
CHECKLIST & TABLE OF CONTENTS**APPLICANT:** Prince George's County, M-NCPCC - Greater Riverdale**NAME OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY:**

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

- TAB #1 Sustainable Community Applicant Information**
- TAB #2 Sustainable Community Baseline Information and Map: In addition to the baseline narrative, include a hard copy of the proposed Sustainable Communities map in Tab 2.**
- TAB #3 Local Capacity to Implement Plans & Projects and Workgroup Roster: Attach Sustainable Communities Workgroup roster noted in Section III**
- TAB #4 Sustainable Community Plan**
- TAB #5 Progress Measures**
- TAB #6 Local Support Resolution and Letters of Support: In addition to the local support resolution, please include any letters of support that demonstrate partner commitments to the implementation and/or oversight of the Sustainable Community Plan.**
- TAB #7 Signed Sustainable Community Application Disclosure Authorization and Certification**
- TAB #8 CD-ROM: The CD-ROM should include the following contents:**
 - Map in pdf format of the proposed Sustainable Communities area**
 - GIS shapefile of the proposed Sustainable Community boundaries and other GIS related data, eg, spreadsheet of detailed listing of parcels that form the project boundary. If you have additional comments or questions about the GIS mapping requirements, please contact Brad Wolters, Senior GIS Specialist, DHCD, wolters@mdhousing.org**
 - Pictures (jpeg format) of your Sustainable Community as it relates to your application**

**All documents on this checklist are mandatory.
Failure to provide the requested document will automatically deny your application.**

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

Through this section, applicants will demonstrate that trends and conditions in homeownership, property values, employment, commercial and residential vacancy, community facilities and infrastructure, nature, natural resources, the local business and residential districts show a need for new or continued revitalization reinvestment. Demographic data and trends provided by Applicants should support the choice of the proposed Sustainable Community Area boundary and help form a basis for needs and opportunities to be addressed through the initiatives and projects described in the Sustainable Community Action Plan (Section IV)

POINTS IN THIS SECTION WILL BE AWARDED BASED ON THE SC AREA'S NEED FOR REINVESTMENT AS EVIDENCED BY THOROUGH DESCRIPTIONS OF CURRENT CONDITIONS OR TRENDS (and will not be based upon current or planned revitalization activities which will be covered in Section IV).

A. Proposed Sustainable Area(s):

County: Prince George's

Name of Sustainable Community:

Include boundary descriptions and a map of the Sustainable Community. In addition to hard copies of the project location map, a detailed listing of parcels(i.e. Parcel ID Numbers)that form the project boundary should be included. If possible, maps should also be submitted in electronic GIS form (shape file). If you have additional comments or questions, please contact Brad Wolters, Senior GIS Specialist, DHCD,

wolters@MdHousing.org

The proposed Sustainable Community boundary encompasses the Town of Riverdale Park and includes unincorporated areas of Prince George's County. It is comprised of properties east of Kenilworth Avenue (MD 201) to just north of the Bladensburg municipal boundary. It traverses north of Varnum Street to Good Luck Road and south of Good Luck Road from Kenilworth Avenue to Auburn Avenue; west of Auburn Avenue from Good Luck Road to First Street; and west of the Baltimore Washington Parkway from First Street to Bladensburg; and ends at the Beacon Heights Community on the east.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

Approximate number of acres within the SC Area: 2,038 ± acres.

Existing Federal, State, or Local designations(check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Legacy Area | <input type="checkbox"/> Designated Neighborhood |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Main Street | <input type="checkbox"/> Maple Street |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local Historic District | <input type="checkbox"/> National Register Historic District |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A&E District | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Enterprise Zone Special Taxing District |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BRAC | <input type="checkbox"/> State Designated TOD |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other(s) <u>Priority Funding Area</u> | |

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

Prior revitalization Investments & Smart Growth:

(a) List and describe any significant State local smart growth or revitalization related program investments (for instance, Community Legacy or SC Rehab Tax Credit) that have been invested in the Area since the launching of Maryland's Smart Growth initiative and programs in 1997 (including Housing investment). What impact have these investments made in the community?

(Answer space 4,000 characters)

Community Development Block Grants:

In 2013, the Town of Riverdale Park received \$75,000.00 for road and sidewalk improvements on Riverdale Road. The improvements provide better walking and driving conditions for residents and commuters in the area.

In 2013, Riverdale Park received \$150,000.00 for road resurfacing on Riverdale Road. The resurfacing of the road improved driving conditions for commuters and residents in the area.

In 2013, the Town of Riverdale Park received \$100,000.00 for road resurfacing on Jefferson Street. The resurfacing also improved driving conditions for commuters and residents in the area.

Community Legacy Grants:

In 2014, the Town of Riverdale Park received \$150,000.00 for improvements on Queensbury Road. The reconfiguration of Queensbury Road provided additional parking to support the Town Hall expansion as part of the Youth and Community Center.

In 2013, Riverdale Park received \$195,000.00 from the Community Parks and Playgrounds Program to construct a playground at Riverdale Park Community Park. Once constructed, the playground will serve the students at Riverdale Elementary School and the community.

In 2013, Riverdale Park received \$35,000.00 for the Riverdale Park Connector (US Route 1 to Kenilworth Avenue) through the Maryland Bikeways program. The funds will be used for signage and markings for shared bike lanes at designated roads.

The Prince George's County, Department of Parks and Recreation provide comprehensive park and recreation programs, facilities, and services. Parkland acquisition and recreational facility development is programmed through a six year Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The following lists some of the capital improvement projects in the SC area:

Anacostia SVP- Riverdale Road Site - Funds Received: \$400,000.00

This project is located within the Anacostia Stream Valley Park adjacent to the Northeast Branch trail and the Riverdale Elementary School in the Town of Riverdale Park. The project is a joint venture with the Town of Riverdale Park and Prince George's County Public Schools. The Town has received a \$200,000 Community Park and Playground Grant for construction of a playground.

Other work includes a new parking lot and pre-school play area on school property. M-NCPPC funding will provide for a synthetic futsal court, ½ basketball court, sidewalk games, a trail, and other associated improvements. In FY14, \$400,000 of bond funding was transferred to this project from the Public Facility Renovation Fund to provide for park improvements. The improvements will support the recreational needs of the growing number of young children in the area, including 700 students at Riverdale Elementary School.

Anacostia Tributary Trail Signage - Funds Received: \$100,000

Funding will provide for the planning and design of a new wayfinding signage system along the 26+ miles of the Anacostia Tributary Trail System. The plan will include design and specifications of "You are here," directional and identification signage. The plan will include graphics/text and locations for all signs. The signs will be designed and planned for trailheads, trail access points, intersections, and other locations needed for navigation along the trail system. The Maryland Department of Transportation is providing matching funds up to \$50,000 through the Maryland Bikeways Program.

The above mentioned projects and programs have had and will continue to have positive impacts on Sustainable Community area by responding to the changing needs within the communities and through the strengthening of neighborhoods, promoting public safety, and encouraging pedestrian-oriented communities.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

(b) Describe any existing barriers to Smart Growth that may affect your jurisdiction or the proposed SC Area. For instance, does your area have higher development fees than outer "cornfields"?

(Answer space 4,000 characters)

The aging housing stock, poor connectivity and lack of quality retail are issues affecting sustainability in the SC Area. The majority of the residential properties in the SC Area are older detached and semi-detached single-family houses, with some multifamily units built in the late 1940s and mid-1960s.

Connectivity is another critical element for achieving sustainability. There is a need for improved pedestrian access, including connectivity within neighborhoods, and safer and upgraded streetscapes in the SC area. Poor connectivity and limited modes of transportation prevent an ease of travel for all users. There are roads in the SC area without appropriate sidewalks and limited access for pedestrians. The major roads such as East West Highway/Riverdale Road, Baltimore Avenue (US Route 1) and Kenilworth Avenue (MD 201) have high volumes of traffic that are unsafe for pedestrians to navigate.

In terms of retail uses the communities also have older strip shopping centers with limited choices along Kenilworth Avenue (MD 201), Baltimore Avenue (US Route 1) East West Highway/Riverdale Road. Some of the shopping centers have experienced economic distress that may benefit from revitalization efforts.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

B. Community Conditions: Strengths and Weaknesses

(1) Describe the strengths and weaknesses in the proposed Area's existing built environment. For example, what is the condition of housing? Are there underutilized historic buildings and cultural palces? What is the condition and availability of community parks and recreational assets? Are there transportaion assests? What is the current condition of community infrastructure such as roads and lighting?

(Answer space 4,000 characters)

Strengths:

- The majority of the housing stock in the SC area is less expensive than the surrounding areas, which makes the area very attractive for first time home buyers.
- Foreclosures have decreased dramatically during the last year.
- The area is in close proximity to major roadways such as Baltimore Washington Parkway, Annapolis Road (450) and routes 201 and 410, and is centrally located to easily connect to DC in the east and other areas of the county.
- The community is also accessible to public transportation systems including Prince George's County's The Bus and Metro bus lines, the College Park Metro station, and the proposed Purple Line Stations.
- Parks owned by M-NCPPC and municipal open spaces provide area residents with a number of gathering places for recreational activities and social events.
- Proximity to government agencies such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, as well as the University of Maryland College Park will make the area more attractive to potential residents and business owners.
- The Riverdale Historic District includes housing dating from the turn of the century, and it is concentrated around the Riversdale mansion, a National Historic Landmark.
- Due to the proposed Purple Line stations, there is potential for Transit- Oriented Development (TOD) in the future.

Weaknesses:

- The majority of the housing stock in the area includes multi-family units that are aging and need improvement. These properties are also dealing with issues of overcrowding, due to what is expressed as a lack of affordability in the area.
- There are housing issues with the senior population; lack of affordability and lack of choice, and there are no public housing units for seniors in the area.
- Residential neighborhoods suffer from a lack of a diverse housing stock; there is a need for more affordable single family homes for purchase.
- The area does not accommodate pedestrians, as it lacks direct connectivity from the residential areas to the commercial centers within the community; it is a difficult and dangerous environment for pedestrians.
- Although there are several bus routes in the area, many of the bus stops are not sited in convenient locations and the bus routes do not connect well to the metro stations, especially to the University of Maryland College Park.
- The bike and trail options are many, but they lack connections to the major highways and metro stations; they need to be better integrated into the existing transportation system.
- The community is faced with an aging infrastructure; there are issues with flooding and maintenance of the street network.
- Some students have difficulty commuting to school due to transportation issues including insufficient school bus routes and pedestrian infrastructure. The county buses are not considered safe enough for the children to use and crossing the major highways which separate them from their neighborhood schools and their homes is difficult and dangerous

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION**(2) Describe the Area's land use/zoning make-up(residential, commercial, industrial, and mixed-use). Is the current land use or zoning conducive to revitalization investment?**

(Answer space 4,000 characters)

The existing land uses in the SC area primarily consist of single family detached residential (R-55) neighborhoods. There are smaller areas of multi-family medium density (R-18) residential uses scattered throughout the area as well. The commercial uses which consist primarily of shopping centers (C-S-C), offices (C-O) and miscellaneous (C-M) retail uses are located primarily along Kenilworth Avenue (MD 201) and to a lesser extent, along East West Highway (MD 410).

A large employment area is located around the College Park Metro. The county is currently updating zoning in this area to promote more transit-oriented development (TOD) uses at the College Park Metro and proposed Purple Line stations (M Square and Riverdale Park). The majority of this area will now be zoned Mixed Use Infill (M-U-I) and will allow for a mix of residential, office and retail. The Transit District Overlay Zone (TDOZ), which designates land planned for Transit-Oriented Development has been updated as part of this effort and includes a long range concept for a mix of uses. The zoning surrounding the proposed Riverdale Park station includes residential and commercial uses such as Multifamily High- Density (R-10), One-Family Semidetached (R-35), Commercial Shopping Center (C-S-C) and General Commercial (C-2), among others.

An extensive amount of land designated as Reserved Open Space (R-O-S) for recreational uses are located along the Anacostia River Watershed Park on the west side of the SC area. The mix of land uses and zoning in the SC area is quite conducive to revitalization investment, as it has lots of recreation areas, and land reserved for TOD at the proposed Purple Line and METRO stations.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

(3) Describe strengths and weaknesses in basic features of community quality-of-life. For instance, is crime an issue for this SC Area? What is the condition and quality of educational choices available to the community? Are artistic, cultural, or community resources, events or facilities with in or accessible to residents in the proposed SC Area?

(Answer space 4,000 characters)

Strengths:

- The SC area is culturally diverse with 40% of residents born outside of the U.S.
- The crime rate in the area is has been lowered by the East Riverdale/Bladensburg Transforming Neighborhood Initiative (TNI) efforts.
- Templeton Elementary School has participated in Safe Routes to School Program and has improved its sidewalks.
- There is a new middle school planned for the near future; the site is yet to be determined.
- Two community gardens in the area, Parkview Gardens and Sheridan Street Community Garden, provide a social environment for residents and help increase availability of low cost produce.
- The Riverdale Park farmers' market is very well-attended and participates in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC), which provides supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income persons found to be at nutritional risk.
- The NE Branch Anacostia trail is a wonderful amenity for the community. The bike and pedestrian trails are excellent. Schools take students to fish, hike and canoe along the water, using it as an educational and recreational tool.

Weaknesses:

- There are few healthy quality eating establishments in the SC area, and none are accessible by foot.
- 80% of William Wirt Middle School students are on free or reduced lunches.
- Many area sidewalks and streets are in need of repairs and better pedestrian crosswalks for pedestrian safety.
- One of the area's largest and most prominent older shopping centers, Riverdale Plaza is in need of extensive repairs and renovations and is suffering from a high level of vacancies. Some of the day laborers and panhandlers intimidate shoppers in this center as well as the surrounding areas.
- The code enforcement divisions are not as effective as they could be in reducing violations and conditions of blight in the residential and commercial areas.
- The many parks in the community need a stronger police presence to reduce crime and make residents more comfortable using them.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

C. Natural Resources and Environmental Impact: Strengths and Weaknesses

(1) Describe the strengths and weaknesses of the community's "Natural environment" in or near the Sustainable Community Area. What is the current condition of key natural resources - lands, air, water, watersheds, tree canopy, other? If the community is located in a coastal zone, what risks might the community be subject to associated with climate induced sea level rise?

(Answer space 4,000 characters)

Strengths:

- The community's environmental strengths reside in its central location which consists of both the presence of a 100 year flood plain and its proximity to abundant natural resources. These resources include the Northeast Branch Anacostia River to the West, Briers Mill subwatershed tributary and Green Belt National Park to the North.
- Located within the Northeast Branch watershed, the community benefits from several forward looking action plans including the "Northeast Branch Subwatershed Action Plan, 2008" the "Countywide Green Infrastructure Plan, 2005" and the "Anacostia Watershed Restoration Committee (AWRC)."
- The community is served by many neighborhood parks which include Templeton Knolls Park, Varnum Park, Browning's Grove Neighborhood Park, East Pines Recreation Area, Fletchers Field Park, and Bladensburg Community Center Park.
- Additionally, the community has access to the Northeast Branch River which provides walking and bicycle trails. These trails go north to Berwyn Heights ending at Lake Artemesia and are continuing to expand to the South. Just to the north of the area lies the heavily forested National Greenbelt Park which offers hiking and outdoor recreation opportunities all year round.
- The natural environment running throughout the community and along its streets is made up of many mature trees. A largely undeveloped swath of forest runs north to south alongside the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and contributes significantly to the areas mature tree canopy.
- The current tree canopy covers between 36-40 percent, slightly below the threshold of 45 percent, which is commonly associated with higher air quality and stream health in the Mid-Atlantic region.
- There are three streams running east to west that feed the Northeast Branch River and transverse the community. In 2003, the Northwest Branch/Sligo Creek Fish Passage Restoration project was completed restoring the presence of multiple obstructions in the Northwest Branch and Sligo Creek that either previously precluded or greatly restricted movement of both resident and migratory fishes.

Weaknesses:

- The community's current environmental conditions include periodic flash flooding and poor air and water quality. An aging sewer system and a high percentage of impervious surfaces from roads and rapid suburbanization pollute the area's local water systems and further hostile pedestrian situations.
- This excessive amount of pavement greatly contributes to the uncontrolled release of untreated stormwater runoff which in turn causes flash floods, pollution, erosion, and sedimentation, all to the detriment of local ecosystems and wildlife.
- Water quality of major watersheds from 1999-2003 was rated as very poor to poor on the "Countywide Green Infrastructure Functional Master Plan 2005."
- The streams within the SC area are plagued by litter including plastic bags, food wrappers, and Styrofoam. Residents report that commercial, industrial, and high density residential areas are the source of the litter. Trash entering into the Northeast Branch and degrade water quality.
- Streams are inadequately maintained and collect trash along its banks. Trash cans in the area would be helpful paired with environmental education for the community. The SC area suffers from poor air quality due to heavy vehicle traffic and inadequate tree canopy around commercial areas. Although the community overall contains mature trees, tree plantings are recommended to create improve air quality, community aesthetics, and combat the heat island effect.
- The sidewalks and trails are neither lighted nor integrated into the rest of the community's residential areas. Overall trail and sidewalk connectivity, along with park access can be easily improved upon. The current conditions do not encourage or allow safe pedestrian mobility throughout the community.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

(2) Describe the strengths and weaknesses of any current efforts to reduce the community's "carbon foot print" or impact on the environment. Is recycling (commercial or residential) available to minimize waste? Are there current efforts to encourage the purchase and availability of fresh local food and other local products and services to the community? Describe any current energy or water conservation efforts that may be underway. If the community has not implemented one of the above initiatives, has the community identified a need or interest to pursue these or other efforts to reduce environmental impact, for instance through the new Sustainable Maryland Certified initiative?

(Answer space 4000 characters)

Strengths:

- Reductions of the community's carbon footprint exist mainly in its increased focus on pedestrian orientation, current recycling programs, and high density town center developments.
- The Community Forklift, a local non-profit organization operates in the area and provides recycled and salvaged building materials to the community at up to 75% below retail values.
- The community is composed of multi-family housing and higher density developments which reduce the community's carbon footprint in many ways including reducing energy consumption and traffic congestion.
- The farmers market located in the Town of Riverdale Park near the MARC train station increases the supply of fresh, healthy food for area residents. Recently, the farmers market moved into a permanent indoor space to fulfill the community's desire for a gathering place. The market sells local products as well as locally grown, fresh produce.
- The Sheridan Street Community Garden has been identified by the community as a specific example of re-greening the built environment and as a source of community pride and allows local residents to grow their own fresh vegetables.
- Community gardens are expanding in the SC area with more residents supporting the concept and participating in growing fruits, vegetables, and flowers. In addition to the Sheridan Street Community Garden, Templeton Elementary School has transformed their tennis courts into a garden and Parkview Gardens Apartments has an existing community garden.
- The local nonprofit organization S.E.E.D (Sowing Empowerment & Economic Development) provides food, clothing, education, and training while promoting self-sufficiency and empowerment directly to low income families within the community.
- The Riverdale Park Station town center development is under construction. The development will provide retail and office space in a town center format adjacent to the Riverdale MARC station.
- Numerous public transportation options are available and many are experiencing high ridership. Reducing traffic and carbon emissions, the proposed "Purple Line" Metro rail with its two proposed stations located in this community will contribute to reducing carbon emissions by decreasing individual automobile trips.

Weaknesses:

- Current major weaknesses regarding the reduction of the community's footprint include auto dependency, inadequate pedestrian infrastructure, underutilized recycling programs, and suburban oriented development.
- Commercial establishments do not recycle as much as their residential counterparts.
- Impervious surfaces such as driveways and parking lots, particularly in the areas large shopping centers are expanding, contributing to stormwater runoff.
- The SC area has low levels of environmental education, awareness, and sensitivity.
- Continued suburban oriented development contributes to carbon emissions, energy consumption, and decreased walkability.
- Traffic congestion caused by sprawling development and commuting generates air pollution and exacerbates poor pedestrian networks.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

(3) Describe the strengths and weaknesses of the jurisdiction's current stormwater management practices and how these may affect the proposed SC Area. Is redevelopment and retrofitting of infrastructure an issue or opportunity in this SC Area? Stormwater runoff is a significant source of pollution to Maryland's streams and the Chesapeake Bay. Buildings constructed before 1985 have little or no stormwater controls, and development between 1985 and 2010 have some controls. Updated stormwater regulations passed by Maryland's General Assembly in 2010 require that development and redevelopment projects utilize stringent stormwater controls. Sustainable Community Areas may have opportunities for redevelopment practices that can reduce stormwater flows.

(Answer space 4000 characters)

Strengths:

- The strengths of the area’s storm water practices reside in the recently updated stormwater regulations passed by the State Assembly in 2010. The county’s Sub-Watershed Action Plan and Green Infrastructure Plan attempt to address stormwater runoff and establish realistic target goals to reduce pollution in waterways.
- The recent improvements to the Anacostia River levee system will help prevent flooding within the Northeast Branch watershed. These levees were upgraded to meet the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) safety standards.
- Current County’s stormwater management strategies involve the re-establishment of natural drainage through stream bank stabilization through its Clean-up/Greenup Program. Additionally, rain gardens, community gardens, and bio retention areas are beginning to have gained acceptance as a means to reduce stormwater runoff.
- Prince George’s County’s Rain Check Rebate Program promotes solutions to stormwater runoff by providing rebates and financial incentives to residents and businesses that reduce and manage their stormwater runoff. Best management practices include: cisterns, green roofs, pavement removal, rain barrels and rain gardens.

Weaknesses:

- Most of the land within the SC boundary was developed prior to the adoption of current environmental requirements, including recent stormwater management requirements. In the past streams were removed and even filled in to make room for new sprawling developments.
- These practices alongside rapid suburbanization have created an environment in which large quantities of polluted stormwater runoff are carried directly to the Northeast Branch, the Anacostia River and its stream tributaries from roads, parking lots and sprawling housing developments.
- Stream and groundwater quality are rated as “very poor” in the SC area. Currently, the area is covered by nearly 37% impervious materials. A percentage which is a very high compared to the rest of Prince Georges County.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

D. Economic Conditions & Access to Opportunity: Strengths and Weaknesses

(1) Describe the jurisdiction's current economic strengths and weaknesses. For example, are there distinct economic drivers in the area or region that will affect access to job opportunities and the progress of the SC Plan? What are the main barriers to the Area's economic competitiveness? What is the current level of broadband access available to serve residents, businesses and public facilities? What efforts are currently in place to increase worker skills and employment? Describe trends in employment rates and business formation.

(Answer space 4000 characters)

Strengths:

- The proposed Purple Line stations in the SC area are anticipated to provide growth opportunities for existing businesses, catalyze new development, and expand access to employment opportunities.
- The SC area has a strong transportation network with access to the Capital Beltway and the Baltimore Washington Parkway. The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) and The Bus operate transit routes along East-West Hwy and Route 1 that provide connections to Metro and MARC trains.
- Route 1 and Kenilworth Ave are major commercial corridors and commuter routes connecting Prince George's to Washington, DC and surrounding counties. Enterprise Zones are designated along these roadways that provide tax credits for businesses located in the zones in return for job creation and investments.
- The University of Maryland's Research Park, M Square, provides flexible space for science and technology companies including NOAA, the USDA, and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
- The University of Maryland's Center for Educational Partnership (CEP) is a unique university-community partnership that offers academics, parenting support, adult education, and recreational and cultural programs.
- Gapbusters, one of CEP's six organizations, provides workforce development through workshops that teach youth and young adults resume-building, dressing for success, effective interview skills, writing follow-up and thank you letters. It also provides ESOL and GED preparation classes.
- CASA de Maryland is active in the SC area, serving the large Hispanic population. It provides vocational training, technical assistance to start small businesses, financial literacy programs, citizenship preparation, Spanish literacy, computer classes, and ESOL.
- CASA was awarded an EARN Maryland 2014 Implementation Grant for a Purple Line Skills Training Partnership. The grant will provide business management, accounting, bookkeeping, and marketing training to the minority-owned businesses along the proposed Purple Line.
- CASA has also entered into a partnership with Central Kenilworth Avenue Revitalization (CKAR) and was awarded funding from a State Bond Bill in 2014 to jointly address workforce needs of the day laborer population.
- Prince George's Community College established workforce development training programs for the construction and operation of the Purple Line and was selected as a Preferred Training Partner by MTA's Economic Empowerment Program.
- Prince George's Community College has proposed CKAR as its Community based organization to operate an Intake Assessment Center at the University of Maryland Center for Educational Partnerships.
- The Riverdale Business Association focuses on the redevelopment of the Route 1 corridor, Town Center, and businesses on Kenilworth Avenue.

Weaknesses:

- Residents commute outside of the SC area for employment. This is especially problematic for the 16-24 age cohort and those without access to transportation.
- Sidewalk infrastructure outside of Riverdale Park is disjointed and transit services lack amenities. These deficiencies are especially difficult for the 16% of SC households that do not have access to cars.
- East of Route 1, the majority of the SC area is zoned residential except along Kenilworth Avenue which contains Commercial Shopping Center and limited Commercial Office zoning. The main commercial property, Riverdale Plaza Shopping Center is an older strip center containing low-end retail, grocery, drugstore and fast-food restaurants, which is representative of much of the commercial development in the SC area.
- Office space located along Kenilworth Ave and East West Highway commands a relatively low rent averaging \$16-\$24 per sq. ft. compared to \$32-\$36 at M Square. Approximately 69% of the office space in the SC area was built between 1950 -1990.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

(2) Describe the jurisdiction's housing market and access to affordable workforce housing. What are the trends in residential construction (rental and homeownership), homeownership rate, foreclosure rate and, property values. Describe how and whether your jurisdiction's prevailing housing costs-both homeownership and rental - are affordable to households below 120% AMI, 80% AMI, 50% AMI. JWhat efforts are in place currently to house individuals, families and the disabled at or below the AMI levels described above?

(Answer space 4000 characters)

There are 6,658 housing units in the SC area, of which approximately 92% are occupied. Of the 6,110 occupied housing units in the SC area, 52% are owner occupied and 48% are renter occupied. The 2015 estimated median value of owner-occupied homes in the SC area is \$250,430, which is approximately 11% lower than the County median (\$282,164).

Vacancy rates for multi-family rentals are currently very low at 3.4% (2014) indicating a high demand for multi-family rentals. Of the total 6,658 housing units in the SC area 56% are single-family detached, 38% are multifamily, 5% are townhomes, and 1% are duplexes. Nearly one-third (31%) of the housing units were built before 1950 and only 5% after 2000. The majority of the housing was built in the 50s, 60s and 70s with 1959 representing the median year structures were built. Affordable housing is defined by HUD as housing in which the occupants pay no more than 30 percent of their income for gross housing costs, including utilities. In the SC area, multi-family rentals range from \$963 for a one-bedroom apartment to \$1,423 for a three-bedroom apartment. The median home sale price in the SC area is \$208,000; given a 30 year fixed mortgage rate of 5% with a 20% down payment, monthly payments would be approximately \$1,126 (including principal, interest, taxes, and insurance). Thus, a household must earn at least \$45,040 to afford the median home in the SC area.

The median household income of the SC area is \$56,147 which should equate to no more than \$1,404 in monthly housing expenses. Households earning at least 80% of the median household income (\$44,917.60) would likely find affordable housing given a monthly housing allowance of \$1,122.94. However, more than a quarter (28.45%) of the SC households earn less than \$35,000 which equates to a monthly housing allowance of \$875 and thus renting or purchasing housing is considered unaffordable.

Prince George's County in partnership with the State of Maryland created the MMP Triple Play Initiative to help with purchasing a home in Prince George's County by providing down payment assistance, discounted interest rates, and tax credits for eligible households. The County also provides Section 8 vouchers through HUD for rental assistance.

Between November 2013 and September 2014 foreclosures and real estate owned (REO) sales accounted for 34% of single-family home sales and 27% of townhome sales in the SC area. Prior to the recession, foreclosures and REO sales averaged only 3% - 4% of home sales. Median regular sale prices for single-family homes during this period were \$208,000 compared to \$171,750 for REO sales. Median regular townhomes sales were \$125,000 compared to \$155,000 for REO sales.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

(3) Describe the SC Area's demographic trends (with respect to age, race household size, household income, educational attainment, or other relevant factors).

(Answer space 4000 characters)

The 2010 Census reported 21,934 people living in the SC area. Between 2000 and 2010, this area grew 6.61%, slightly less than the County as a whole (7.72%). Whereas in the next decade, the County's growth is projected to remain constant at 4.50% (2010-2015) and 4.49% (2015-2020), the SC area's growth is expected to increase from 3.19% (2010-2015) to 3.70% (2015-2020).

The 2015 estimated racial composition of the SC area is somewhat evenly split between white alone (27%), black or African American alone (28%) and some other race alone (37%). This area reflects a greater racial variation than the County's racial composition of 19% white alone, 63% black or African American alone, and 9% some other race alone. Additionally, a majority (58%) of the SC area identifies themselves as Hispanic or Latino as compared to 17% for the County.

Also different from the County, the SC area contains more men (53%) than women (47%). However, similar to the County the SC area's largest age cohort is between 25-34 years and represents nearly a fifth of the population as compared to only 15% for the County. The SC area has far fewer seniors than countywide, with only 7% reported 65 years or older as compared to 12% for the County. The median age is much younger at 31.6 compared to the County's median age 36.3.

Between 2000 and 2010, the percentage of households decreased in the SC area by 5% although the population grew. This can be attributed to the SC's area high percentages of households with five, six, and seven people living together. Thirty percent of households in the SC area contain 5-persons or more living together compared to only 15% for the County. The average household size in the SC area is 3.68 compared to 2.79 in the County. In the SC area, 20% of the population speaks Spanish at home compared to 12% countywide.

The 2015 estimated median household income for the SC area is \$56,147, which is almost 25% less than the County's median household income of \$73,192. The median household income for Black or African American households is 15% lower (\$47,862) than the household median income for the SC area. The SC area has a larger percentage of its families living below the poverty line (12%) than the County (7%). The SC area has a slightly higher unemployment rate of 9.53% than the County at 7.02%; the Federal Reserve indicates that a normal unemployment rate is between 5%-6%. A third of the occupations reported by residents of the SC area are classified blue collar as compared to 17% countywide.

Building grounds maintenance and construction are the top two occupations of SC residents representing 12.5% and 19% and double the countywide percentages of 5.47% and 6.05 respectively. More than a third (38.7%) of the SC population did not complete high school compared to only 14% for the County. Further, 72% of the Hispanic population in the SC area does not possess a high school diploma.

III. LOCAL CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT PLANS & PROJECTS

A. Organizational Structure:

Describe the Applicant's organizational structure. Specifically, which organizations are members in the Sustainable Communities Workgroup and who are the respective staff? Who are the leaders, and how will the workgroup advisor or staff manage implementation of the SC Area Plan?

(Answer space 4000 characters)

The Prince George's County Planning Department, and its respective staff in the Community Planning Division assisted with preparation of the Sustainable Community Application and Action Plan. The Planning Department has received ongoing support from various stakeholders, including the county's Economic Development Corporation (EDC), Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T), Department of Environment (DOE), Police Department and staff from the County Council, District 3, as part of the workgroup. The workgroup is also comprised of representatives from the Town of Riverdale Park along with business owners, area residents and members of the Central Kenilworth Avenue Revitalization (CKAR) Community Development Corporation all of whom have been influential in the development of the application.

After the SC area receives the designation, the lead organizations will be the County, Town of Riverdale Park, and CKAR with business owners, area residents along with the Planning Department and other county agencies playing a supporting role by assisting with the implementation of the Action Plan. The workgroup will support implementation of the SC Action Plan and the related goals and recommendations of the approved plans for the area. The goals and policies outlined in the approved plans for the area emphasize policies that will strengthen neighborhoods, support economic development along corridors, help to improve workforce development, capitalize on transportation investments, and encourage transit-supporting, mixed-use, pedestrian-oriented neighborhoods. In order to implement the approved area plans and ultimately the SC Action Plan, the workgroup's responsibilities will include:

- Assessing current housing, economic conditions, and transportation issues, and opportunities.
- Assisting with the identification, review, and evaluation of alternative programmatic, legislative, and zoning options.
- Advocating for the needs of the SC area to the Prince George's County Executive, County Council, Municipal appointed and elected officials, the state, and developers.
- Supporting ongoing implementation of the Action Plan.
- Assessing the performance of the Action Plan and recommending periodic revisions.
- Reviewing and coordinating future funding sources.

III. LOCAL CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT PLANS & PROJECTS

B. Organizational Experience:

Describe the Applicant organization's past experience in administering revitalization plans and projects. Describe the roles of the members of the Sustainable Communities Workgroup, including their experience in implementing revitalization initiatives. What are the strengths and challenges of the capacity of these groups with respect to implementation of the SC Plan?

(Answer space 4000 characters)

Listed below are the roles of some of the key workgroup members and their strengths and challenges with respect to implementation of the SC Plan.

Town of Riverdale Park

The Town of Riverdale Park has varied experience in implementing revitalization initiatives. The current Town Administrator has 15 years of experience in grant administration in municipal government, with over \$3 million in grant funds. The Town has successfully completed grants with the Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development's CDBG program, Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources Municipal Participation Program, Chesapeake Bay Trust, and the Maryland Clean Energy Center.

CKAR

The Central Kenilworth Avenue Revitalization (CKAR) Community Development Corporation, Inc. has been engaged in collaborations with key area stakeholders (such as the University of Maryland, Prince George's Community College, CASA de Maryland, private businesses, active non-profits and the religious community) to bring experience, capacity and resources to match CKAR's grass-roots approach to community development and revitalization. CKAR has been involved in a variety of revitalization plans and initiatives including organizing a community-wide planning charrette with the University of Maryland and The Neighborhood Design Center, producing recommends for revitalization efforts for the Kenilworth Avenue Corridor and affected communities. This organization will be invaluable in the implementation of the SC Plan.

Prince George's County Planning Department

The Prince George's County Planning Department of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) is the primary planning and zoning resource for the county. Although it's not an implementing agency the department's Community Planning Division works to manage the county's community planning process. Staff develops plans and studies used to guide future growth and physical development in the county. The department has staff and resources to promote and develop concept plans and budget estimates. In addition, with plan preparation the department utilizes a variety of community outreach techniques to ensure meaningful public participation and engagement. Given the department's community awareness, resources, and experience, it will be an asset in assisting the workgroup with implementing the Action Plan.

Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)

DHCD is comprised of three governmental agencies: the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Housing Authority, and the Redevelopment Authority. DHCD is responsible for the implementation of HUD housing regulations at the local level and implementation/administration of federal grants that revitalize neighborhoods. The Mission of DHCD is to expand access to a broad range of quality housing, and to create safe, well planned, attractive residential communities which enable families to become stable and self-sufficient. DHCD has experience in the development and execution of varied revitalization projects and will be valuable in the implementation of the SC Plan.

III. LOCAL CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT PLANS & PROJECTS

C. Public Input:

How did residents and other stakeholders in the community provide input to Action plan described below in section IV?

(Answer space 4000 characters)

Community meetings, which included residents, community representatives, property owners, businesses, and other stakeholders, were held throughout the development of county plans and planning studies completed for this area including: Port Towns Sector Plan, Bladensburg, New Carrollton and Vicinity Master Plan, and Central Kenilworth Avenue Revitalization Action Plan. These plans and studies were the foundation for the SC Action Plan.

Additionally, in order to obtain funding for Community Development Block Grants and HOME funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, DHCD must complete a series of requirements which include community input for a five year Consolidated Plan and its interim Annual Action Plan. These plans are very similar in nature to the SC Action Plan.

With the assistance of the Town of Riverdale Park, County Council Staff, and the Prince George's Planning Department, area residents will be involved in the Action Plan. Furthermore, the implementation objectives of the Action Plan have originated from the approved area plans which heavily incorporated community input. The Action Plan reflects several years of work and scores of stakeholder input.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

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, increased prosperity for local households and improved 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 in the SC Plan should improve the livability of community places -- residential, commercial, or other public or private properties - and create new work, retail, recreational and housing opportunities for residents. These projects should also reduce the environmental impact of the community through water and energy resource conservation and management strategies. In this way, the Plan can be a road map for local stakeholders as well as State agencies to work together to create a more a sustainable and livable community.

A.Supporting existing communities & reducing environmental Impacts.

(1) A community’s approach to Smart Growth generally includes two inter-related areas of focus: encouraging reinvestment and growth in existing communities; and, discouraging growth that degrades natural resources, and farms and rural landscapes. Broadly describe your jurisdiction’s Smart Growth approach and any significant accomplishments made over the last decade or so.

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The community’s approach to smart growth includes past and future projects that contribute to their economic, environmental and social sustainability goals. The Greater Riverdale area, while it faces many challenges has currently planned and completed numerous projects that benefit the community and its citizens.

With the exception of the Purple Line, the largest project in the area is the new town center “Riverdale Park Station.” The site is located on Baltimore Avenue (Route 1) between East-West Highway and Albion Road. Currently under construction, the new town center symbolizes a new way of thinking that includes denser mixed use buildings, multi-family housing options, and a renewed focus on walkability, leisure, and improving the lifestyles of its citizens. The town center will include several formally designed public parks, squares, and pedestrian promenades, all of them reflecting Riverdale Parks’ commitment to improving its sense of community through the use of public space and alternative transportation.

The Riverdale Park Station town center in conjunction with the proposed Purple Line will introduce a new type of development for the area. The Purple Line is anticipated to be a major catalyst for public and private development in Riverdale Park and will represent smart growth development for the area. Other noteworthy projects in the SC area include three public investments for the construction of parks that will generate public space and have a significant impact on the community. Infrastructure spending though badly needed is indeed underway. Listed below are several examples.

- One current capital project that promotes public health, environmental stewardship and childhood development through sports education and green public space is the Anacostia SVP-Riverdale Road Site. This \$400,000 joint venture investment with the Town of Riverdale Park and Prince George’s County Public Schools, includes a new community park and playground for the children of Riverdale Park.
- Another M-NCPPC capital improvement project is Fletchers Field Community Park located on Kenilworth Avenue. This investment will update recreational facilities and address erosion and drainage problems. New basketball, baseball, and football areas are all included in the renovation.
- The Anacostia Tributary Trail Sign Project provides \$100,000 through the Maryland Bikeways Program to improve walking and biking trails in the SC area. The project will include trail signage that provides navigation and historical information along the trail.
- The Riverdale Historic Site involves the restoration of a historic structure for the public to use for various social functions. This \$4,581,000 public-private investment will reflect the communities pride and desire to preserve its own unique history.
- Past smaller scale projects include;
 - oThe addition of 116 pedestrian oriented street lights to improve public safety at a cost of \$107,677
 - oNew sidewalks at 67th Place in Beacon Heights improved walkability and connectivity.
 - oTraffic calming measures in general, in particular between 62nd and 64th Place.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(2) Describe any major investments in community infrastructure -water, stormwater, sewer, sidewalk, lighting, etc. -- that must be undertaken in order to improve the readiness or competitiveness of the proposed SC Area for private investment and compliance (if applicable) with TMDL regulations. Addressing the stormwater during redevelopment can reduce the pollution entering our streams and contribution to the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay. Investments in infrastructure, generally, can be an important catalyst for new private investment in the community.

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

State, County, and local agencies are working together to address deficiencies in infrastructure including sidewalk connectivity, stormwater management, green infrastructure, and street lighting. Despite these efforts, community gathering places, social capital, and thriving public spaces continue to be a challenge. The construction of the Purple Line not only provides new transportation infrastructure but also is a stimulus for private investments including shops and community services.

Actions:

- Focus major infrastructure investment towards repairing roads, creating walkability, and new environmentally sensitive streetscaping.
- Overhaul the existing stormwater system, including the installation of new storm drain lines.
- Reduce poor drainage areas that are prone to flooding. These areas include the intersection of Eastpine Drive and East-West Highway and Valerie and Wiley Streets between the 5300-5400 blocks.
- Create a more walkable environment to include; infill development, streetscaping of a strategic pedestrian corridor, traffic calming, sidewalk connectivity, and street lighting.
- Improve pedestrian and bicycle connectivity through the integration of a new streetscaping project at Riverdale Road and East-West Highway; and Kenilworth Avenue and East-West Highway.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(3) Describe policies, initiatives or projects that the community will undertake or expand in order to reduce the SC Area's impact on the environment. Examples include but are not limited to: conservation or management of stormwater through retrofitting of streets and by-ways (Green Streets, rain gardens, etc.); retrofitting of facilities and homes for energy conservation; implementation of "green" building codes and mixed-use zoning; recycling of waste; clean-ups of watersheds; and, encouragement of "Buy Local" approaches that benefit local suppliers and food producers. A comprehensive menu of such actions may be found through the nonprofit Sustainable Maryland Certified initiative.

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The community benefits from several environmental plans including the Northeast Branch Subwatershed Action Plan (2008), the Countywide Green Infrastructure Plan (2005), and the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Committee (AWRC). The community's water and energy conservation efforts are strengthened by the Northeast Branch Subwatershed Action Plan, and the Countywide Green Infrastructure Plan. Both of which identify the Anacostia River and its Northeast Branch as priority areas for restoration and conservation. In 2002, the restoration of a 3/4 mile-long section along the Northwest Branch of the Anacostia south of Randolph Road was completed. It included restoring stream meanders, flow depths, deep pool habitat, and the restoration of access to floodplain areas within the overly widened channel.

There is currently a farmers market which operates in the town's historic center. This established outdoor market has been a success in an otherwise vacant center. This market provides a consumer market for farmers and local businesses, provides residents with health food options, and promotes community and social interaction. The farmers market will move indoors into a permanent building in Riverdale Park in January 2015. This move aims to create a dynamic community gathering place that will replace a vacant building in the town center.. This market may reduce the need for multiple vehicle trips by providing multiple services in a centralized location.

Actions:

- Increase community building activities that promote environmentalism. The rain garden currently under construction at Edmonston Road and Kenilworth Avenue will serve as a good example.
- Augment the urban tree canopy especially along roadways and open stream buffer areas.
- Build upon on the community efforts to clean up streams and reduce littering.
- Expand on the popularity of the "Community Forklift Organization." Their mission is to provide reused and salvaged building materials to the community at up to 75% below retail values.
- Build on past success's gathering the community to create rain gardens and build social capital.
- Build on the MUTC efforts to create higher-density mixed-use developments.
- Encourage the use of green building techniques and principles as designated by the U.S. Green Building Council.
- Identify areas for new public open spaces that include playgrounds and recreational facilities.
- Work with the County towards the requirement of new driveway construction or driveway alterations to include grass strips for greater stormwater absorption.
- Advocate for the requirement and enforcement of low density development next to streambeds and watersheds.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(4) Which community groups or stakeholders will be key to the implementation of the initiatives and projects noted in this section?

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) and Department of Environment (DOE) will play a significant role for the public sector. The Central Kenilworth Avenue Revitalization Community Development Corporation (CKAR) Community Development Corporation will also play a pivotal role in shaping and implementation of future plans from the private sector. In addition, the Town of Riverdale Park will be instrumental in providing coordination and facilitation.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

B. Valuing communities and neighborhoods -- building up on assets and building in amenities:

(1) What are the key assets that exist in the community upon which the Plan's projects and initiatives will build? Assets may include physical assets such as parks and historic structures and also civic and economic assets such as employers, educational institutions, and cultural organizations and activities.

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Location and Proximity to Employers:

The SC area is located in the north central area of Prince George's County and is in close proximity to Washington, D.C. Just to the north of the area is the University of Maryland College Park, a world-renowned research institution. Within the boundaries of the sustainable area are major economic drivers and employers such as M Square Research Park, a center for technology and research; NOAA Center for Weather and Climate Prediction; and The FDA Office of Foods and Veterinary Medicine and Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition. In addition, the main M-NCPPC Executive Office Building for Prince George's County and Parks and Recreation Administration Building and the American Physics building area located within the area. These and other various technology related companies and start-ups are strong sources of employment for the area.

The Sustainable Community area is connected to major roads within the county, state and region. These roads include Baltimore Avenue (US-1), East West Highway (MD 410); Baltimore Washington Parkway (MD 295); and Kenilworth Avenue, (MD 201). This extensive network of roads offers residents easy access to major employment areas within the Maryland, Washington D.C. and Virginia metro areas.

Open Space & Recreation:

The sustainable community area has a number of open space and recreation assets operated by M-NCPPC. The facilities contain nature trails, picnic shelters, playgrounds, basketball courts and other amenities. The Anacostia Stream Valley Park bisects the area, running north to south. The park is one of the largest natural trails in the county, and consists of many undeveloped acres of waterfront parkland with biking, jogging and hiking trails, boat rentals and fishing options. Fletcher Fields Park contains a tennis court, a basketball court and soccer field. Riverdale Park and Riverside Drive Park have playgrounds, a baseball diamond, soccer fields and picnic areas. The Herbert Wells Ice Skating Center is another amenity in the area, offering ice hockey, ice-skating, and swimming.

Public Transportation:

The Sustainable Community Area is well served by several regional and local transit services such as The Bus, Metro bus, and Metro rail. The College Park Metro Station, which is very near to the area, is an important asset that connects with MARC rail transit, and is much used by the community. The planned Metro Purple Line Stations in the area will include M Square, Riverdale Park and just outside the area, Beacon Heights. The Purple Line will be an important east west connector, integrating Prince George's County with the rest of the metropolitan Washington area.

Cultural Amenities:

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission owns and maintains two historically significant properties within the sustainable community; the Cherry Hill Cemetery Historic Site and the National Landmark Riversdale House Museum. Cherry Hill Cemetery is an African American family burial ground established in 1884. It is the only intact African-American family cemetery in the Bladensburg-Riverdale area. Riversdale, a Federal era plantation house, uses archaeology, archival records, and oral histories to provide visitors with an understanding of the 19th century gentry-class woman and enslaved African Americans. The volunteers at the Riversdale Historical Society work with M-NCPPC staff to preserve the cultural heritage of Riversdale House and maintain the mansion as a cultural amenity for the community.

The SC area has two National Register Historic Districts: Riverdale Park and West Riverdale. Riverdale Park and West Riverdale is approximately one square mile of housing dating from the turn of the century. Planned and built by a developer, they are gridded areas of single family homes in the Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, Craftsman, and Tudor Revival styles, and are unique neighborhoods of historic interest and significance.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(2) What policies, initiatives or projects will reuse or enhance the historical assets, traditional business districts/Main Streets and cultural resources of the community? What actions will reinforce your community’s authentic “sense of place” and historic character?

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

- To preserve and enhance the existing historic property and districts there are many tax incentives and grants at the county, state and federal levels that the SC area can utilize. Tax incentives will provide financial benefits to owners of buildings regulated by preservation laws and encourage their rehabilitation and improve the quality of the neighborhood and enhance the sense of place.
- Focusing on the establishment of high-quality shopping and dining establishments in the Sustainable Community area will help attract younger people with more diverse income demographics and provide better food choices for residents.
- Provide better quality multi-family housing for people who want to work in the area, and better rental choices will encourage people to work at M Square businesses, and other employment start-ups that are in the area.
- The Cafritz Development at Riverdale Park Station is a mixed-use development project that will be located on Route 1 between East West Highway and Albion Road. The 38 acre development will include the first Whole Foods in Prince George’s County and upscale multi-family housing in an urban setting. The project will contain 1,000 units of multi-family and single family residences and is estimated to bring 3,000 new residents to the area. This new development will be designed in a traditional business district or town center format and will be a seed that attracts more upscale retail businesses to the SC area.
- The two Purple Line Stations planned in the SC area are going to be excellent opportunities to plan future development as TODs, because of the people and activity they will bring to the areas.
- Kenilworth Avenue and East West Highway corridors consist of many strip commercial shopping centers fronted by large parking lots, which make the commercial corridor appear disjointed and unappealing. Promoting commercial façade upgrades and improved landscaping will improve the value of the shopping areas and attract shoppers.
- The potential development of a business improvement district (BID) may attract new businesses and help create a main street for the SC area.
- The SC Area should participate in a sustained branding effort that stems from strategies identified in the Prince George’s County Economic Drivers and Catalysts Study which could help promote the area. Combined with signage, it could create a sense of place that would give identity to the area.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(3) Describe policies, initiatives or projects that will increase community access to green spaces, parks and other amenities? A community can gain social and physical benefits from access to a healthy natural environment. The inclusion of complete streets, trails, green space, parks and trees contribute to the character and health of a community. Examples might include improvements to the tree canopy by planting street trees, improving local neighborhood streams, or reusing a vacant lot for a new community park or playground.

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

- A key recommendation of the M-NCPPC’s Formula 2040 plan for parks and recreation is to provide multigenerational community centers to provide an array of programs to serve the recreational needs of an entire family. These regional recreation centers will be supplemented by the existing system of community centers.
- Connect the bike trails to existing roads so they can be used by commuters as well as for recreation. Provide more bike routes that connect to existing parks including the Anacostia Stream Valley Park and the community gardens.
- Connect the neighborhoods with the schools that service them by improving the cross-ability of the highways by children, by upgrading the cross-walks and lights.
- Organize community groups to participate in tree plantings and community clean-ups to provide a sense of neighborhood pride and increase public involvement.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(4) Which community groups or stakeholders will be key to the implementation of the initiatives and projects noted in this section?

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

At the local level, important stakeholders would include the Town of Riverdale Park, CKAR, local businesses, property owners, non-profits, schools and churches, as well as participation from the civic associations in the area will be important to implementing some of the strategies targeted in this plan.

From the County, staff from the County Council Districts 3 and 5, agencies such as the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Environment Resources (DER), Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T), the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation, Redevelopment Authority, Department of Environmental Resources, and Department of Public Works and Transportation, Prince George's County Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement, and Prince George's County Health Department are important stakeholders that could provide assistance with implementing initiatives and projects in this proposed Sustainable Community area.

The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development and the Maryland Department of Planning are ideal stakeholders from the state level to partner with on issues related to housing, community development and planning issues. In addition, the State Highway Administration will be an important partner to engage to implement some of the initiatives and projects outlined in the action plan.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

C. Enhancing economic competitiveness:

(1) What economic development policies, initiatives or projects will improve the economy through investments in small businesses and other key employment sectors? What economic development and business incentives will you build upon or implement as part of the SC Plan? Examples could include but are not limited to: green-taping for expedited project application review; permitting and inspection; job training; business tax credits; and, revolving loan funds.

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

There are several major projects that will have an economic impact on the SC area. The future Purple Line represents enormous economic development opportunities for the SC area. The project is community supported as evidenced by the Purple Line Compact developed by Prince George’s County, the Town of Riverdale Park, and the Central Kenilworth Avenue Revitalization Community Development Corporation. Local economic planning for the Purple Line is well underway with the Prince George’s County Economic Development Corporation’s (EDC) Small Business Services (SBS), the Purple Line Team, and the Central Kenilworth Avenue Revitalization Community Development Corporation meeting with local businesses along the proposed Purple Line route to discuss future development opportunities.

Another key economic project is the MGM Casino National Harbor Project, slated to open summer 2016 and is expected to generate thousands of construction jobs and more than 4,000 permanent jobs. A Community Benefits Agreement has been established to source fifty percent of the jobs slated for the \$925 million MGM National Harbor Resort and Casino to local residents. The agreement has provisions for a percentage of contracts are awarded to area minority-owned businesses during the construction phase of the development.

A third economic driver for the SC area is the Riverdale Park Station mixed used project. It is expected to create 1,921 full-time jobs during the construction period and 463 full time jobs in retail and food services post construction. These three projects represent significant economic and employment opportunities for residents of the SC area given that a third of residents reported being employed in blue-collar jobs such as construction and build grounds maintenance.

There are many programs designed to help improve the economy of the SC area. First, the State of Maryland provides tax credits for businesses that create new jobs or hire employees through its Enterprise Zone Tax Credit program. The SC area contains designated Enterprise Zones along Kenilworth Avenue and Route 1. Another program is the EDC’s Economic Development Incentive Fund (EDIF) that has allocated \$50 million to support small and local businesses, job retention and attraction, transit-oriented development, and growth of key industry sectors.

A program particularly useful to the SC area given the area’s many small businesses is the EDC’s Small Business Services (SBS), which provides financing to small and minority businesses through eight distinct loan programs. SBS provides capital to businesses, contract opportunities, assistance with proposal writing and the bidding process, management consulting, outreach and marketing, technical assistance, joint ventures and alliances coordination, and entrepreneurial training. Additionally, the Town of Riverdale Park has established a façade improvement and sign improvement fund for businesses.

Actions:

- Meet regularly with business owners to continue to plan for economic growth opportunities brought by the Purple Line.
- Work with the EDC to advertise the job opportunities associated with the construction of the MGM casino and the Riverdale Park Station project.
- Meet with the owner of Riverdale Plaza to discuss potential revitalization/redevelopment plan
- Work with M-NCPPC and EDC to identify all properties within Enterprise Zones and research opportunities to incentivize redevelopment and revitalization.
- Work with the EDC to understand the various incentives available to support existing business and attract new business via approaches such as EDIF, tax credits, and SBS to address small business needs.
- Meet with the Town of Riverdale Park to determine if the town’s façade and sign improvement fund could be replicated to other areas
- Research branding and marketing strategies for the Kenilworth commercial corridor.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(2) What workforce development policies, initiatives or projects will increase access to jobs and economic opportunity for residents in the SC Area? Do you have a goal for job creation? Are green jobs an opportunity in the jurisdiction or SC Area?

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Prince George's Community College (PGCC) created a workforce development training program for construction jobs in anticipation of the Purple Line and the Central Kenilworth Avenue Revitalization Community Development Corporation (CKAR) established an intake and assessment center at the University of Maryland's Center for Educational Partnership (CEP) building. The CEP is a unique university-community partnership that offers academics, parenting support, adult education, and recreational and cultural programs for the greater Riverdale community and is centrally located in the SC area at the former Riverdale Hills Elementary School on Sheridan Street. One of CEP's partner organizations, Gapbusters, provides workforce development programs that teach youth and young adults resume-building, dressing for success, effective interview skills, writing follow-up and thank you letters. It also provides ESOL and GED preparation classes.

Another community partner, CASA de Maryland is active in the SC area given the large Hispanic population; CASA serves residents from Greater Riverdale at its Langley park location. It provides vocational training, technical assistance to start small businesses, financial literacy programs, citizenship preparation, Spanish literacy, computer classes, and ESOL. It was awarded the EARN Maryland 2014 Implementation Grant for a Purple Line Skills Training Partnership. The grant will provide business management, accounting, bookkeeping, and marketing training to the minority-owned businesses along the proposed Purple Line.

The County's Youth Career Connect Program provides career skills development in the fields of IT and Healthcare to high school students. The program is targeted to Bladensburg High School, which is just outside of the SC boundary but should be utilized as a resource for youth in the SC area. The Youth@Work Job Readiness Program provides youth ages 15-19 with access to job training, opportunity, resume development and career exploration. Many are placed in employment with Prince George's County government and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

The community indicated that youth and young adults need better employment opportunities rather than low paying service industry jobs. The County's Economic Development Corporation's Workforce Services Division (WSD) connects job seekers with employment and provides recruitment, training, and workforce development services to employers located in Prince George's County. WSD and PGCC have teamed up to provide training in the following areas: construction and energy; hospitality and tourism; human and social services; and transportation and distribution. Job seekers and employers access these services through Prince George's One-Stop Centers located in Largo and Laurel, MD.

Actions:

- Confirm collaboration between the various Purple Line workforce training programs.
- Advertise Purple Line Workforce Training Programs especially to the Spanish speaking population
- Advertise youth training programs including Gapbusters new bike repair program, the Youth@Work Summer Youth Enrichment Program Job Readiness Program, and the Youth Career Connect Program.
- Work with the EDC to connect local workers with contractors associated with the construction of the MGM casino and Riversdale Park Station.
- Examine the feasibility and coordinate shuttle service for workers to the MGM Casino and other Riverdale Park Station job sites.
- Explore the opportunity to construct a multipurpose center in the SC area that would double as a community center and a workforce placement and training center.
- Promote the CFCC's and WSD's training programs: construction and energy; hospitality and tourism; human and social services; and transportation and distribution training programs.
- Explore the opportunity to coordinate transportation to Prince George's One-Stop Centers in Largo and Laurel.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(3) Describe whether the Sustainable Community will be impacted by the Base Re-alignment and Closure (BRAC) activities in Maryland. If impacted, how do the initiatives and projects in your Plan complement BRAC-related growth? (If not applicable, all ten points will be assessed based on answers to questions 1, 2, and 4)

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

This question does not apply to the Sustainable Community Area.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(4) Which community groups or stakeholders will be key to the implementation of the initiatives and projects noted in this section?

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The collaboration of the County's Small Business Services (SBS), the Maryland Transit Administration's Purple Line Project Team, and the Central Kenilworth Avenue Revitalization Community Development Corporation (CKAR) provide a solid foundation for continued economic development discussions anticipated by the construction of the Purple Line. More local businesses could be included in the Purple Line discussions through outreach by the Riverdale Business Association. Also involved in preparing small businesses for economic development, is CASA de Maryland, who was awarded the EARN Maryland 2014 Implementation Grant for a Purple Line Skills Training Partnership. The grant will provide business management, accounting, bookkeeping, and marketing training to the minority-owned businesses along the proposed Purple Line.

A specific component of economic development activities are the workforce training programs associated with the Purple Line. Prince George's Community College, the County's Workforce Services Division (WSD), the Maryland Transit Authority, the Central Kenilworth Avenue Revitalization Community Development Corporation (CKAR), and the University of Maryland's Center for Educational Partnership (CEP) represent a strong network for the development and promotion of workforce training programs. Each of the before mentioned organizations provides an important service ranging from education and training to community outreach and together create a successful model that will train workers for jobs that are in demand. To address the specific needs of the youth in the SC community, the programs associated with Prince George's County, Prince George's County Public Schools, and Gapbusters, Inc. will provide workforce training and employment opportunities.

Additionally, the eventual signatories of the Purple Line compact including the County, the Town of Riverdale Park, and CKAR will support economic development activities and workforce training associated with the Purple Line. The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission will continue to be actively involved in implementing the action plan.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

D. Promoting access to quality affordable housing.

(1) What housing policies, initiatives or projects will expand housing choices - rental and homeownership -- for people of a range of ages, incomes, and also for disabled individuals? How will these actions address the current housing conditions and needs noted in Section II?

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

As indicated in Section II, there are a higher percentage of residents renting housing in the SC area compared to the county. Approximately 48% of the housing in the SC area is renter occupied compared to 37% countywide. There are two housing programs targeted specifically for the SC area to assist residents seeking home ownership. The Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) in partnership with the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development created the Maryland Mortgage Program (MMP) Triple Play Initiative to help with the purchase of a home in Prince George's County in areas with high foreclosure rates. In Prince George's County, fourteen zip codes have been identified with high foreclosure rates, including the SC area (20737). The program provides down payment assistance and closing costs, discounted interest rates, and tax credits for eligible households.

Also, DHCD offers the MY HOME Program II which provides down payment and closing cost assistance when purchasing a property in an eligible zip code in the county. The SC area (zip code 20737) has been identified an eligible area and allows first time homebuyers to purchase a vacant, foreclosed property, untenanted short sale property, a resale, or new property. For residents requiring rental assistance, the Housing Authority of Prince George's County offers several programs including the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program (Section 8) and the Rental Allowance Program (RAP) for low-income residents and households. The HCV program also provides supportive services such as education and job training.

The SC areas aging housing stock was also identified as an issue in Section II of this document. Nearly one-third of the housing units were built before 1950 and only 5% after 2000. The majority of the housing was built in the 50s, 60s and 70s with 1959 representing the median year structures were built. The community has indicated that some housing in the SC area is dilapidated, not well maintained, or not equipped for aging in place. In response to this, the SC area should consider the Housing Rehabilitation Assistance Program (HRAP) which provides funds to repair health and safety hazards in the homes of low-and moderate-income homeowners in Prince George's County. Also, the Town of Riverdale Park offers town residents a grant program for residential chain link fence removal; similar programs should be explored and considered for the SC area. Additionally, Habitat for Humanity is actively looking for housing rehabilitation projects in the SC area.

Actions:

- Promote the Triple Play Program, My Home II Program for assistance with home ownership and the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program (Section 8) and the Rental Allowance Program (RAP) for assistance with rental housing. All programs need to be more widely advertised to residents of the SC area including Spanish speaking residents.
- Promote the Housing Rehabilitation Assistance Program (HRAP) to repair health and safety hazards in the homes of low-and moderate-income homeowners.
- Explore the possibility of replicating the Redevelopment Authority's façade improvement grant program (similar to Suitland and District Heights residents) or the Town of Riverdale Park's residential chain link fence removal grant program.
- Work with Habitat for Humanity to identify housing rehabilitation projects in the SC area.
- Work with nonprofit organizations in the area including the Central Kenilworth Avenue Revitalization CDC, CASA de Maryland, Gapbusters, and the University of Maryland's Center for Educational Partnership to assist residents with housing issues given their coinciding missions and presence in the community.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(2) Will these housing initiatives or projects increase access to transit or community walkability and/or decrease transportation costs? In other words, will the housing investments result in more people living near work or town centers, or able to more conveniently reach work, school, shopping and/or recreation?

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

There are two significant housing projects proposed in the SC area that will increase access to transit and community walkability. One is a mixed-use town center currently under construction along Route 1 north of East West Highway. The mixed-use project is known as the Riverdale Park Station development and will be anchored by a Whole Foods grocery store and will contain 875 apartments, 100 townhomes, 120-room hotel, 168,000 square feet of retail space, and offices located above retail. Whole Foods should be an asset and a strong community partner for the SC area. It holds community giving days several times a year giving back 5% of the day's net sales to local nonprofit or educational organizations. Also, it donates food to area food banks and shelters. A grocery store with access to fresh, healthy foods is much needed in Prince George's County as the county is underserved by both grocery stores and full service restaurants.

The development will build a north-south hiker/biker trail that will connect the development to the surrounding areas. Sidewalks will be installed throughout the 35-acre property including along Route 1, a heavily traveled corridor. A traffic signal will be constructed at the main entrance (Van Buren Street and Route 1) and will include pedestrian crosswalks, handicap ramps, and countdown signal heads. A pedestrian and vehicular bridge will be constructed over the CSX railroad tracks through a public-private partnership and will provide an east-west connection. The project has also developed a transportation demand management plan which includes transit and alternative transportation information to each tenant, employee, and resident; on-site transportation amenities including taxi stands, bus shelters, bike racks, and bike lockers; and commuter incentives such as shuttle service, rideshare, carpool, and vanpool programs, and transit subsidies. The project is served by several transit systems including MARC Rail, Metro's Green Line and future Purple Line, and WMATA buses. The development is also expected to be certified LEED Neighborhood Design (LEED-ND).

The other significant project is the construction of the Purple Line in the SC area. The Purple Line has already begun to spur the new development of housing, commercial services, and offices along the transit route. Transit-oriented development provides opportunities to live, shop, and work in close proximity to each other, sometimes without the need for car ownership. At the M Square station, two million square feet of office have been proposed. As discussed previously, 875 apartments, 100 townhomes, 120-room hotel, 168,000 square feet of retail space, and offices located above retail have been approved near the Riverdale Park station. Also near the Riverdale Park station, the Refreshing Springs Church located at 6200 Kenilworth Avenue is proposed for redevelopment into housing and mixed use development. Near the Beacon Heights station, the New Carrollton Woods Apartments (Advantage Properties), located at 6285 Fernwood Terrace is scheduled for redevelopment into newer multifamily residential units.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(3) What is your goal for of number of units to be created of affordable workforce housin, rental and homeownership? What populations (by income or special needs) will benefit from this increased access to affordable housing?

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Currently, the Prince George’s County Department of Housing and Community Development is updating the County’s 5-year Consolidated Plan for Housing which will address the housing needs countywide. The 2011-2015 Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development identified Riverdale Park and East Riverdale (part of the SC area) among 16 targeted communities countywide for Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Areas (NRSAs). The plan found that more than half of East Riverdale (54%) and Riverdale Park’s (56%) residents are low-to moderate income individuals as defined by HUD and may have difficulty affording housing.

To address the housing needs of the 5,540 low and moderate income households countywide; homeless individuals and families; persons at risk of becoming homeless; and non-homeless persons with special needs, the plan set the following five-year goal for housing countywide:

- oIncrease the availability/accessibility of decent housing by 3,133 units for homeless persons to obtain permanent housing, persons at risk of becoming homeless and persons with special needs to obtain affordable housing.

- oIncrease affordable housing options for low and moderate-income households by 1,925 units.

- oIncrease the affordable housing stock by 392 units.

While no specific goals for affordable workforce housing, rental, and homeownership units have been identified for the SC area (at the Census tract, block group, or block level) housing data shows that there is a higher rate of renter occupied housing in the proposed SC area (48%) than compared to countywide (37%). Also, data shows that the SC area has experienced a high rate of foreclosures and is listed among fourteen zip codes for highest foreclosure rates in Prince George’s County. Combined, these elements represent an opportunity to bring the percentage of renter occupied households more in line with the county average by marketing foreclosed properties to residents seeking homeownership through county and state programs and assistance. Thus a goal for the SC community is to increase homeownership rate, closer to the countywide average.

Housing data also shows that the majority of the housing type in the SC area and countywide is single-family housing built circa 1959 or earlier. The Prince George’s County 2035 General Plan indicates that future County residents will demand more multi-family housing (61%) compared to single-family (39%). Further, SC community members have indicated that the area lacks new, modern housing options to support such new developments as the Purple Line. Thus a goal for the SC community is to build additional new, multifamily housing at various price points to meet future demand. Finally, while the existing housing stock is older and in some instances in need of repairs but older housing stock also provides opportunities for affordability. A goal for the SC community should be to identify aging housing stock that is in need of repairs and work with home owners to utilize county and state rehabilitation and weatherization funds.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(4) Which community groups or stakeholders will be key to the implementation of the initiatives and projects ntloed in this section?

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The bulk of home ownership and rental assistance programs will fall under the purview of the Housing Authority of Prince George’s County, Prince George’s County Department of Housing and Community Development, and the Redevelopment Authority of Prince George’s County. As outlined in section D. (1), these agencies administer many home ownership and rental assistance programs for County residents. Nonprofits, community groups, and churches as well as CASA de Maryland, Central Kenilworth Avenue Revitalization Community Development Corporation, Gapbusters, Inc., and the University of Maryland’s Center for Educational Partnership (CEP) will be key partners in spreading the word to the community about the availability of these housing programs and connecting residents with housing programs and services.

Both Prince George’s County and the Town of Riverdale Park will be instrumental in addressing the existing housing issues ranging from weatherization to chain link fence removal. Nonprofit organization, Habitat for Humanity is actively looking for a housing rehabilitation projects in the SC area; the Maryland-National Park and Planning Commission has met with Habitat and is interested in working with Habitat and Prince George’s County to identify eligible sites.

New housing developments generated in the SC area will likely involve Cafritz Development, the Maryland Transit Administration’s Purple Line Project Team, Whole Foods, Prince George’s County, the Town of Riverdale Park, and the Riverdale Business Association. Specifically, the development of the Purple Line will generate a greater demand for newer, modern housing. Refreshing Springs Church and Advantage Properties are two private land owners that have proposed new housing developments along the proposed Purple Line route.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

E. Support transportation efficiency and access.

(1) What policies, strategies and projects are envisioned to strengthen the transportation network that affects the proposed SC Area? How will these initiatives support transportation choices (including walking, bicycling, bus or rail transit, and carpooling) or otherwise promote an efficient transportation network that integrates housing and transportation land uses?

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The Riverdale Park Mixed-Use-Town-Center Plan, published in 2004 is a comprehensive plan that establishes a new mixed-use pedestrian oriented philosophy for future development. This plan institutes new goals towards integrating housing, commercial amenities and transportation land uses through mixed use development. It continues to detail many design standards with regards to transportation, cycling, and pedestrian mobility. The new streetscaping guidelines present a blueprint for what is needed to create walkable neighborhoods. Neighborhoods that integrate land uses, have higher density mixed use development, and incorporate future environmental goals will all contribute to an efficient transportation network.

One major success of the Mixed-Use Town Center (MUTC) Plan is the Riverdale Park Station project. This mixed use pedestrian oriented town center is currently under construction and will play a major role in creating a thriving and walkable town center. Worth noting, the new town center will be accessible by the proposed Purple Line light rail. The new town center will further promote cycling as an alternative to the car by tying into a proposed extension to the Rhode Island Ave Trolley Trail. This existing trail in College Park will follow the path of the area's historic trolley. The proposed 3.9 mile extension will run from Riverdale Park to the south through the existing portion in College Park and North to Albion Road creating a larger pedestrian and cycling network. The project also includes a major new pedestrian bridge that crosses over the adjacent CSX line. This iconic new pedestrian bridge will stand as a symbol to the renewed focus on the pedestrian and cycling mobility. The new town center also promotes alternative forms of transportation including the "Commuter Assistance Programs" which encourages ridesharing and carpooling through parking incentives offered at the soon to be finished suburban town center.

Eastern Riverdale has continued to prioritize pedestrian mobility by installing over 116 new street lights. These street lights both encourage and facilitate safe pedestrian travel. The lighting initiative complete by the "DPWT" Department of Public Works and Transportation will eventually combine with the suggestions of the "Countywide Master Plan of Transportation." The recommendations include strategically adding new bicycle lanes, walking trails, and sidewalks to achieve a greater network of connectivity within the SC area. Their recommendations specifically include new bike lanes on 57th Avenue, Shepherd Street, and 53rd Avenue. These bicycle lanes should be designed and implemented in a way that is safe for both drivers and cyclists.

Perhaps, most important to the region's transportation future is Metro's Purple Line which will bring mass transit directly to the SC area, providing its citizens with convenient safe access to the entire metropolitan region. The Purple Line is however currently awaiting approval from newly appointed Governor Hogan, its fate hanging in the balance.

Actions:

- Expand trail connections including the Trolley Trail connecting College Park to the Riverdale Park Station.
- Expand lighting and streetscaping initiatives that are consolidated around a pedestrian corridor and integrated with environmental initiatives.
- Follow through and maintain the roads as suggested in the Road Assessment Plan
- Concentrate further development around the new town center and the proposed metro station.
- Implement a bicycle lane network along major roads that is safe, separated, and part of a larger bike/trail network.
- Lobby local officials and the state to show support for the Purple Line.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(2) If applicable, describe the SC Area’s connection or proximity to transportation centers (e.g. Metro, MARC, and light rail stations) and describe opportunities for Transit - Oriented Development (TOD). Will Plan strategies and projects contribute to jobs/housing balance or otherwise provide a mix of land uses that can be expected to reduce reliance on single-occupancy automobiles? (If transit or TOD is not applicable in your community, all points in this section will be based on questions 1 and 3)

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The Greater Riverdale area currently has access to the Prince George’s Plaza Metro to the West and the Cheverly Metro to the South. In addition, Riverdale Park has a MARC station which sits on the “Camden line” and provides commuter access to both Washington D.C. and Baltimore MD. The SC area is also served by various bus lines; The R12 on Kenilworth Ave, T14 on Edmonston Ave, and T18 on 57th avenue.

There are major future transportation planning efforts underway in and around the SC Area. The new town center is a critical first step and will contribute to new jobs and housing while beginning to reduce automobile dependency. The proposed Purple Line light rail will include the Riverdale Park Metro Station, which would tie into the existing New Carrollton/AMTRAK station and be located directly in the SC area and offer future job opportunities. This connection will help rejuvenate the town’s historic center which includes the Riverdale Park MARC station. The historic station is currently underutilized and located at the largely vacant historic town center. The Purple Line is projected to bring a rush of new mixed use development, reduce automobile dependency, reduce traffic congestion, and generally reinvigorate the historic “street car” suburbs.

Actions:

- Offer incentives to new business’s at the MARC Station.
- Encourage and concentrate development within cycling distance of existing and proposed Metro stations.
- Capitalize on the new town center with additional mixed use, urban scaled, infill development.
- Prioritize pedestrian mobility by evaluating the installation of pedestrian activated signals at key intersections and dual-language directional and street signage along major roadways
- Implement traffic calming measures, including speed bumps, speed cameras, and shorter turning radiuses.
- Create bicycle mobility means in the SC Area by implementing a bicycle route network that is safe, convenient, and well connected.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(3) Which community groups or stakeholders will be key to the implemntation of the initiatives and projects noted in this section?

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Achieving the proposed vision for the SC Area depends greatly on the continued collaboration of public and private agencies. The private agency best positioned and most motivated to handle implementation currently is CKAR. Public agencies key to the implementation of this plan include the M-NCPPC alongside the (DPWT) Department of Public Works and Transportation.

The Purple line will require a vast array of public and private partnerships to ensure successful and seamless implementation. Federal and state agencies including the Department of Transportation (DOT), Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), and the (MTA) The Maryland Transit Administration, and the (DOE) Department of the Environment to name a just a few.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

F. Coordinating and Leveraging Policies and Investment

(1) What specific steps will the Sustainable Community Workgroup take to coordinate policies and funding streams to remove barriers to investment and maximize and increase funding in the proposed Sustainable Community Area?

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The establishment of the Sustainable Community workgroup in which Central Kenilworth Avenue Revitalization, Community Development Corporation (CKAR, CDC) volunteered to lend is a major milestone in bringing its members together to coordinate various interests. The CKAR CDC was founded in 2007 and its mission is to bring together a multi-lingual community to promote the social, economic and business interests of the Riverdale community. Under CKAR leadership, the workgroup intends to continue its collaboration as it oversees the direction of the Action Plan and advocate its implementation. The Workgroup will work towards marketing the area to attract higher quality businesses and programs to improve the quality of life for residents in the SC area. The workgroup will play a role in identifying and endorsing the application of state and federal funding programs to support the implementation of the Action Plan.

The County Executive’s Office and County Council supports Transit Oriented Development (TOD) and economic growth throughout the County. They will work in partnership with the workgroup to ensure economic and development opportunities are created. Inclusion, with the county’s economic development incentive fund (EDI Funds) initiative, it presents an opportunity to support TOD; it can be used to leverage federal, state, and private funding to revitalize commercial properties around the proposed Purple Line stations.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(2) How is the proposed Sustainable Community Plan consistent with other existing community or comprehensive plans?

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The Sustainable Community application is consistent with existing planning and implementation efforts led by the Planning Department. The area is located within the boundary of two master plans. The Bladensburg New Carrollton and Vicinity Master Plan and SMA (May 1994) capitalizes on Metro station areas as focal points of commercial, office, and community activity. It also discusses the rehabilitation and improvement of existing neighborhoods and communities, as well as providing adequate, appropriately located commercial space. The Master Plan and Sectional Map Amendment for Planning Area 69 (May 1994) includes goals, objectives, and recommendations to guide public policy and investment in the Planning Area. The eight major elements the Plan addresses include: residential neighborhoods, commercial areas, industrial and employment centers, transportation and circulation network, trails, parks and recreation, natural resources, and public facilities. It also contains specific recommendations for community revitalization and defines a Mixed-Use Town Center (M-U-T-C) zone in the old downtown area of the Mount Rainier that provides development standards for compatible development and redevelopment projects.

In 2008, the Central Kenilworth Avenue Revitalization Planning Process and Action Plan was created with the assistance from Prince George’s County Planning Department, CKAR, students from the University of Maryland Landscaped Architect Program, community members, municipalities, local elected officials and Neighborhood Design Center. The plan includes a portion of the SC area and identifies issues confronting the area, research best practices and solutions to those issues, develop a prioritized action plan of solutions, and develop partnerships with local, municipal, county, and state stakeholders that have an ability to implement solutions. As a result, a steering committee was formed to review the plan, strategize for the year ahead, and spearhead plan implementation.

In addition, the Prince George’s County 2035 Plan has designated portions of the SC area as an Employment Area and Established Community. The Employment Areas reflect concentrations of economic activity in four targeted industry clusters—healthcare and life sciences; business services; information, communication, and electronics (ICE); and the Federal Government. The plan recommends continuing support of business growth in these geographic areas—in particular in the targeted industry clusters—concentrating new business development near transit where possible, improving transportation access and connectivity, and creating opportunities for synergies. As an Established Community, the plan recommends maintaining and enhancing existing public services (police and fire/EMS), facilities (such as libraries and schools), and infrastructure in these areas (such as sidewalks) to ensure that the needs of existing residents are met.

The Sustainable Community application builds on and supports the implementation of each of these planning efforts through the incorporation of the visions and objectives of the plans and also by attempting to implement many of the plan recommendations.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(3) How will the Plan help leverage and/or sustain more private sector investments?

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The designation of Greater Riverdale as a Sustainable Community will allow the community to apply for state and federal funds to help revitalize the area; apply for public infrastructure improvements, and strengthen its existing communities and businesses. This designation has the potential to help attract private investment, grow and expand existing businesses and leverage development and investment in and around the planned Purple Line stations.

V. PROGRESS MEASURES

For the Plan parts of section IV(A through F):

(1) List the specific outcomes that the Plan seeks to produce.

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

1. Support communities and reduce environmental impacts:

- Reduce stormwater runoff and pollution.
- Support and improve recycling efforts.
- Decrease vehicle emissions.

2. Value communities and neighborhoods:

- Coordination of code enforcement matters in areas of mutual concern.
- Number of homes sold versus for sale inventory.
- Enhance and enrich distinctive, older residential areas.
- Support recreational opportunities.

3. Enhance economic competitiveness:

- Additional collaboration with the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation to link with incentives to develop more diverse commercial uses.
- Enhanced signage and encourage façade improvements of commercial uses.
- Develop a promotional and marketing strategy to market investment opportunities.
- Recruit diversified businesses such as restaurants and retailers.
- Decrease in area unemployment rates.
- Increase in household income and economic stability.

4. Promote access to quality affordable housing:

- Guide investment in existing neighborhoods.
- Encourage the development of "net-zero" housing development in the Sustainable Community area.
- Develop creative options to reduce housing vacancy and foreclosure rates.

5. Support transportation efficiency and access:

- Lessen auto dependency.
- Develop bike connections to the Metro, MARC and Purple Line Light Rail Stations.
- Advance more multi-modal transit options to and within the Sustainable Community area.
- Complete gaps in the pedestrian street network.
- Finish CIP projects related to bikes, trails and street improvements.

6. Coordinate and leverage policies and investment:

- Leverage economic development incentives available through Prince George's County including Economic Development for implementation.
- Influence investment opportunities in and around the transit station areas.
- Support and expand sustainable green development policies within the SC area.
- Influence relationship building opportunities with the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development and Economic Development Corporation.
- The number of grants awarded to fund programs, initiatives and improvement projects.

V. PROGRESS MEASURES

(2) And, list the specific benchmarks that will be used to measure progress toward these outcomes.

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

1. Support communities and reduce environmental impacts:

- Promote green retrofitting of existing commercial buildings and housing to incorporate energy and water use efficiencies.
- Increased community building exercises that promote environmentalism. Augmentation of the urban tree canopy especially along roadways and open stream buffer areas.
- Increased community efforts to clean up streams and reduce littering.

2. Value communities and neighborhoods:

- Develop a unique sense of place and identity.
- Total increased number of community gathering spaces in the Sustainable Community area.
- Enhance number of collaborations between police services, neighborhood schools, local civic associations and parks in the Sustainable Community area.
- A developed wayfinding signage program for the Sustainable Communities area.
- Increase in the number of new activities that bring the diverse communities together, such as street festivals, craft shows, and community clean-up activities.

3. Enhance economic competitiveness:

- Target public investment to attract high-quality economic development.
- Status of marketing and branding strategies in the community.
- Total increased number of employers that offer a “livable wage” for employees.
- Total new, expanded and diversified businesses in the community.
- Number of leveraged resource support to small businesses in the community.
- Number of permits for commercial construction or rehabilitated projects.

4. Promote access to quality affordable housing:

- Number of new or additional workforce training opportunities for youth in the area.
- Number of expanded to expand the number of units that are rehabilitated or renovated over the next five years in partnership with existing multi-family apartment residential property owners.
- The quantity of code enforcement citations and violations.
- Decrease in the number of foreclosed properties in the community.

5. Support transportation efficiency and access:

- Number of new pedestrian connections in the Sustainable Community Area.
- Addition of new sidewalk areas in the community.
- Number of new transit, pedestrian or bicycle related Capital Improvement Program projects.

6. Coordinate and leverage policies and investment:

- Increase the number of mixed-use and higher-scale residential uses within the Sustainable Community area.
- Number of applications for and awards from state, federal and other sources of funding for projects.
- County Council appropriations of infrastructure funding as part of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

**REPLACE THIS PAGE WITH LOCAL
GOVERNMENT SUPPORT
RESOLUTIONS**

**SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY APPLICATION
DISCLOSURE AUTHORIZATION AND CERTIFICATION**

The undersigned authorizes the Department of Housing and Community Development (the "Department") to make such inquiries as necessary, including, but not limited to, credit inquiries, in order to verify the accuracy of the statements made by the applicant and to determine the creditworthiness of the applicant.

In accordance with Executive Order 01.01.1983.18, the Department advises you that certain personal information is necessary to determine your eligibility for financial assistance. Availability of this information for public inspection is governed by Maryland's Access to Public Records Act, State Government Article, Section 10-611 et seq. of the Annotated Code of Maryland (the "Act"). This information will be disclosed to appropriate staff of the Department or to public officials for purposes directly connected with administration of this financial assistance program for which its use is intended. Such information may be shared with State, federal or local government agencies, which have a financial role in the project. You have the right to inspect, amend, or correct personal records in accordance with the Act.

The Department intends to make available to the public certain information regarding projects recommended for funding in the Sustainable Community Plan. The information available to the public will include the information in this application, as may be supplemented or amended. This information may be confidential under the Act. If you consider this information confidential and do not want it made available to the public, please indicate that in writing and attach the same to this application.

You agree that not attaching an objection constitutes your consent to the information being made available to the public and a waiver of any rights you may have regarding this information under the Act.

I have read and understand the above paragraph. Applicant's Initials: _____

Any one who knowingly makes, or causes to be made, any false statement or report relative to this financial assistance application, for the purposes of influencing the action of the Department on such application, is subject to immediate cancellation of financial assistance and other penalties authorized by law.

The undersigned hereby certifies that the Sustainable Communities Plan or Project(s) proposed in this Application can be accomplished and further certifies that the information set herein and in any attachment in support hereof is true, correct, and complete to the best of his/her knowledge and belief.

Authorized Signature	Print Name and Title	Date
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