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/

SGCC Approved - 12.7.22

Overview of Sustainable Communities

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

Purpose or Renewal and Streamlined Application

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

Application Eligibility and Threshold Requirements

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

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

Threshold Requirements

All Sustainable Community applications must meet the following threshold requirements:

1) Sustainable Community Area boundaries must be entirely within a Priority Funding Area (PFA) and should be an area in need of renewal and reinvestment that would benefit from a targeted long-term strategy. Applicants can verify Priority Funding Area boundaries by visiting the MDP website at: http://www.mdp.state.md.us/OurProducts/pfamap.shtml

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

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

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

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

Application Submission and Evaluation

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

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

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

Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Deliver Sustainable Community Applications via email:

Subject Line: Sustainable Community Application
To: Olivia Ceccarelli-McGonigal
olivia.ceccarelli@maryland.gov
Copy: John Papagni
john.papagni@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 Olivia Ceccarelli-McGonigal at 410-298-5826 or by email at olivia.ceccarelli@maryland.gov if you would like to schedule a meeting.

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

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

Approval

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

All questions related to the application, please contact Olivia Ceccarelli-McGonigal at 410-209-5826 or by email at olivia.ceccarelli@maryland.gov 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 <u>five</u> years**:
   The report is an opportunity to reflect on any accomplishments achieved in the Sustainable Community area. It is a tool used to evaluate if the SC applicant achieved its intended outcomes, implemented the strategies initially envisioned, and identify what resources were used. Renewal applicants are encouraged to discuss how priorities, actions, and objectives were or were not achieved across the six elements listed on the previous page (v), including how any of the elements may have interrelated during the five initial years of SC designation.

C. **Sustainable Communities Action Plan Update:**
   The Sustainable Communities Action Plan has been revised so that it is less time consuming and focused on developing a strategic implementation plan. Renewal applicants are encouraged to use their previous Sustainable Communities applications as a basis for their updated Action Plan. You may identify which weaknesses have not yet been addressed or which strategies have not yet been implemented. Include your revitalization priorities for the next five years, basing them on your community's current strengths and weaknesses.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PLAN ELEMENTS

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

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

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

ECONOMY: Describes projects centered on economic growth and management.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<u>Additional Guidance for Developing the Sustainable Communities Action Plan</u>

<u>III. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN UPDATE</u>

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.

<u>Action Plan Guidance</u>

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

1) **For each section, pinpoint essential strengths and weaknesses of your community**. Example Transportation: Strength - Good sidewalk connectivity. Weakness - Insufficient amount of downtown parking.

2) **Based on those strengths and weaknesses, formulate specific outcomes that address the most pressing issues or greatest potentials. Include a means of measuring the success of said outcome.** Example Economy: Outcome – Expand broadband fiber optics in Town. Progress Measure - Linear measurement of fiber laid and number of residential and business connections.

3) **After defining the outcomes, list detailed strategies (break down to several action steps if needed) that will serve as the means to achieve those goals.** Example Economy: Strategy - Increase the 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: The Town Commissioners of the Town of Princess Anne

NAME OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY: Town of Princess Anne

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: Comprehensive Assessment
- 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

I. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RENEWAL APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name of Sustainable Community:		Town of Princess Anne	
Name of Applicant:		The Town Commissioners of the Town of Princess Anne	
Applicant's Federal Identification Number:		52-1956588	
Applicant's Street Address:		30489 Broad Street	
City: Princess Anne	County: Somerset	State: MD	Zip Code: 21853
Phone Number: 410-651-1818	Fax Number: 410-651-4226	Web Address: https://townofprincessanne.org/	

Sustainable Community Application Local Contact:

Name: Clayton Anderson		Title: Town Manager	
Address: 30489 Broad Street	City: Princess Anne	State: MD	Zip Code: 21853
Phone Number:	Fax Number:	E-mail Address:	

Sustainable Community Contact for Application Status:

Name: Clayton Anderson		Title: Town Manager	
Address: 30489 Broad Street	City: Princess Anne	State: MD	Zip Code: 21853
Phone Number:	Fax Number:	E-mail Address:	

Other Sustainable Community Contacts:

Name: Alexis Bynum		Title: Administrative Service Coordinator	
Address: 30489 Broad Street	City: Princess Anne	State: MD	Zip Code: 21853
Phone Number:	Fax Number:	E-mail Address:	

II. 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?
No changes to the boundary are being requested. The existing boundary adequately addresses the town's priority areas for rehabilitation and revitalization efforts.

(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: <u>1,000 acres</u>

(4) <u>Existing federal, state or local designations:</u>
  X Main Street ☐Maple Street
  X National Register Historic District **X** Local Historic District ☐ Arts & Entertainment District
  X State Enterprise Zone Special Taxing District ☐BRAC ☐ State Designated TOD
  ☐ Other(s):

(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?

Princess Anne is the county seat of Somerset County. According to the 2020 Census, Princess Anne's population is 3,490 which is a 5.7% increase in the town's 2010 population of 3,290. Of this population, approximately 19% are Caucasian (compared to 27 % in 2010), 78% are African-American (compared to 68% in 2010), with remaining races totaling about 3%. There are 1,832 total housing units with 35% owner-occupied and 65% renter -occupied. The median age of the population is 25.7 which very close to the 2010 median age of 24.7. The median household income has risen from $29,903 in 2010 to $34,397 in 2020, however Somerset County still has lowest median income in the state, as well as the lowest per capita income at $16,471. The current unemployment rate is 3.8% which has decreased since the town's SC application was last renewed in 2017.

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?

The composition of the Princess Anne Sustainable Communities Workgroup changed considerably from the last five-year renewal. Many of the former workgroup members have passed away, are retired, or have relocated. The town has hired a lot of new staff, partnerships have been renewed with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Main Street Princess Anne is now a registered non-profit and very active in the downtown district, and there is a new citizens activist group, Concerned Residents of Princess Anne (CROPA) making positive contributions to the community. The 2022 Sustainable Community Workgroup members are Clayton Anderson, Town Manager; Alexis Bynum, Administrative Services Coordinator; Walter Woods, Coordinator for Outreach and Strategic Initiatives, University of Maryland Eastern Shore; Carrie Samis, Main Street Princess Anne; Dale Parker, CROPA; and Lynell Fletcher-Pugh, Chamber of Commerce. Each of these individuals represent key stakeholders in the community and will work with their respective organizations and with Town Manager, Clayton Anderson, to implement the key strategies outlined in the SC Plan.

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

Princess Anne is a close-knit community with several active stakeholder groups, including, but not limited to: Princess Anne government, Main Street Princess Anne, Somerset County Historical Trust, Somerset County Historical Society, Princess Anne Chamber of Commerce, and CROPA. The town has also developed key partnerships with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, the Somerset County Economic Development Commission, and Somerset County government. Additionally, Princess Anne has established mutually beneficial relationships with various state agencies to include MDP, DHCD, DNR, MDE, MDOT, Commerce, and MHT.

The challenges the town has faced in implementing the SC Plan over the past five years are the same challenges many small towns face. The town does not have the budgetary flexibility to devote the necessary funding to accomplish many of the desired strategies and outcomes. Princess Anne relies heavily on state and federal grants to implement key projects and those grants are highly competitive. The town also has a very small staff and has experienced quite a bit of turnover in the past five years. That turnover has left little to no institutional knowledge, which places new staff at a disadvantage taking several months, if not years, to get acquainted with ongoing projects and priorities. Finally, COVID was a huge obstacle in being able to accomplish many of the goals of the SC Plan. For the better part of two-years, government had to pivot and respond to the impacts of the pandemic which did not allow for the SC plan to be a priority.

(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?

Residents and stakeholders had input into the SC Plan though their SC Workgroup representative. In addition, the town held numerous (6+) open workgroup meetings where the public could attend, if interested. The SC application was advertised as an agenda item for the Town Commissioners to discuss and approve at their November 21, 2022, meeting, which was also open to public comment. The SC Plan is based on the 2009 Princess Anne Comprehensive Plan and the previously approved 2017 Princess Anne SC Plan.

(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 Maryland Department of Planning's Lower Eastern Shore Regional Office staff has been instrumental in assisting the town and the SC Workgroup with the preparation and submission of this five-year renewal. The town will continue to rely on MDP for technical assistance and plans to work with other state agencies on grants and other funding opportunities that will assist in the implementation of the SC strategies and outcomes.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RENEWAL REPORT

PART I: QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT

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

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

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

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

> *Example* – **Accomplishment 1**
> *Outcome: Improved stormwater management*
>
> Projects:
> *Project 1: Stormwater Retrofit Plan – In October 2014, the Town Council approved the Town's stormwater retrofit plan which outlines various strategies and capital budget expenditures over the next five years. Strategies include reducing the amount of impervious surface in the community and improving stormwater management. One of the plan recommendations is to pass an ordinance that assesses an environmental protection fee on municipal permits.*
>
> *Project 2: Green Streets – The Town added green elements to approximately 600 linear feet of roadway that had been experiencing severe flooding. Specifically, bioswales were constructed and trees were planted.*
>
> *Partners:*
> *Chesapeake Bay Trust – provided technical assistance*
> *MD DHCD – provided financial assistance in form of a Community Legacy grant (totaling $50,000).*
>
> *Impact: The implementation of the projects had a significant impact on the community by improving stormwater runoff. The streets with the newly constructed bioswales no longer experience flooding.*

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

Accomplishment 1: Expansion and Improvement to Manokin River Park

Outcome: An improved Gateway into town and enhanced passive and active recreational opportunities.

Projects: There are numerous activities and projects that have occurred in the past five years which have had a positive impact on the appearance and use of Manokin River Park. The waterfront park is located at an entry point to the downtown and is adjacent to Somerset Avenue, which is the town's main north/south thoroughfare.

Notable activities and projects include:
1. The reestablishment of the Manokin River Park Commission in 2022, whose appointed members are charged with finding ways to improve the overall aesthetic, utility, and safety of this valuable amenity.
2. The inclusion of Manokin River Park into Somerset County's Trail-Mix Program.
3. A seasonal Farmer's Market (July-October) in partnership with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore's Small Farm's Program.
4. Numerous downtown events that utilize the park and its amenities (events are detailed in the application).
5. A new digital sign with an attractive brick frame installed along Somerset Avenue, and adjacent to the park, to advertise town news and events for both locals and tourists.
6. New playground equipment, benches, and two-person swings.
7. A soft canoe/kayak launch.
8. Renovations to the historic election house located along the edge of the park.

Partners: The Town of Princess Anne, Main Street Princess Anne, Manokin River Park Commission, Somerset County Historical Society, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, and Maryland Historical Trust.

Impact: Since this park is at a gateway entrance into the town, and more specifically the downtown, it is the first visual impression received by visitors and tourists, so improvements to the park are key to the town's continued success. The projects accomplished over this five-year period have added value and utility to the park, but the reestablishment of the Manokin River Park Commission might be the biggest success. Having a group of individuals dedicated to improving the overall quality of this park will have a significant impact on improving this important resource moving forward.

Accomplishment 2: Downtown Revitalization

Outcome: An improved, rejuvenated, and revitalized appearance of the downtown core.

Projects: In the past five years, there have been several projects that have contributed to the overall improvement of the downtown core, to include:

1. Demolition by Somerset County of the blighted courthouse annex which fronted on Somerset Avenue, between the historic Circuit Court and Washington Inn and Tavern buildings, alleviating a prominent eyesore.
2. Renovation of an older building at the corner of Somerset Avenue and Prince William Street by a private developer, Davis Strategic Development, as part of a public /private partnership with University of Maryland Eastern Shore. The University of Maryland Eastern Shore mascot is "the hawk", so this building is now known as "Hawk's Corner". "Hawk's Corner" provides offices and meeting space on the first floor and apartments on the second floor. Hawk's Corner also houses the office of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore Coordinator for Outreach & Strategic Initiatives which gives University of Maryland Eastern Shore a "town and gown" presence in Princess Anne.
3. Continued renovations (resurfaced parking lot) to Somerset Choice Station, an abandoned gas station along Somerset Avenue that was fully renovated and is now owned by the Somerset County Historical Society. Somerset Choice Station is an antiques, collectibles, and vintage goods store, staffed by Historical Society volunteers. Sales from this store help to fund the maintenance of the historic 200-year-old Teackle Mansion, as well as other activities of the Historical Society.
4. Downtown Princess Anne continues to benefit from DHCD grant funds that help support residential and commercial façade improvements. A recently awarded $50,000 Community Legacy grant to Main Street Princess Anne will support façade improvements for four additional buildings along Somerset Avenue.
5. A streetscape-storm drain project, supported by an $85,000 DHCD Community Legacy grant, to improve access and drainage along Beckford Avenue and Williams Street. This area is adjacent to Princess Anne Elementary School and students walk this route daily to attend school. The area floods, with frequent standing water, and does not have a sufficient, safe, or ADA-compliant sidewalk system in place. The Somerset County Board of Education agreed to partner on this project and to extend safe access from the town sidewalk onto the elementary school property. This project successfully corrected all drainage and sidewalk deficiencies.

Partners: The Town of Princess Anne, Main Street Princess Anne, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Somerset County Commissioners and County Engineer, Somerset County Historical Society, Somerset County Historic Trust, Somerset County Board of Education, DHCD, and private investors.

Impact: As Somerset Avenue is the main north/south thoroughfare in Princess Anne, aesthetic improvements along this route have an immediate and significant positive impact. Simply from a visual standpoint, removal of blighted structures, rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of older buildings, and façade improvements give the entire downtown a "facelift" and present an image of a more vibrant community. In addition, investment tends to breed further investment and encourages other property owners to invest in their properties. It's contagious. Renovated buildings also bring new uses and businesses, which brings more visitors and additional foot traffic to the downtown area.

Accomplishment 3: Job Creation

Outcome: An increase in the number of new businesses and job opportunities within the Sustainable Communities (SC) Area.

Projects: There have been several new businesses in the SC Area which have created additional job opportunities, to include:

1. Millennium Microwave Corporation - In April of 2021, Millennium Microwave relocated from Fruitland, Maryland to Princess Anne Maryland to expand its business from approximately 7,000 square feet to approximately 13,000 square feet and 18 employees to grow the business and better serve their customers. Millennium Microwave renovated and now occupies a former vacant building in the Princess Anne Industrial Park.

2. Process Integration, Inc. - In 2021, Process Integration, a systems integration company specializing in customized automation solutions, purchased two vacant lots in the Princess Anne Industrial Park and will be relocating from Ocean City, Maryland to greatly expand its business, both in building size and in number of employees, in Princess Anne. Their current facility is approximately 8,000 square feet with 13 employees and their new building is 20,000 square feet with a potential for 25-30 employees. Process Integration is anticipating the creation of an internship program for computer science students from the nearby University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

3. Peraton - In 2010, the Northrop Grumman Corporation relocated its engineering and low-rate production fabrication operation to the Princess Anne Industrial Park. The facility supports the U.S. Navy's Theoretical Studies and Engineering Research contract. In February of 2021, Northrop Grumman Corporation sold a whole division to Peraton. The contracts and personnel at the Princess Anne facility were part of that sale. Although Peraton is totally independent of and smaller than Northrup Grumman, the footprint at Princess Anne has increased since the sale. Northrup previously employed 50 people at this site, while Peraton currently employs 71 with plans to further expand.

4. Element MD - In November of 2020, Element Consulting purchased a vacant 5600 square foot building in the Princess Anne Industrial Park. Element refurbished the facility to operate as a medical cannabis manufacturer. The company is still in the process of obtaining its state licenses to operate.

5. Davis Strategic Development - This brokerage, commercial development, and property management firm has taken an interest in downtown Princess Anne and invested its time, energy, and resources to purchase and rehabilitate several properties within the Main Street / Downtown District.

6. Downtown District – Over 15 new businesses opened in our Main Street Commercial District since our last SC renewal. Of those, two (2) outgrew their commercial space and unfortunately had to relocate to larger buildings outside of the Main Street District (Tweak Systems & Bluntly Coached). The remaining thirteen are: Pugh's Patient Care Services, Squeaky's Café, O Grace & Glory Boutique, Headwind Cycle, Sports Office 365, YH Designs, CROPA Coffee Gallery, Shirley's Uniforms, The Bark Club Grooming Salon, Princess Anne Book Lovers Inn, Maple Shade Youth & Family Services, Community Behavioral Health Services, and Hayman's Antiques.

Partners: The Town of Princess Anne, Main Street Princess Anne, Somerset County Economic Development Commission, Maryland Department of Commerce, private investors.

Impact: New businesses, expansion of existing businesses, and rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of older buildings has created approximately 80 new jobs in the SC area, increased development interest, increased foot traffic, and bolstered economic development both inside and outside of the SC area.

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

Outcome: An Economic Development Plan to Improve Business Opportunities

Narrative: The Town has had much success with new business and job creation, however promoting economic development for Princes Anne is still an overarching goal.

For some time, it has been a goal of the town to have a professionally prepared Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan. The first impediment to the town being able to assist in the creation of new business opportunities is the lack of an economic development strategy. The plan/strategy should consist of objectives, policies, goals, and programs to guide future economic activity, which would allow for the town to take measurable steps to achieve them. The plan could provide a baseline assessment of existing conditions and focus on supporting investment in the community to create jobs, enhance commercial districts that create quality shopping and dining experiences, cultivate an entrepreneurial academic environment that focuses on innovation, and encourage recreational and heritage tourism. A second impediment to creating new business opportunities in the Downtown District is the town's inability to consistently secure funding for interior renovations. The renovation of older and historic buildings is often deterred by the expense of meeting current codes, including MHT requirements. However, the purpose of the interior renovations is threefold: (1) to provide an incentive for the build-out of commercial and mixed-use space that is vacant; (2) to encourage existing businesses relocate to downtown commercial space; and (3) to upgrade the existing historic building stock. Interior renovations to older buildings would help to increase commercial occupancy rates and property values which will lead to increased investment and economic vitality.

Outcome: Infrastructure Improvements

Narrative: The town has made considerable progress with street rehabilitation projects, however not much progress was made on that front over the past five years and there is still quite a bit more to accomplish.

The town has utilized DHCD State Revitalization Grant funds in the past to repair and repave streets, replace storm drains, and to repair, replace, and establish sidewalks. Over the past five years, the town did not seek out grants for infrastructure improvements because the town had existing grant projects it needed to close out and the town was also dealing with a great deal of staff turnover and the impacts of COVID. Princess Anne does not control its public water and sewer systems. They are controlled by the Somerset County Sanitary District Commission (SCSDC). As such, the town needs to partner with the SCSDC to address the integrity of water, sewer, and stormwater pipelines experiencing corrosion, cracking, settling, and damage form tree roots. The town needs to address the condition of existing roadways and parking facilities. The antiquated roadway systems are prone to leaks creating sink holes, wash outs, and potholes. The town also lacks a complete and safe sidewalk system which prevents full connectivity and impedes community walkability. Aged infrastructure with decreased functionality impacts property values, business growth and interest, and economic and community development. Infrastructure projects will require funding for design, construction, and inspection. Due to difficult economic conditions, low property assessment values, and residents that are mostly in the lower income bracket, the Town is unable to provide funding for these vital upgrades absent state grants.

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? Have you completed any projects intended to improve water quality? Ex. impervious surface reduction, stormwater improvements etc.	√			Prior to the last 5-year renewal, the Town constructed 85 linear feet of shoreline protection, a 4,147 square foot bio-retention area, 6,880 square feet of wetlands, and restored 200 linear feet of a stream channel through a DNR grant. This project continues to remove keystone pollutants such as nitrogen (approx. 87 lbs.), phosphorous (approx. 6 lbs.), and suspended solids (approx. 152 lbs.).
2. Have you improved wildlife habitat in your community? Ex. native plantings, pollinator gardens, rain gardens		√	.	Although there are plans to add additional native species to the Manokin River Park, the Manokin River Park Commission needed to be re-established before decisions could be collectively made for the park. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and significant staff turnovers, plans were delayed, and the Manokin River Park Commission was not re-established until 2022.
3. Have you increased access to green space, parks, or outdoor recreational opportunities?	√			Recreational opportunities have increased at Manokin River Park through the addition of playground equipment. In addition, Earl Jordan Park is a new residential park with playground equipment in a traditionally underserved residential neighborhood (see photo). It is named in honor of Earl Jordan, a local businessman who operated a mobile grocery store for more than 53 years "providing goods and services to an underserved community."

4. Have you implemented operational sustainability practices (example: town hall enhancements) and/or community-based practices? (ex. Rain barrels or rain gardens at residences, recycling, composting etc)	√			The Town has replaced Town Hall lighting with more efficient LED lighting. In addition, in the spring of 2021, community members gathered on the former site of the Todd family home (since demolished) to honor the lives of the Todd family, a family of eight who lost their lives seven years ago from carbon monoxide poisoning. The lot now houses a community garden that will have herbs and an educational center with books for children in the community to "create something beautiful from an ugly situation" and make sure the family is not forgotten. https://www.facebook.com/ToddFamilyCommunityGarden/

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?	√			Fifteen (15) new businesses opened in our Main Street Commercial District since our last SC renewal. Of those, two (2) outgrew their commercial space and unfortunately had to relocate to larger buildings outside of the Main Street District (Tweak Systems & Bluntly Coached). The remaining thirteen are: Pugh's Patient Care Services, Squeaky's Café, O Grace & Glory Boutique, Headwind Cycle, Sports Office 365, YH Designs, CROPA Coffee Gallery, Shirley's Uniforms, The Bark Club Grooming Salon, Princess Anne Book

				Lovers Inn, Maple Shade Youth & Family Services, Community Behavioral Health Services, and Hayman's Antiques.
2. Did the Municipality/ Sustainable Community area receive any designations that support local economic development?	√			The Somerset County Economic Development Commission updated the Somerset County/Princess Anne Enterprise Zone boundary to expand the boundary from 1,206 acres to 1,320 acres to include additional commercial enterprises. In addition, the Princess Anne Main Street is a Maryland State Main Street, was reaccredited as a National Main Street in 2021, and became a 501c3 in 2015.
3. Has there been an increase in foot traffic in the Main Street/commercial district?	√			Aside from worst period of the COVID-19 pandemic when most people were staying home, the town has seen a marked increase in foot traffic in the Main Street District due to the number of new businesses that have opened, as well as the variety of downtown events. The new businesses were previously mentioned, but some of the downtown events include, but are not limited to: Princess Anne Christmas Parade, Christmas House Tour, Christmas Tree Lighting, Teackle Mansion Candlelight Reception, Princess Anne Pop-Up Shops, A Dickens Christmas, Small Business Saturday, Old Princess Anne Days, New Year's Eve Midnight Muskrat Dive, Farmer's Market, Craft Fair, Shakespeare Brown Box Theater, University of Maryland Eastern Shore Founder's Day, Movie Nights, Halloween Block Party, StreetFest, Spring Fling and Egg Hunt, and Second Saturdays.
4. Have the number of commercial vacancies decreased?	√			The number of commercial vacancies has decreased as evidenced by the thirteen (13) new businesses that have opened in the Main Street Commercial District, as previously detailed.
5. Has there been an increase in local jobs within the Sustainable Community for its residents?	√			In the past five years, and as tracked by Main Street Princess Anne, there have been at least 15 new FT jobs and 25 new FTE jobs in the downtown Main Street District. With several new businesses opening in the Princess Anne Industrial Park, there have been an additional 40 FT jobs created in the Industrial Park within the past five years. Overall, the total number of new jobs within the Sustainable Community is estimated at 80.

	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?
6. Has there been an increase in workforce development training or other opportunities for connecting potential employees to well-paying jobs?	√			The University of Maryland Eastern Shore created an outreach program known as W.I.N.G.S (Willing to Inspire Greatness in our Students) that provides current students with experiential learning opportunities outside of the normal academic environment. The University will collaborate with local partners on the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland with a focus on partners within Somerset County to serve as host sites for student unpaid internships.
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?	√			Somerset County Recreation & Parks created and branded their "Trail Mix" Program which provides an online reference to view all opportunities for hiking, walking, golfing, biking and paddling, so users know where they can go in Somerset County to be active. Several bike trails are part of the Trail Mix Program and include areas within Princess Anne such as Old Town - Mt. Vernon Area (8 miles), Blossoms Blooming (7 miles), Bridges Trail (10.5 miles), and Trail Mix – Back Road Bikeride (various distances depending on selected route).
2. Have there been improvements to the public transit infrastructure?		√		The county nor the town control Shore Transit, which is a division of the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore and is the only transit service serving Somerset County. Shore Transit is a public transit agency for the lower shore counties of Somerset, Worcester, and Wicomico counties. It offers public transportation via fixed route and origin-to-destination services.
3. Has there been an increase in sidewalks? (Amount in linear feet). Were accessibility elements added, such as more ADA-accessible ramps and signage/signals? Has there been a noticeable increased use of these walking places?	√			The Beckford Avenue / Williams Street Streetscape and Storm drain project was recently completed. This was a DHCD Community Legacy project that helped to alleviate area flooding near Princess Anne Elementary School and provided for 460 linear feet new and rehabilitated ADA compliant sidewalks.

	YES	NO	N/A	
4. Have there been any roadway improvements that support "Complete" or "Green" streets?		√		Due to lack of budgetary funds and limited town staff to apply for grants within the past five years, there have been no roadway projects to create "Complete" or "Green" streets.
5. Has traffic congestion along major roads decreased? (Amount in percent)		√		Traffic congestion is not an issue in Princess Anne.
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 or interiors been improved? Has the energy efficiency of any housing units been increased?		√		Due to limited town staff, the town was unable to pursue residential façade improvement grants over the past five years. Main Street Princess Anne applied for and received $100,000 in Community Legacy façade improvement funds for renovation of the Hawk's Corner building in the Princess Anne Main Street district. The first floor of this building is utilized by University of Maryland Eastern Shore and the second-floor houses three apartments.
2. Has the homeownership rate increased?		√		Most of the new homeownership opportunities have been in neighborhoods that are outside of the Sustainable Community boundary. Homeownership continues to be an issue in Princess Anne as, according to the 2016-2020 ACS 5-year estimates, the town is comprised of approximately 65% renter-occupied and 35% owner-occupied housing 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? How many are within .5 miles of a transit stop?	√			As previously noted, most of the new homeownership opportunities have been created in neighborhoods outside of the Sustainable Community boundary. Within the Sustainable Community, there have been several rehabilitated housing units (not new) and several new second floor apartments created in the downtown district. There have been seven (7) new second-floor apartments created and over 15 second-floor apartments rehabilitated. The rents for these units be considered "affordable" in today's market (average $1200.00 per month) and they are all within .5 miles of several Shore Transit stops.

4. Has there been demolition of blighted properties?	√			Two structures have been demolished – the Courthouse annex downtown and a house on Beckford Avenue. The goal of the town is to rehabilitate blighted structures rather than demolish them, however in the case of these two properties, the necessary repairs were so significant there was no other affordable option.
5. Has the residential vacancy rate decreased?	√			Vacancy rates are extremely low as there is currently a lack of housing in Princess Anne, and on the Eastern Shore as a whole.
6. Has the jurisdiction partnered with any community development corporations to improve its housing stock, increase the availability of affordable housing, or support those experiencing homelessness or being threatened with eviction? Has the jurisdiction initiated any of its own programs to do the same?	√			Princess Anne has a new non-profit known as Concerned Residents of Princess Anne (CROPA) that is focusing on community action, economic development, educational workshops, homeownership, and mentoring youth. CROPA has conducted several educational workshops over the past couple of years related to financial literacy and homeownership. In 2021, the Town Commissioners of Princess Anne decided to utilize $10,000 of their CARES Act funds to create a rental assistance program to help residents struggling to pay their rent due to the impacts of the pandemic.
7. Has there been an increase in homeownership counseling services or individuals accessing such services?	√			As previously noted, CROPA has been helpful in providing educational workshops promoting financial literacy and homeownership. Salisbury Neighborhood Housing Service has also expanded into Somerset County and has conducted several homeownership training workshops.

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. How many historic properties were renovated/improved? To your knowledge, did the renovations mitigate certain environmental hazards such as lead and asbestos?	√			Three historic structures in the Sustainable Community have been significantly renovated in the past five years. They include Independence Hall, the Beckford Tenant House, and the Election House.
2. Have there been improvements and/or additions to your public or community available spaces? Examples include museums, community centers, public plazas, murals and public art.	√			As previously noted, recreational opportunities have increased at Manokin River Park through the addition of playground equipment. Earl Jordan Park is a new residential park with playground equipment in a traditionally underserved residential neighborhood. The Todd Family Community Garden was created to honor the lives of the Todd family, a family of eight who lost their lives seven years ago from carbon monoxide poisoning. Teackle Mansion, a 200-year old historic estate in Princess Anne is being continually renovated to maintain the integrity of the structure as it serves as an active museum with regular tours.
3. Are there opportunities for residents to gather, communicate and celebrate? Do they serve multi-generations and all populations in the community? Examples are wide-ranging and may include fairs, community history days, neighborhood meetings, etc.	√			Main Street Princess Anne, working in conjunction with the Town, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Historical Society, is the primary entity responsible for planning and organizing downtown events such as Princess Anne Christmas Parade, Christmas House Tour, Christmas Tree Lighting, Teackle Mansion Candlelight Reception, Princess Anne Pop-Up Shops, Chamber After Hours, A Dickens Christmas, Small Business Saturday, Old Princess Anne Days, New Year's Eve Midnight Muskrat Dive, Farmer's Market, Craft Fair, Shakespeare Brown Box Theater, University of Maryland Eastern Shore Founder's Day, Movie Nights, Halloween Block Party, StreetFest, Spring Fling and Egg Hunt, and Second Saturdays.

4. Have there been any changes in access to health and wellness services? Examples include mobile clinics, hospitals, telehealth opportunities.	√			Princess Anne has several local options for health care. The town has an urgent care clinic, adult and family medicine providers, dental providers, lab facilities, behavioral health facilities, several pharmacies, a dialysis center, and a nursing and rehabilitation center. In addition, Tidal Health, a well-respected regional healthcare facility is approximately 15 minutes north of Princess Anne. Telehealth appointments were available through medical providers during the COVID pandemic, and the Somerset County Health Department conducted frequent COVID vaccination clinics and continues to do so in administering COVID vaccines and boosters.
5. Are there any residential health and wellness opportunities in place (i.e. athletic facilities, recreational indoor/outdoor courses or groups)?	√			There are several health and wellness opportunities in place in the town. Many of them have been mentioned such as Manokin River Park and Earl Jordan Park. There is also a series of walking, biking, hiking, and water trails in and around Princess Anne highlighted in the Somerset County Trail Mix Program. The Garland Hayward Center Youth center, Inc. also provides an after-school program and mentoring for area children, and also has recreational opportunities (basketball, walking track, and exercise stations) for use by the community as a whole.
6. Do all residents have access to healthy food options such as fresh food grocery stores, farmers markets, community gardens, etc., within the Sustainable Community?	√			Residents of Princess Anne have access to fresh foods via a farmer's market and community gardens within the Sustainable Community. A local store within the SC Boundary, Price Cutters, also started providing fresh foods during COVID. In addition, although not within the SC boundary, nearby chain stores such as Food Lion and Dollar General also provide access to fresh foods.
7. Has there been a decrease in crime rate?	√			All index crimes in Princess Anne have dropped in the last five years. The most significant decreases were noted in aggravated assaults, breaking and entering, and larceny /theft.

	YES	NO	N/A	
8. Do all residents have access to the Internet and other basic utilities and services?	√			The Somerset County Sanitary District Commission provides public water and sewer to town residents. Davis Strategic, a local company who has invested in several redevelopment projects in the Main Street District also owns and operates Simple Fiber, a communication service provider. They have provided reliable and fast internet service downtown, however efforts to provide broadband in rural areas so that everyone has reliable internet service is an ongoing issue. Chesapeake Utilities' new Del-Mar Energy Pathway project expanded service in Wicomico County and made natural gas distribution services available for the first time to customers in Somerset County.
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?	√			Within the Sustainable Community, there have been no new infill developments, but there have been several rehabilitated housing units (not new) and several new second floor apartments created in the downtown district. There have been seven (7) new second-floor apartments created and over 15 second-floor apartments rehabilitated.
2. Has there been an increase in the amount of preserved/protected land?		√		There has been no increase in protected lands within the Sustainable Community.
3. Have there been any developments hindered by growth constraints? If so, please describe. Example constraints could be inadequate infrastructure, insufficient zoning density/intensity, or lack of buildable land.	√			There have been no proposed developments hindered by growth constraints.

4. Have there been any zoning or policy changes that have fostered growth or redevelopment in your Sustainable Community?		√		The town adopted a new zoning ordinance and zoning map in 2015 which was reported on in the last Sustainable Community five-year renewal application. The only text amendment made to the zoning ordinance was in 2022 to allow for convenience stores in the General Commercial District. This was done to accommodate a Royal Farms which is now under construction and a proposed Wawa.
5. Have there been any significant improvements to the municipal infrastructure within the Sustainable Community (i.e. street lighting, water/sewer lines)?		√		The Beckford Avenue / Williams Street Streetscape and Storm Drain project was completed. This project was funded by the town along with Community Legacy funds. The project alleviated localized flooding, repaved the street, and provided for sidewalks along a route that serves Princess Anne Elementary School and the children and parents walking to and from school.
6. Have you hired any new staff members, reassigned duties, or procured the services of a contractor to increase or better align local capacity? Have you implemented any professional development programs?		√		Princess Anne experienced serious staffing issues in 2020. There was no permanent Town Manager and essentially no Town Hall staff. In March of 2021, the town hired a new Town Manager, who, in turn, advertised and hired new staff. The Police Department went from 10 policemen to 13 policemen, Town Hall went from zero to four staff persons, and Public Works went from four to seven staff persons. The town has also hired an outside inspection agency for residential building inspections and has hired a contractual engineering firm for commercial development reviews and inspections. The Maryland Department of Planning Lower Eastern Shore regional staff has been assisting with planning and zoning issues. The Town Manager implemented a mandatory training program for all employees.
7. Has your community initiated or completed any planning efforts that will support the Sustainable Community area, including comprehensive planning, small area planning, or planning studies?		√		Within the past five years, the community has not initiated or completed any such planning efforts in the Sustainable Community area.

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
	DHCD			
Community Legacy: Acquisition of Washington Hotel		$156,162.86		
Community Legacy: Washington Hotel Renovations Kitchen and Bar		$250,000.00		
Community Legacy: Downtown Facade Improvement		$248,190.00		
Community Legacy: Facade Rehabilitation		$130,500.00		
Community Legacy: Street Paving		$125,983.00		
Community Legacy Street Paving		$124,000.00		
Community Legacy: Interior Renovation in Downtown		$250,000.00		
Community Legacy: Facade End Caps		$125,000.00		
Community Legacy: Beckford Avenue and Williams Street Streetscape & Storm Drain Improvements		$85,000.00		
Strategic Demolition Fund: Reserve at Somerset Affordable Housing		$500,000.00		
CDBG: Refurbishment of Washington Hotel		$802,000.00		
CDBG Disaster Recovery Fund: Princess Anne Estates Drainage and Warwick Property Acquisition		$105,000.00		
CDBG: Church Street Water Improvement		$300,000.00		
CDBG: Reserve at Somerset Affordable Housing		$500,000.00		
CDBG: Water and Sewer Interruptions		$175,000.000		
Technical Assistance Grant		$30,000.00		

Technical Assistance Grant		$15,000.00		
Community Safety & Enhancement Program:	**MDOT**			
Maryland Bikeways Program:	**MDOT**			
Sidewalk Retrofit Program:	**MDOT**			
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

Community Parks and Playgrounds Beckford Avenue Area Playground	**DNR**	$185,045		
Community Parks and Playgrounds Garland Hayward Park		$90,000		
Community Parks and Playgrounds Manokin River Park Improvements		$214,000		

Rural Business Enterprise Grant: Washington Hotel Kitchen Equipment **Rural Business Enterprise Grant: Washington Hotel Furnishings**	USDA	$175,000.00 $21,400.00		
Retrofit Downtown Street Lights with LED **Retrofit GHYC and Public Works with LED**	MEA	$72,500.00 $33,500.00		

COMPETITIVE FUNDING: Are there any types of projects/needs for which your Sustainable Community needs funding; however, there isn't a funding source?
We could use money for sidewalks that are not along state routes or are outside of a safe route to schools' area. We could also use funds to update our comprehensive plan and regulatory ordinances, such as zoning and subdivision.

Sustainable Community Action Plan

Town of Princess Anne, Somerset County, Maryland

Submitted by the President and Town Commissioners of Princess Anne
November 21, 2022

Example Section

Strengths	Weaknesses
● Insert bulleted list of strengths (provide some detail as to why and how this is a strength in your community)	● Insert bulleted list of weaknesses (provide some detail as to why and how this is a weakness in your community)

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

Environment

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

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

Strengths	Weaknesses
- Manokin River Park provides recreational opportunities with playground pavilion, kayaking, fishing, and birding - Garland Hayward Park and Earl Jordan, Sr. Park provide open space and playground opportunities - Adoption of updated Critical Area, Stormwater Management, Floodplain, Building Code, and Zoning Ordinances ensures regulations are current - Enforcement of current energy codes in new construction and the installation of solar panels by residents reduces our carbon footprint - Seasonal Farmer's Market and area community gardens (Garland Hayward Center, Seton Center, & Todd Family) provide residents with access to fresh foods - Somerset County Trail Mix Program promotes hiking, biking, and water trails throughout the county with specific trails designated in and around Princess Anne, providing additional recreational opportunities and promoting eco-tourism	- An abundance of overgrowth of invasive species on public lands causes ecological damage by outcompeting native species, reducing biological diversity, and changing the ecosystem functions - Need an updated Buffer Management Plan for Manokin River Park to strengthen the ecosystem though the implementation of best management practices to ultimately reduce shoreline erosion and improve shoreline stabilization, stormwater management, water quality, and habitat protection - Lack of bike and foot trail connectivity from Manokin River Park to the University of Maryland Eastern Shore - No recycling opportunities due to a lack of resources, facilities, and staff to implement a recycling program - Large amounts of impervious surfaces in the town adversely impact stormwater runoff and water quality - The Town does not have municipal water or wastewater plants as they are controlled by the Somerset County Sanitary District Commission

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
Outcome 1: Environmental and recreational improvements to Manokin River Park Progress Measures: Square footage of invasive and non-native species removal, square footage of native plantings, square footage of improved shoreline buffer and habitat protection, and miles of new hiker/biker trails	Strategy A: Develop a Buffer Management Plan for Manokin River Park Action Item #1: Seek funding for plan development and implementation to include removal of invasive and non-native species, shoreline stabilization, and native species planting Strategy B: Implementation of biker/hiker trail connecting Manokin River Park to the University of Maryland Eastern Shore to enhance recreational and economic development opportunities for residents and students Action Item #1: Seek funding for study and subsequent implementation (design, permitting, construction)	Town of Princess Anne, Somerset County, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), Maryland Department of Planning (MDP), and the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)
Outcome 2: Provide Recycling Opportunities Progress Measures: Number of in-town recycling locations and amount of annual recycled municipal waste	Strategy A: Establish a recycling program for Princess Anne Action Item #1: Partner with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore to establish a recycling program for the town that can work in conjunction with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore's recycling program. Action Item #2: Seek grant funding to purchase recycling dumpsters and/or to establish drop-off locations	Town of Princess Anne, Somerset County, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, MDE, and MDP
Outcome 3: Improve Water Quality Progress Measures: Reduction in amount of impervious surface, improved water quality, and number of best management practices implemented or enhanced	Strategy A: Investigate various best management practices and reduce imperious surfaces Action Item #1: Seek funding opportunities for the design, permitting, and implementation of "green streets" projects Action Item #2: Seek funding to rehabilitate the existing stormwater management pond on the east side of the Somerset Avenue Bridge, adjacent to Manokin River Park, to improve stormwater runoff and improve water quality	Town of Princess Anne, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), Maryland Department of Planning (MDP), and the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)

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
● U.S. Route 13 is a major north/south corridor that provides truck freight transportation and easy travel access for residents, businesses, industry, and tourists ● The Princess Anne portion of U.S. Route 13 was designated in 2021 as part of the Chesapeake Country All-American Road as part of the national Scenic Byways Program ● Included in the Beach to Bay Heritage Area ● Located a short distance from the Salisbury - Ocean City: Wicomico Regional Airport ● Maryland Main Street designation, reaccredited as a National Main Street in 2021, and Main Street Princess Anne became a 501c3 in 2015 – does most of the local events marketing ● Somerset County/Princess Anne Enterprise Zone provides tax incentives for commercial uses and for the Princess Anne Industrial Park ● Reduction in commercial vacancies in the Main Street District in the past five years, and impressive diversity of business owners (women, immigrants, and people of color) ● The refurbishment of the downtown Washington Inn and Tavern	● No economic development strategy or action plan ● Commercial vacancies remain even with recent decrease in vacancies ● Unskilled workforce and lack of workforce training opportunities ● Insufficient municipal marketing resources for business and tourism ● Lack of commercially zoned lands ● Need to encourage the development of incubator businesses ● Several downtown buildings need exterior and interior renovations to be suitable for occupancy; no turn-key availability ● Need additional cultural, artistic, and entertainment attractions

- Historical assets – several properties on the Maryland National Register of Historic Places and the Princess Anne Historic District are on the National Register of Historic Places Inventory

- "Town and Gown" partnership community with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore; staff and students provide a large economic base

- Recreational assets such as Manokin River Park, Garland Hayward Center, Earl Jordan Park, Somerset County Trail Mix Program, and numerous community gardens

- Large employers such as Eastern Correctional Institute, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Somerset County, State of Maryland

- Addition of downtown internet service (Simple Fiber), and access to the new Del-Mar Energy Pathway natural gas pipeline along U.S. Route 13

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
Outcome 1: Create an economic development vision for Princess Anne to improve the overall economic well-being of the community Progress Measures: Secure funding source for consultant, prepare plan, begin plan implementation, and track economic metrics	Strategy A: Develop an Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan Action Item #1: Seek a funding source to hire a consultant, draft RFP, and develop plan Action Item #2: Implement plan and track relevant metrics (new businesses, number of employees, vacancy rates, unemployment rate, retail sales, tourism revenues, etc.) Strategy B: Incorporate goals, objectives, and strategies from the Economic Development Strategy into the Economic Development Element of the Princess Anne Comprehensive Plan	Town of Princess Anne, Somerset County Economic Development Commission (EDC), University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Main Street Princess Anne, Princess Anne Chamber of Commerce, Maryland Department of Commerce, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), MDP, and private consultant

| Outcome 2: Promote Princess Anne as a business and tourism-friendly environment to attract increased community interest with the goal of improving the town's economic health

Progress Measures: Secure funding source for a marketing strategy, prepare marketing plan, begin implementation, and track metrics | Strategy A: Develop a municipal marketing strategy to help promote business, recreational, and heritage tourism opportunities

Action Item #1: Seek funding to hire an affordable consultant, such as Salisbury University's Business Economic and Community Outreach Network (BEACON), to develop a marketing strategy that capitalizes on the Town's designated Main Street District, the "Town and Gown" partnership with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, and the Somerset County Trail Mix Program

Action Item #2: Implement marketing strategy to develop incentives to help draw and expand businesses to reduce the number of commercial vacancies

Action Item #3: Work with Somerset County Recreation and Parks to promote the Trail Mix Program recreational and eco-tourism options in and around Princess Anne (area parks, fishing, biking, birding, hiking)

Action Item #4: Work with Main Street Princess Anne and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore on the coordination and promotion of heritage tourism opportunities and the annual calendar of community events | Town of Princess Anne, Somerset County Recreation and Parks, Somerset County EDC, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Main Street Princess Anne, Princess Anne Chamber of Commerce, Beach to Bay Heritage Area, Maryland Department of Commerce, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), MDP, Salisbury University (BEACON), and private consultant |
| Outcome 3: Continue "Town and Gown" partnership with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and continue to encourage engagement with University of Maryland Eastern Shore staff and students

Progress Measures: Number of partnerships created, calendar and number of co-sponsored events, new student businesses, number of students completing the University of Maryland Eastern Shore W.I.N.G.S Mentoring Program | Strategy A: Continue to participate in established programs and events with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and seek to develop additional community outreach partnerships and opportunities

Action Item #1: Develop a schedule of cultural, artistic, and entertainment events that can be co-sponsored and cross-promoted by the various partners listed in this section

Action Item #2: Partner with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore to identify a location to house a business incubator for University of Maryland Eastern Shore students | Town of Princess Anne, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Main Street Princess Anne, Princess Anne Chamber of Commerce |

	Action Item #3: Partner with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore W.I.N.G.S mentoring program to promote and help secure host sites for student internships.	

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
- U.S. Route 13 is a major north/south corridor that provides truck freight transportation and easy travel access for residents, businesses, industry, and tourists - Princess Anne portion of U.S. Route 13 was designated in 2021 as part of the Chesapeake Country All-American Road as part of the national Scenic Byways Program. - A new speed limit reduction on U.S. Route 13 between the University of Maryland Eastern Shore Boulevard and Mt. Vernon Road from 55 MPH to 45 MPH has improved vehicular and pedestrian safety - Located a short distance from the Salisbury - Ocean City: Wicomico Regional Airport - Town is included in the Beach to Bay Heritage Area - Shore Transit (regional transit service) and Greyhound bus service (located on the University of Maryland Eastern Shore campus) provide	- The lack of a pedestrian crossing at U.S. Route 13 and University of Maryland Eastern Shore Boulevard creates a significant hazard to pedestrians (residents and students) attempting to cross the four-lane highway to gain access to the local grocery store and pharmacy and this situation has been further exacerbated by the construction of a new Royal Farms convenience at this intersection - While the sidewalks downtown along Somerset Avenue are in good condition, many of the connecting streets have no sidewalks, sidewalks in a state of disrepair, or gaps in the sidewalk system and lack handicap accessibility and pedestrian crosswalks - Historic brick sidewalks are in poor condition and in need of repair - The municipal schools lack sidewalks and sidewalks with handicap accessibility, crosswalks, and appropriate pedestrian signage

public transportation options for residents and visitors that do not have private transportation

- Bike share lanes along Somerset Avenue provides recreational tourism opportunities as well as alternative transportation options

- New crosswalks in the downtown Main Street area help to reduce speed

- Downtown Main Street (Somerset Avenue) has handicap accessible sidewalks, is pedestrian friendly, and provides safe and easy access to local businesses

- The Park & Ride at the intersection of U.S. Route 13 and Mt. Vernon Road provides a convenient location for carpooling to encourage decreased traffic and energy conservation

- The University of Maryland Eastern Shore has a shuttle system transports students to and around Princess Anne to patronize local businesses and services

- The Town has an operational rail freight system

- State and County government and medical services are located within a walkable distance for area residents

- Somerset County Trail Mix Program promotes hiking, biking, and water trails throughout the county with specific trails designated in and around Princess Anne, providing additional recreational opportunities and promoting eco-tourism

- Numerous streets need repair and/or reconstruction with scopes of work ranging from resurfacing to stormwater management, water and sewer mains, curb/gutter, and sidewalk installation

- Park Drive, the main throughway in the Princess Anne Industrial Park is failing and in need of cross pipe replacement and resurfacing

- Need to continue to develop and promote biker/hiker trails, especially one connecting Manokin River Park to the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, to enhance recreational, eco-tourism, and economic development opportunities for residents, students, and tourists

- Inadequate parking remains a challenge in the downtown district, especially during special events and when Circuit Court is in session, which makes it difficult for shoppers to patronize local businesses

- Limited transportation options for those who cannot drive or do not owned cars - Shore Transit is the only public transit system available, but it is a rural fixed route system which results in limited route times and locations

- There are a lack of bike racks and electric vehicle charging stations

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
Outcome 1: Create a safe, pedestrian-friendly, walkable community Progress Measures: Development of sidewalk study, and linear feet of sidewalk constructed and repaired	Strategy A: Work with a private consultant or the Salisbury University Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC) to develop a sidewalk study to determine where sidewalks are needed, where they need repair, and where there are gaps, as well as an analysis of ADA accessibility. Action Item #1: Seek a funding source to hire a consultant to develop sidewalk study Action Item #2: Seek funding to design and construct/repair sidewalks, including repairs to the existing historic brick sidewalks	Town of Princess Anne, Somerset County, MDOT, State Highway Administration (SHA), Maryland Historical Trust (MHT), DHCD, and MDP
Outcome 2: Provide safe pedestrian access to businesses and services on the west side of U.S. Route 13 Progress Measures: Construction of pedestrian crossing for residents and University of Maryland Eastern Shore students to safely access the western portion of the Town across U.S. Route 13	Strategy A: Work with MDOT, SHA, Somerset County, and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore to develop a plan for safe pedestrian access (full traffic signal, signaled pedestrian crossing) across U.S. Route 13 Strategy B: As a more expensive alternative to Strategy A, work with MDOT, SHA, Somerset County, and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore to find funding to support the construction of an overhead pedestrian footbridge	Town of Princess Anne, Somerset County, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, MDOT, State Highway Administration (SHA), DHCD, and MDP
Outcome 3: A well-drained, well-maintained, walkable, drivable, bikeable street system Progress Measures: Linear feet of street resurfaced, linear feet of water and sewer pipes installed, linear feet of storm drain pipe installed, number of catch basins installed, and linear feet of curb and gutter installed	Strategy A: Repair/reconstruct streets to include water and sewer mains, storm drains, and curb and gutter. Action Item #1: Use Highway User Revenues and/or secure grant funding for street design and construction Strategy B: Resurface and replace cross pipes for Park Drive, the main throughway in the Princess Anne Industrial Park Action Item #1: Use Highway User Revenues and/or secure grant funding for street repairs	Town of Princess Anne, MDOT, State Highway Administration (SHA), MDE, DHCD, and MDP
Outcome 4: Provide a customer-friendly downtown business district through sufficient and free downtown parking	Strategy A: Create new free parking locations in the downtown business district	Town of Princess Anne, Princess Anne Chamber of Commerce, DHCD, DNR, MDE, and MDP

Progress Measures: Number of new parking spaces and/or parking lots created	Action Item #1: Develop a list of available properties for new off-street parking and seek grant funding for property acquisition Action Item #2: Seek funding for the design and construction of an attractive off-street parking area that employs landscaping and innovative stormwater BMP's to add to the attractiveness of the lot	
Outcome 5: Improve and increase hiker/biker trails in and around the Town for residents and for eco-tourism opportunities Progress Measures: Miles of trail created and/or improved and number of trail users	<u>Strategy A</u>: Improve and enhance hiker/biker trails in and around the Town to improve connectivity and eco-tourism opportunities Action Item #1: Partner with Somerset County Recreation and Parks to increase, enhance, and promote the Trail Mix Program Action Item #2: Partner with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore to implement a biker/hiker trail connecting Manokin River Park to the University of Maryland Eastern Shore	Town of Princess Anne, Somerset County Recreation & Parks, MDOT, State Highway Administration (SHA), DHCD, and MDP

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
- Somerset Commons and The Reserve at Somerset Commons provides 123 units of affordable workforce housing - There is a diversity of moderately priced housing stock: single-family, duplex, townhomes, and multifamily - Princess Anne's code enforcement cites property owners for property maintenance violations through its Residential Rental Licensing and Inspection Program - Small number of well-maintained historically significant historic properties that create an opportunity for heritage tourism - Enforcement of energy code for new construction and rehabilitation projects	65% rental properties vs homeownership - Historic housing stock requires rehabilitation - Blighted properties - Structures that are not ADA accessible primarily in the Downtown District - Somerset County has the lowest per capita income ($16,471) in the State which makes homeownership difficult, if not impossible - High rental rates given area incomes with 91% of rental rates between $500-$1,499 per month - Lack senior housing options for aging in place opportunities - Housing costs as percent of income are high as 36% of persons with a mortgage spend 30% or more of household income on housing

- Recent construction (2021-2022) of 44 moderately priced (approx. $250,000) new single-family dwellings in Somerset Landing subdivision
- Low housing vacancy rates (21%) and newer housing stock as 85% of the housing stock built after 1970
- Housing is generally affordable with 98% of owner-occupied housing within $50,000-$199,999
- College town adds diversity to the population and allows for some of the large, older homes to be repurposed for student housing units
- New developer, Davis Strategic Development, interested in the rehabilitation of older buildings in the downtown district to first floor commercial and second floor residential – Hawks' Corner completed with a University of Maryland Eastern Shore presence on first floor and apartments on second floor

- and 41% of persons without a mortgage spend 35% or more of household income on housing
- Must monitor conversion of large, older homes for purposes of student housing to maintain historic integrity and proper town aesthetic

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
Outcome 1: Improved appearance of owner-occupied residential properties Progress Measures: Number of homes rehabilitated, blight reduction, and energy conservation measures implemented	Strategy A: Residential housing rehabilitation of owner-occupied aged and blighted housing Action Item #1: Create inventory of owner-occupied residential properties requiring rehabilitation Action Item #2: Work with Somerset County to promote their housing DHCD Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) housing rehabilitation program Action Item #3: Work with Main Street Princess Anne and DHCD's Community Legacy Program to continue to seek funding for Princess Anne's Façade Improvement Program Action Item #4: Work with MHT on rehabilitation options for historic residential properties	Town of Princess Anne, Main Street Princess Anne, Somerset County, DHCD, MHT, Planning, MEA, and private property owners

	Strategy B: Make older, larger homes more efficient and affordable as many of these homes become blighted as they are expensive to maintain Action Item #1: Seek funding for residential energy conservation measures	
Outcome 2: Improved appearance of rental properties Progress Measures: Number of rental properties in compliance, number of rental properties rehabilitated, and reduction in blight	Strategy A: Residential housing rehabilitation of blighted rental housing Strategy #1: Create inventory of rental properties requiring rehabilitation Strategy #2: Implement Town's Rental Licensing and Inspection Program to bring landlord's rental properties into full compliance	Town of Princess Anne, landlords
Outcome 3: Reverse the majority rental housing trend to increased homeownership opportunities Progress Measures: Creation of committee, Number of workshops held. Number of homes purchased.	Strategy A: Form community partnerships to promote opportunities for homeownership Action Item #1: Develop a committee that includes housing stakeholders to research and create strategies and programs for promoting home ownership Action Item #2: Conduct homebuyer workshops to provide homeownership education and counseling to help navigate the home buying process Action Item #3: Work with area developers to create affordable housing stock Strategy B: Encourage the develop of senior restricted housing to meet the demands of Princess Anne's aging population and to provide "aging in place" opportunities	Town of Princess Anne, DHCD, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, housing developers, local realtors, lenders, non-profits, and community groups

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
- Town – Gown partnership; University town; University of Maryland Eastern Shore/HBCU - County seat with regional library and downtown post office - Small town atmosphere with cultural diversity - Several faith-based organizations with at least a dozen religions represented - Close proximity to Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean beach resorts - Farmer's Market - Numerous outdoor recreational opportunities: biking, hiking, birding, boating, golfing, hunting, and fishing - Princess Anne Historical Walking Tour with many historically significant sites such as Teackle Mansion, Princess Anne Police Department, and the Washington Inn and Tavern - Manokin River Park provides picnicking, playground, pavilion, and fishing area - Garland Hayward Park provides after-school programs, two basketball courts, tennis court, playground, and walking trail with fitness stations - Within twenty minutes of Tidal Health Regional Medical Center in Salisbury	- The Town continues to struggle with employment opportunities and the per capita income in Somerset County remains the lowest in the State - Need to provide more alternative transportation opportunities such as bike lanes, sidewalks, trails, transit etc. - Lack of recycling opportunities - Infrastructure upgrades are needed for water, sewer, stormwater, streets, and sidewalks - Need more outdoor seating downtown and in Manokin Park - Need public restroom facilities and water stations

- Town health care options include: OB/GYN, dental, adult medicine, pediatrics, mental health services, kidney dialysis, physical therapy, urgent care, pharmacies, and nursing care for the aged and chronically ill
- Educational opportunities are available at University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Salisbury University, and Wor-Wic Community College
- Numerous Main Street Princess Anne sponsored events such as Streetfest, Christmas Parade, New Year's Eve Muskrat Dive, and Olde Princess Anne Days Christmas Tour
- Municipal trash collection
- Low crime rate as Princess Anne Police Department provides all-encompassing public safety services through enforcement of state and local laws and collaboration with governmental partners to provide a sense of community safety for area residents and businesses
- The Princess Anne Volunteer Fire Company provides 24-hour fire-fighting and emergency medical services throughout the community

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
Outcome 1: Create a safe pedestrian friendly walkable/bikeable community Progress Measures: Linear feet of trails, bike lanes, and sidewalks created	Strategy A: Create new walking, biking, and hiking trails in and around the Town; especially one connecting to the University of Maryland Eastern Shore Action Item #1: Work with State and local government partners to find funding sources to create new trails and bike lanes in and around Princess Anne Action Item #2: Seek funding to design and construct/repair sidewalks, including repairs to the existing historic brick sidewalks	Town of Princess Anne, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Somerset County Recreation & Parks, MDOT, SHA, DNR, DHCD, and MDP
Outcome 2: Provide resident and visitor amenities Progress Measures: Number of new public facilities constructed, and new programs implemented	Strategy A: Create more community amenities Action Item #1: Work with State and local government partners to find funds to construct public restrooms and provide water stations. Action Item #2: Work with State and local government partners to create a local recycling program	Town of Princess Anne, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Somerset County Recreation and Parks, DHCD, and MDP
Outcome 3: Create a business-friendly community	Strategy A: Encourage business location and relocation to Princess Anne	Town of Princess Anne, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Somerset County EDC, Chamber of

Progress Measures: Number of new businesses and jobs created	Action Item #1 Work with the President and Town Commissioners, Somerset County Economic Development, the Chamber of Commerce, and Main Street Princess Anne to incentivize and market the Town to entice businesses	Commerce, Main Street Princess Anne, DHCS, and Commerce
Outcome #4: A well-drained, well-maintained, walkable, drivable, bikeable street system Progress Measures: Linear feet of street resurfaced, linear feet of water and sewer pipes installed, linear feet of storm drainpipe installed, number of catch basins installed, and linear feet of curb and gutter installed	Strategy A: Repair/reconstruct streets to include water and sewer mains, storm drains, and curb and gutter. Action Item #1: Use Highway User Revenues and/or secure grant funding for street design and construction Action Item #2: Use Highway User Revenues and/or secure grant funding to resurface area streets; especially Park Drive in the Princess Anne Industrial Park and replace its cross pipes	Town of Princess Anne, MDOT, State Highway Administration (SHA), MDE, DHCD, and MDP

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
- Recently updated ordinances: Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map (2015), Floodplain Ordinance (2015), and Stormwater Management Ordinance (2015) - Septic Growth Tiers Map adopted (2012) and incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan (2016) - Decreased property taxes in 2015 and 2016 by five cents per hundred dollars of assessed value. - Adhere to Maryland Building Performance Standard - Rental Inspection Program - Nuisance Abatement Program - Reasonable development permit fees - Large number of new single-family residential units (40+ in 2021-2022) - Zoning Code allowance of second floor residences in downtown district - Several buildings in the downtown district have been rehabilitated for new commercial and residential uses - Increase in lots sales and business development in the Princess Anne Industrial Park	- Lack of Town-owned public water and sewer services; no control over municipal growth and annexation - Inconsistent municipal boundary; several existing "donut holes" - Comprehensive Plan will need updated in 2022-2025 - Transient community due to University of Maryland Eastern Shore student population, high number of rental units, and seasonal farm and seafood workers - Limited Town staff - Limited funding available for planning purposes (comprehensive plan and ordinance updates) - Code enforcement for blighted properties - Need for rehabilitation of second floor space in downtown district - Critical Area Ordinance needs updating

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
Outcome 1: Have an updated long-range vision for the Town of Princess Anne Progress Measures: Secured funding for comprehensive plan update, community input, and updated/adopted plan	Strategy A: Update the Town's Comprehensive Plan Action Item #1: Seek grant funding for a comprehensive plan update Action Item #2: Once funding has been secured, prepare an RFP, and hire a consultant to update the plan Action Item #3: Conduct several public input meetings to encourage community investment in, and ownership of, the plan	Town of Princess Anne, MDP DHCD, DNR, and private consultant

Outcome 2: Improve the overall Town visual aesthetic Progress Measures: Reduction in blight, number of properties rehabilitated, and number of properties demolished and redeveloped	Strategy A: Reduce the number of blighted properties Action Item #1: Seek funding for rehabilitation and/or demolition and redevelopment of blighted properties Action Item #2: Enforce the Town's Rental Licensing and Inspection Program Action Item #3: Work with property owners and developers to rehabilitate second-floor space in the downtown district for apartment use	Town of Princess Anne, Somerset County, DHCD, MDP, property owners, and landlords
Outcome 3: Provide adequate municipal services to Town residents, businesses, and developers Progress Measures: Reduction in the number of municipal vacancies, salary increases, incentive programs, and employee retention	Strategy A: Fully staffed Town Hall, Public Works, and Police Department Action Item #1: Work with the President and Town Commissioners to determine competitive salaries to attract and retain professional and skilled workers Action Item #2: Work with the President and Commissioners to develop an incentive program to help retain employees, reduce turnover, and provide opportunities for tenured employees (institutional knowledge)	Town of Princess Anne, Somerset County, EDC, and MDP
Outcome 4: Have updated ordinances to implement the Comprehensive's Plan's long-range vision for the Town of Princess Anne Progress Measures: Secured funding for Zoning and Critical Area Ordinance updates, community input, and updated/adopted ordinances	Strategy A: Update the Town's Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map following the Comprehensive Plan update Action Item #1: Seek grant funding for Zoning Ordinance update Action Item #2: Once funding has been secured, prepare an RFP, and hire a consultant to update the ordinance Action Item #3: Conduct several public input meetings to encourage citizen participation in the development of the ordinance Action Item #4: Work with MDP and the consultant to develop a strategy for eliminating "donut holes" in the municipal boundary Strategy B: Update the Town's Critical Area Ordinance	Town of Princess Anne, MDP DHCD, DNR, and private consultant

| | Action Item #1: Work with DNR and MDP staff to update the Town's Critical Area Ordinance based upon the Critical Area Commission's model municipal ordinance. | |

SIGNATURE LETTER

On behalf of **the Town Commissioners of The Town of Princess Anne**, I hereby approve the application for renewal of the Sustainable Communities designation for the **Town of Princess Anne**. 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