-time elsewhere due to lack of necessity or residents have stopped working full-time to raise children. This allows these individuals to be available part-time or full-time locally without long commuting hours to work in high level positions closer to home.** • **sense of place – The Town has worked tirelessly over the past five (5) years to create the physical presence of the community that is Myersville. The Town has added focal points throughout the SC and the Town at-large to encourage connectivity and a sense of community. The Town's historic structures and character add a level of charm to the community.**	• **main street program – The Town of Myersville has had a long-standing approach of hands-off to economic development with no main street program to encourage infill development or redevelopment in the SC. This issue is political in nature and may remain a weakness in the SC plan for the foreseeable future. The Town has; however, produced a community directory for the public in recent months.** • **technical and financial assistance to businesses – The Town has offered very little incentive to businesses to locate in Myersville or remain in Myersville in the form of tax programs or credits, redevelopment assistance or technical programs.** • **improving economic impact of cultural and historic assets – The Town has only recently begun to explore the economic opportunities associated with the history of the trolley.**

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	→ Strategies and Action Items →	Implementation Partners
Outcome 1: **offer financial incentives or relief to new and existing businesses in the SC** Progress Measures: **The number of businesses that locate to the SC or remain in the SC will be an indicator as to whether the strategies are successful or not.**	Strategy A: **Eliminate business personal property tax. Currently, the Town applies a business personal property tax, but could significantly reduce or eliminate the business personal property tax to entice new businesses to relocate to the SC or remain in the SC.** Strategy B: **Create a local tax credit for businesses that relocate to the SC or offer a tax credit for businesses that agree to remain in the SC for a specified period of time.**	Mayor & Council, local businesses

Outcome 2: **improve impact of Myersville Trolley 150** Progress Measures: **The number of visitors at future trolley festivals or other trolley-related events as well as the increase in foot traffic and visitors within the SC will indicate whether or not the trolley is having the desired impact.**	Strategy A: **Highlight the Trolley 150 located within the Myersville Branch Library in local publications, tourism guides and on community calendars published by the Town, the Frederick County Tourism Council and Frederick County Government** Strategy B: **Revive the Trolley Festival, once held annually in Myersville to restore passion for the trolley in Myersville, introduce new generations of residents to the trolley, and attract trolley visitors to celebrate and visit the only restored trolley car from the Hagerstown and Frederick Railway.**	**Mayor & Council, Frederick County Government, Visit Frederick, Frederick County Tourism Council, local businesses**

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
• 6,000 linear feet of new ADA compliant sidewalks within the SC for access to amenities, parks, businesses and homes • adjacent to I-70 for easy access. • over three (3) miles of trails currently with several connections to the trail system in the SC.	• limited access to public transportation with the MTA 991 bus route located at the MDOT SHA Park & Ride facility. • limited opportunities for on or off-street parking in the SC. • no identified bike lanes within the SC or the Town at-large.

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	→ Strategies and Action Items →	Implementation Partners
Outcome 1: **improve inter-connectivity of bike trails and bike lanes.** Progress Measures: **Progress Measures would include the level of inter-connectivity between the Myersville comprehensive plan and the Frederick County comprehensive plan.**	Strategy A: **Revise the Town's Comprehensive Plan to adjust the open space and trails master plan. This could allow the Town to coordinate with Frederick County's plan for bike lanes adjacent to Town, allowing for easier bike access to and from the SC.** Strategy B: **Work with MDOT SHA to include bike lane along Maryland Route 17 (Main Street and Wolfsville Road) through the SC.**	**MDP, MDOT SHA**
Outcome 2: **improve access to public transportation** Progress Measures: **Progress measures would include the addition of a pedestrian access route to the Park & Ride facility, and the addition of a bus or vehicle shuttle to that facility from the SC. The number of commuters using those systems once in place would be an indicator of whether or not those strategies are successful.**	Strategy A: **Work with MDOT SHA to provide sidewalks or pedestrian access from the SC to the Park & Ride facility located on Ventrie Court. This would allow commuters the ability o use bike transit to access the MTA 991 bus route.** Strategy B: **Work with Frederick County Transit to provide a shuttle from the SC to the Park & Ride facility. This would provide a public transit option from the SC to the commuter bus which connects to the Metro system at Shady Grove.**	**MDOT SHA, Frederick County Transit, Frederick County Government**

Housing

This section focuses on the homes in which people in your community live or making 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 condition (interior or exterior); housing programs; aging in place; preventing foreclosures; and reducing residential vacancies.

Strengths	Weaknesses
• **high rate of homeownership** • **good housing conditions**	• **lack of diversity in housing stock** • **limited access or knowledge of housing programs available** • **lack of affordable housing**

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	→ Strategies and Action Items →	Implementation Partners
Outcome 1: **increase diversity in housing stock** Progress Measures: **The number applications for housing styles other than traditional single-family detached dwelling units received by the Planning Office will determine whether or not these strategies are feasible and/or successful.**	Strategy A: **Encourage developers to offer different styles of housing with development density incentives.** Strategy B: **Modify zoning regulations to allow for more diverse types of housing.**	**Planning Commission, private developers, Mayor & Council**
Outcome 2: **increase access to affordable housing** Progress Measures: **The average median income within the SC and the number of rental units available would likely act as good indicators as to whether the strategies have been successful.**	Strategy A: **Offer tax incentives to developers or landlords who offer some affordable housing units.** Strategy B: **Allow housing types that may sell at more affordable prices, such as duplex, townhouse and condominium-style units. The Town would look to the DHCD for technical assistance on which types of privately owned units are most successful in bringing housing cost relief to working-class residents.**	**Private developers, landlords, Mayor & Council, DHCD**

Community Health and Quality of Life

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

Strengths, weaknesses and outcomes might focus on the following: 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.

Strengths	Weaknesses
• **low crime rate** • **new library constructed** • **elementary school within the community** • **numerous parks and open space amenities** • **various public programs available through the Town and County agencies**	• **no senior center or regular programming locally available to senior citizens** • **limited quality food options or dining options within the SC** • **no police department, only a community deputy available during regular business hours**

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	→ Strategies and Action Items →	Implementation Partners
Outcome 1: **provide space for senior citizen programming and regular activities within the community** Progress Measures: **The number of seniors who remain within the community to age in place and the number of attendees at various programs or facilities will quantify the successes of these strategies.**	Strategy A: **Build or acquire a facility for use as a senior center within the core of the SC.** Strategy B: **Partner with Frederick County Department of Aging to bring senior citizen services and programming to the SC.**	**Mayor & Council, Frederick County Department of Aging**
Outcome 2: **increase police presence during off hours to improve safety and make residents more comfortable during hours when they may dine or recreating** Progress Measures: **The number of reported crimes will determine the success of this strategy.**	Strategy A: **Add additional community deputies to provide additional hours of police coverage or establish a small police department to police the Town and SC area.** Strategy B: **Create a community watch program for the residents and business owners of the SC area.**	**Frederick County Sheriff's Office, business owners and residents**

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
• **full-time Planning Office** • **comprehensive plan recently updated and current** • **recently updated zoning ordinance**	• **lack of experience in using policy and taxing as steering mechanism** • **political resistance to government policy aimed at targeting specific development or types of development**

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	→ Strategies and Action Items →	Implementation Partners
Outcome 1: **educate officials and citizens on the importance of the SC development and what it means to be sustainable** Progress Measures: **The level of interest among the different stakeholders and elected officials will gauge the success of the proposed strategies.**	Strategy A: **Hire staff or partner with other SC's to utilize joint staff to develop and implement the SC plan more directly.** Strategy B: **Hold special session or public hearing to discuss importance of SC designation and benefits of developing the core of the Town.** Strategy C: **Public outreach survey or meeting to inquire among SC businesses and residents what changes or programs they would like to see.**	**Mayor & Council, businesses, residents**

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.

Wayne S. Creadick Jr.

Authorized Signature

Wayne S. Creadick, Jr., Mayor

Type Name and Title

January 30, 2020

Date