CHECKLIST AND TABLE OF CONTENTS

APPLICANT: **City of Taneytown**

NAME OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY: **Taneytown, MD**

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

❏ **Section A - Sustainable Community Renewal Applicant Information**
- Applicant Information

❏ **Section B – Sustainable Community Renewal Report (Projects, Strategies and Partners)**
- Part 1: Qualitative Assessment
- Part 2: Competitive Funding

❏ **Section C – Sustainable Community Renewal Action Plan Update (Matrix)**

- Action Plan

❏ **Section D – Sustainable Communities Workgroup Roster**

❏ **Section E – Signature Letter (acknowledging Disclosure Authorization and Certification)**

- Disclosure Authorization

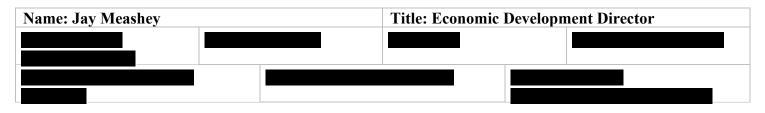❏ **Section F – Additional Files:** The following contents should be included:

- If requesting a boundary modification, map in pdf format and a GIS shapefile of the proposed Sustainable Community boundary

- Photos (jpeg format) of your aforementioned accomplished projects of the last five years
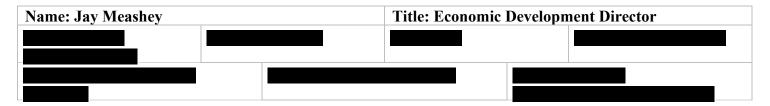
SGSC Approved - 3.24

SECTION A - SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RENEWAL APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name of Sustainable Community:		Taneytown, MD	
Name of Applicant:		City of Taneytown	
Applicant's Federal Identification Number:		52-6000809	
Applicant's Street Address:		17 E. Baltimore Street	
City: Taneytown	County: Carroll		State: MD Zip Code: 21787-2107
Phone Number: 410-751-1100	Fax Number: 410-751-1608		Web Address: taneytownmd.gov

Sustainable Community Application Local Contact:

Name: Jay Meashey	Title: Economic Development Director
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Sustainable Community Contact for Application Status:

Name: Jay Meashey	Title: Economic Development Director
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Other Sustainable Community Contacts:

Name: Jim Wieprecht	Title: City Manager
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(1) Sustainable Community Boundary and Description

(1) Are you requesting any changes to your Sustainable Community boundary? Describe why or why not?
No. The City feels that it has made important strides guided by the most recent Action Plan and assisted by State funding that the Sustainable Communities program unlocks. The City still sees many opportunities for improvement within the previously designated boundary, and it does not seek to expand the geography at this time, preferring to continue with a measured and meaningful revitalization of the previously determined area.

(2) If yes, Include the following in as an attachment:
   a. PDF or JPEG of modified Sustainable Communities boundary map,

b. GIS shapefiles of modified Sustainable Community boundary (mapped to the parcel boundary),

(3) Approximate number of acres of entire SC Area: **299.01**

(4) <u>Existing federal, state or local designations:</u>
■Main Street ■National Register Historic District ☐Local Historic District
☐ Arts & Entertainment District ☐State Enterprise Zone Special Taxing District ☐BRAC
☐ State Designated TOD ■ Other(s): Maryland Heritage Area (Heart of the Civil War), Maryland Scenic Byway (Old Main Streets)

(5) Describe the SC Area's current demographic trends (with respect to age, race, household size, household income, educational attainment, number of housing units, or other relevant factors). How have demographics changed in the last five years?
Few new housing units have been completed in the last five years, and few or no single-family units were converted to multi-family units or the reverse. As a result, the number of residents within the SC Area has remained relatively constant even as the City population grew substantially since the 2010 US Census.

The majority of residential rental properties in the City are located within the Area, which makes it well-suited for the types of investments that the Sustainable Communities designation brings, while simultaneously making it more difficult to obtain current demographic information. The City of Taneytown and its residents, like the rest of the nation, was strongly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and public health emergency. In some cases, this led to an increase in household sizes within the Area as people formed "pods" or combined households to mitigate rental expenses.

There is little to no evidence of substantial demographic change within the Area in the last five years.

(2) Organizational Structure, Experience and Public Input:

(3) Describe any changes to the Applicant's organizational structure. Specifically, how has membership of the Sustainable Communities Workgroup changed in the last five years? Who are/were the leaders, and how will/did the Workgroup advisor or staff manage implementation of the SC Area Plan?
The 2018 Sustainable Communities Renewal Application lists the Workgroup as being the same as during the initial application, with the addition of then newly elected City Councilman Daniel Haines. The actual Workgroup as listed in the 2013 Application were:

Representative	*Organization*
Nancy McCormick, Economic Development Coordinator	**City of Taneytown**
Jim Wieprecht, Zoning Administrator	**City of Taneytown**
Cark Ebaugh, Mayor Pro Tem	**Taneytown City Council**
Jim Parker	**Taneytown Planning Commission**
Judith Archie	**Taneytown Planning Commission**
Nancy McCormick, Main Street Manager	**Downtown Taneytown Main Street**
Judith Archie	**Taneytown Vision & Mission Committee**
Jim Wieprecht	**Taneytown Vision & Mission Committee**

Carl Ebaugh	Taneytown Heritage Committee

This makes a total of nine offices or interests represented in the Workgroup even though only five unique individuals participated in 2013.

Nancy McCormick retired from all her roles in September 2020; Carl Ebaugh passed away in January 2023; Daniel Haines left the City Council in May 2023.

The City believes that the 2023 Action Plan is substantially a continuation of policies and objectives described in the previous two iterations. Based on the successes realized under the 2018 Action Plan, the City has chosen to continue the membership of interested parties on the 2023 Workgroup. They are:

Participant	Affiliation
James A. Wieprecht, City Manager	City of Taneytown
Jay M. Meashey, Economic Development Director	City of Taneytown
Judy Fuller	Taneytown City Council
Jim Parker, Chair	Taneytown Planning Commission

This composition reflects the technical proficiency and budgetary and programmatic experience required to design and implement the SC Area Action Plan while also including residents and property owners.

The inclusion of two representatives on the Workgroup who are long-time residents and respected community voices provide credibility to the 2023 Action Plan and provide a non-staff conduit for community input as the Action Plan is implemented.

(4) What have been the strengths and challenges of the capacity of the Sustainable Communities Workgroup with respect to implementation of the SC Plan?
The 2018 SC Action Plan was challenged at the beginning by the October 2018 death of the City Manager, the electoral defeat of the incumbent mayoral ministration in early 2019, and the retirement of the City Economic Development Coordinator/Main Street Manager. Additionally, Workgroup member Jim Wieprecht was elevated to interim City Manager while still working as Planning & Zoning Administrator. When Coordinator McCormick retired, Wieprecht also became the point of contact for all Department of Housing & Community Development (DHCD) programs. In March 2020, the United States of America, the State of Maryland, and the City of Taneytown were subjected to a public health emergency when the COVID-19 global pandemic occurred. These events all caused considerable challenges to the capacity of the previous Sustainable Communities Workgroup.

The passion, willingness to engage to improve Taneytown, and the deep understanding of mechanics of City government were the primary strength of the previous Workgroup.

The extenuating circumstances that caused little progress on the 2013 Action Plan and the substantial change in elected and staff officials have generally come to an end. The current configuration of the Workgroup is expected to function smoothly and without the challenges the previous participants faced.

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

The City very deliberately follows best practices and uses its Comprehensive Plan as the guiding policy document for other planning and action documents. The voluntary Comprehensive Assessment, the required Qualitative Assessment, and the proposed Action Plan reference the Taneytown Comprehensive Plan to justify activities and ensure alignment of goals.

Resident and stakeholder input was obtained through incorporating resident stakeholders on the Workgroup. Additionally, feedback presented by residents at City Council, Planning Commission, and other forums with public comment time was taken into consideration.

(6) Would you like any technical assistance from State agencies to help expand the capacity of your SC Workgroup or implement your SC plan? Please describe with which revitalization strategies you would like assistance.
Not at this time or for the current Renewal.

SECTION B - SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RENEWAL REPORT
PART I: QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT

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

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

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

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

Example – **Accomplishment 1**
Outcome: Improved stormwater management

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

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

Partners:
Chesapeake Bay Trust – provided technical assistance
MD DHCD – provided financial assistance in form of a Community Legacy grant (totaling $50,000).

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

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

Accomplishment 1: Environment
Outcome: Improve existing park resources

Projects:
Project 1: Development of Bollinger Park – This project was in its planning stages at the 2018 renewal and construction is nearly complete. This adds 102 acres of walking trail, pollinator gardens, and green space *(Taneytown Comprehensive Plan, pg 54, 60, 110)*

Project 2: Developed a Park Impact Fee – The Mayor & City Council imposed a park impact fee of $1,000 per unit on new dwellings and maintained a $1,500 per unit payment in lieu if a developer does not provide open space in the development *(Taneytown Comprehensive Plan, pg 36, 61)*

Project 3: Receive funding Beyond City Sources – Since 2020, the City has received in excess of $500,000 in grant funding for parks and recreation projects

Partners:
Maryland Department of Environment, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Carroll County Department of Recreation & Parks, Carroll County Department of Planning

Impact:
Increase in the amount of open space available to residents. Improvement in local ecosystem from pollinator garden. Availability of funding for new construction and increase in recreation opportunities, beyond the City's general fund budget

Accomplishment 2: Environment, Transportation
Outcome: Increase connectivity to downtown

Projects:
Replace Aging Sewer Infrastructure & Install Sidewalks – The buried sewer infrastructure throughout Taneytown is aging and in need of replacement. Replacing terra cotta piping has dramatically cut the inflow and infiltration thereby reducing the quantity of discharge into the City's watershed. As the sewer line repair work was completed, the City installed sidewalks to connect the area to the historic downtown core. The City invested more than $140,000 of City funds and more than $3,000,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funding for the project; at the project's completion this calendar year there will be 1,951 feet of additional sidewalk in the City's sidewalk network *(Taneytown Comprehensive Plan, pg 43, 45, 48, 50, 58, 61, 108)*

*Note: This project is the purpose for which an expansion of the Sustainable Communities Area was completed during the 2018 renewal

Partners:
Maryland Department of Environment, US Government

Impact:
Reduced inflow and infiltration has reduced the amount of water being treated at the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant, thereby providing additional capacity for future development in the Sustainable Communities Area.
Additionally, less water being treated and discharged into the City's watershed reduces the environmental impact of the City's wastewater.
An increase of 1,951 linear feet of sidewalk provides uninterrupted sidewalk connectivity to approximately 150 residents.

Accomplishment 3: Transportation

Outcome: Improve infrastructure for bikers

Projects:
Install Bike Racks & Repair Stations – Taneytown Parks & Recreation Department and Taneytown Economic Development collaborated to install bike racks and repair stations throughout downtown, in parks, and in the greater Sustainable Communities Area

Partners: Maryland Department of Transportation

Impact:
Sixteen bicycle racks and four Bicycle Repair Stands with Air Pump have been and are being installed around the City. This promotes bicycling as a viable way to travel as well as improving the quality of life for residents who bike recreationally.

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

Outcome: Reduce illegal disposal

Narrative: The challenge of illegal dumping is a persistent one. The City offers a Bulk Trash Day annually, but it is not enough to combat the demand for free hauling and tipping, so residents dump products that are too large for weekly garbage pickup. Sites that are attractive for illegal dumping are inherently out of sight, so it is difficult for staff to identify a list of consistently dumped items and the barriers to proper disposal. It is difficult to install and monitor cameras at all common dumping sites, and the City has been unable to devise incentives or punishments for owners of properties where dumping commonly occurs. The City is fiscally unable to incur the expense of hauling and tipping all of the materials that are dumped, which in any case would simply be rewarding bad behavior.

Outcome: Increase housing options for senior population

Narrative: In the post-COVID-19 lockdown period, the housing market is hot and supply is tight. One of the primary ways of increasing housing options for seniors is by designating a property or community as age restricted. The market is not providing units (infill or otherwise) with restrictions that decrease the attractiveness of property or limit a property's sales potential. The City does not have the financial resources to incentivize senior housing or provide it on its own.

Outcome: Provide for more indoor recreational opportunities

Narrative: During the early phases of the COVID-19 pandemic, indoor activities were prohibited, so progress was not made on this goal during the first part of the Sustainable Communities cycle. Although demand does exist for indoor recreational facilities, the City does not currently have appropriate real estate for such a building nor does it have the financial resources to construct a building on its own. The intense investment in enlarging and building up existing parks has used all of the general fund resources available as well as extensive grant monies.

Part II: Competitive Funding

Use the rows below to list competed funds sought for sustainability or revitalization projects since receiving Sustainable Communities designation.	Source (federal, state, foundation, etc.)	Amount Received	If no funding was received, what technical or other assistance from the state would help with future applications?	Other Notes
Community Legacy (CL): ● **FY22** ● **FY23** ●	DHCD	$30,000 $35,000		Converted façade improvement program into commercial interior improvement program
Strategic Demolition Fund (SDF): ● ●	DHCD	$0	N/A	
Community Safety & Enhancement Program:	MDOT	$0	The City notes considerable complaints from drivers and pedestrians about safety on MD Rt. 140 and MD Rt. 194. Any guidance on the use of Community Safety & Enhancement Program grants to improve those roads would be welcome	
Maryland Bikeways Program:	MDOT	$13,600		Minor retrofits for bicycle infrastructure (racks, repair stations)
Sidewalk Retrofit Program:	MDOT	$0	The City is unfamiliar with the capabilities of this program. The City has identified areas along state roads that lack sidewalk connectivity and is enthusiastic to partner with MDOT regarding these opportunities.	
Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund:	MDE	$0	N/A	

Other Funding Programs: *examples are U.S. HUD Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), or grants from USDA, EPA, Appalachian Regional Commission, Chesapeake Bay Trust, Maryland Heritage Areas Association, Preservation Maryland, Safe Routes to School, Maryland Rural Development Corporation, Maryland Energy Administration, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, etc.*

*Please add more rows if necessary

Community Development & Services/Main Street • **FY22** • **FY23**	DHCD	$20,000 $25,000		OAG/MIPS
Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful/Planet Grant Program	DHCD via Keep PA Beautiful	$15,000		Eligibility based on presence of Giant Grocery Store in Carroll County
Heritage Fund	Preservation Maryland	$10,000		Returned unused due to lack of other funding for project
Program Open Space				
Community Parks & Playgrounds				

COMPETITIVE FUNDING: Are there any types of projects/needs for which your Sustainable Community needs funding; however, there isn't a funding source?
The City perceives a gap in funding opportunities for property owners who are willing to make aesthetically correct improvements or repairs to the exterior of their buildings but are unwilling to meet the financial and bureaucratic burden of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards. For instance, modern materials could be used to emulate historical ones but require less ongoing maintenance expense than historically accurate materials. There are no grant funds that provide this, so property owners abandon all sense of history or aesthetic concerns and an inexpensive eyesore results.

SECTION C - SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACTION PLAN

City of Taneytown

Example Section

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

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

Environment

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

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

Strengths	Weaknesses
• Robust Parks & Recreation Department ensures ample green space, open space, and activities for residents – three parks located within Sustainable Communities Area • Planning Commission typically requires tree planting for new subdivisions or when eliminating existing tree cover • All City-owned streetlamps and park lighting have been upgraded to LED fixtures • Household garbage and single-stream recycling provided to residents at no additional cost • Bulk Trash Day provided annually for no-fee disposal of large items • Ongoing replacement of terra cotta sewer infrastructure has substantially the reduced flow at the City wastewater treatment plant, resulting in the City being on track to meet its wastewater treatment plant goals for the first time in eight years	• Underlying land is red clay soil which does not facilitate drainage • Illegal dumping continues to occur in several places • Few publicly available waste bins

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
Outcome 1: **Reduce paved surfaces** Progress Measures: Square feet of paved surface converted[1]	Strategy A: Create new parklet or playground in Main Street district Strategy B: Investigate use of Hartman Street dead end as parklet Strategy C: Install rain gardens where possible	Taneytown Police Department, Maryland Department of Environment, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, local property owners

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[1] Changed "impervious" to "paved" to reflect that this outcome does not refer to altering the red clay soil

Outcome 2: **Implement Main Street public waste bins** Progress Measures: Number of waste bins installed	Strategy A: Establish map of most littered locations on Main Street Strategy B: Purchase and install waste bins and arrange emptying schedule Strategy C: Pursue marketing and educational campaign	Keep Maryland Beautiful; Main Street Clean, Green, and Safe Committee; local property owners
Outcome 3: **Create a map of buried utilities so property owners have the option of planting sidewalk trees** Progress Measures: Publication of dig map	Strategy A: Create a GIS map of Sustainable Communities Area Strategy B: Contact utilities for information on buried infrastructure Strategy C: Publish list of sidewalk squares that could be converted to trees	Taneytown IT Department, Carroll County Planning Department, Potomac Edison, Comcast

Economy

This section is centered on economic growth and management.

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

Strengths	Weaknesses
● Innovative commercial building interior renovations program leverages significant private investment in unused or underused buildings ● Population continues to grow, providing both workforce and consumers to local businesses ● Presence of four upscale event venues (including one on the Historic Hotels of America registry) attracts a large number of visitors and tourists with discretionary income ● New customer relationship management software has significantly improved business retention and expansion efforts ● High concentration of service businesses in Main Street that require repeat visits (barbers, salons, dog grooming, print shop) ● Placement in the middle of a triangle composed of Westminster, MD; Frederick, MD; and Gettysburg, PA which brings travelers from each area to Taneytown when they travel to any of the others	● Several storefronts rented but used as storage space ● Inconsistent hours of operations for retail stores ● Lack of restaurant that serves dinner ● Placement in the middle of a triangle composed of Westminster, MD; Frederick, MD; and Gettysburg, PA which keeps nationally known businesses from locating here ● Incomplete heritage tourism narrative ● Public perception of a lack of parking discourages people from patronizing downtown businesses

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
Outcome 1: **Maryland Arts & Entertainment District designation** Progress Measures: Designation by Maryland State Arts Council as an Arts & Entertainment District	Strategy A: Create a public art master plan Strategy B: Market current artistic and entertainment businesses Strategy C: Identify prospective new businesses in the arts and entertainment	Taneytown Main Street Arts & Entertainment Committee, Carroll Arts Council, Maryland State Arts Council
Outcome 2: **Update historical markers** Progress Measures: Installation and relocation of historical markers	Strategy A: Identify compelling historic stories in Taneytown Strategy B: Identify appropriate places for historic markers Strategy C: Seek funding from partners for fabrication and placement	Taneytown History Museum, Civil War Trails, Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area, Preservation Maryland, Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, Department of Housing & Community Development, State Highway Administration, Maryland Historic Trust
Outcome 3: **Create list of blighted properties** Progress Measures: Publication of blighted properties list	Strategy A: Determine a suitable definition of "blight" Strategy B: Identify properties that meet the definition	Taneytown Planning Commission, Carroll County Planning Department, Maryland Historic Trust
Outcome 4: **Increased hours of operation for businesses** Progress Measures: Total hours of operation compared to fall 2023 total hours of operation[2]	Strategy A: Identify City- and Main Street-based services or incentives that can promote additional hours of operation Strategy B: In partnership with other organizations, create evening programming that makes extended hours of operation attractive to business operators	MD Department of Housing & Community Development, Carroll County Arts Council, Main Street Taneytown, Taneytown Chamber of Comm

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[2] Outcome 4 has been added to create specific strategies to increase hours for businesses

Transportation

This section describes the way people in your community get from place to place.

Strengths, weaknesses and outcomes can focus on: access to transit corridors; pedestrian safety and accessibility; sidewalks; alternative modes of transportation, such as bikeways and trails; public transit, such as bus and rail; carpooling; proximity to transportation centers; parking; and road conditions.

Strengths	Weaknesses
- Substantial bicyclist traffic on weekends - Carroll County Bike & Pedestrian Master Plan incorporates City recommendations - Roadways are well maintained - Sewer replacement work funded by American Rescue Plan Act funding resulted in relaying roads and installation of sidewalks - Substantial number of City residents use sidewalks to walk to work - Elementary school and middle school complexes are conveniently located for walking and biking access - MD Rt. 140 is part of the Old Main Streets Scenic Byway[3]	- Public perception of a lack of parking discourages people from patronizing downtown businesses - Loss of free public parking due to planned expansion of Taneytown Police Station[4] - City lacks control of its two main streets (MD Rt. 140 and MD Rt. 194), so traffic and parking decisions are not responsive to resident, business owner, shopper, and worker concerns - Many pedestrian street crossings occur at unmarked places along MD Rt. 140 - Public transit does not connect residents to good paying, family supporting jobs - No park and ride option exists for the workforce traveling into Taneytown

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
Outcome 1: **Realign public transit to connect residents to major area employers; create Park & Ride lots served by public transit** Progress Measures: New transit routes implemented by Carroll Transit Service, including stops at City-controlled Park & Ride lots	Strategy A: Survey large employers about employee habits and available incentives to promote transit use Strategy B: Determine effective Park & Ride lots at the four entrances to town Strategy C: Identify preferred public transit route and collaborate with County transit officials to update routes, including Park & Ride lots Strategy D: Explore employer or City-subsidies for transit fares	Carroll County Public Works Department/Carroll Transit Services, Carroll County Planning Department, area employers, private property owners

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[3] Strength added to reflect availability of scenic byways resources
[4] Weakness added to reflect planned elimination of free public parking for public safety building expansion

Outcome 2: **Increase parking in the downtown business core** Progress Measures: Net number of additional parking spaces	Strategy A: Partner with private property owners to provide public-private parking off E. Baltimore Street[5] Strategy B: Enter into additional parking license agreements with churches Strategy C: Assess need for horse-and-buggy parking accommodations	Department of Housing & Community Development, Maryland Historic Trust, State Highway Administration, private property owners
Outcome 3: **Create City-sponsored bike "trail" in town** Progress Measures: Establishment of a signed bike trail	Strategy A: Map currently existing trail(s) including in parks Strategy B: Design additional trails on public rights of way to connect current trails Strategy C: Obtain any necessary permissions, pave as needed, add signage Strategy D: Market the trail	Department of Natural Resources, State Highway Administration, private property owners, bicyclist community
Outcome 4: **Continue sidewalk installations** Progress Measures: Increase in linear feet of sidewalk	Strategy A: Identify easy-to-eliminate gaps such as around school campus Strategy B: Identify opportunities to fill gaps with MDOT Sidewalk Retrofit Program Strategy C: Additional crosswalk installation[6]	Carroll County Public Schools, MDOT SHA, Maryland Department of Transportation Sidewalk Retrofit Program, private property owners[7]

Housing

This section focuses on the homes in which people in your community live and efforts which make it easier for them to find and stay in a place to call home.

Strengths, weaknesses and outcomes might focus on the following: affordability; increasing homeownership; increasing rental housing; diversifying the kinds of housing available; improving housing conditions (interior or exterior); housing programs; aging in place; preventing foreclosures; and reducing residential vacancies.

Strengths	Weaknesses
• High percentage of homeownership city-wide • Mixed-use buildings in Main Street area • High demand for rental properties that should promote higher rents and reinvestment in properties • Owners of most rental properties in Sustainable Community area are Carroll County residents[8]	• Sustainable Communities Area 80%-90% built out • Limited supply of rental properties ensures tenants even without reinvestment and upkeep, discouraging reinvestment in properties[9] • Much housing is not accessible for seniors or those with limited mobility

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[5] Removed language regarding demolition of 53 Warehouse Alley (Taneytown Creamery)

[6] Added to reflect feedback regarding additional crosswalk installation around Main Street

[7] Added MDOT SHA as an Implementation Partner to reflect required permissions for crosswalk installation on MD Rt. 140 and Rt. 194. Added MDOT Sidewalk Retrofit Program to reflect that City staff has met with Luis A. Gonzalez, P.E. per review team's direction

[8] Most residential rental property owners live in Carroll County, contrary to review team comments; added this to strengths

[9] Adjusted language to reflect that low supply of rental units during a national housing shortage is what allows landlords to avoid reinvestment

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
Outcome 1: **Connect residents to State and volunteer programs for home improvements** Progress Measures: Number of households using programs	Strategy A: Identify comprehensive list of programs that support home renovation for low-income owner-occupants Strategy B: Convene regularly scheduled "Housing Assistance Fair" to facilitate residents interacting with service providers	Department of Housing & Community Development, Habitat for Humanity of Carroll County, Carroll County Public Library
Outcome 2: **Licensing residential rentals** Progress Measures: Adoption of City ordinance implementing registration requirements, livability standards, and fees	Strategy A: Review residential licensing ordinances from other jurisdictions Strategy B: Compile list of known and/or suspected rental properties Strategy C: Enact ordinance with fees sufficient to finance enforcement efforts[10] Strategy D: Aggressive enforcement	Maryland Municipal League, other municipalities, landlords, Carroll County Landlords Association, tenants-rights representatives, Taneytown Planning Commission, potential enforcement contractor[11]

Community Health and Quality of Life

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

This category includes projects focusing on (but not limited to): improvement of public health including improving community design to promote healthy behaviors such as walking and strengthening community support and connectedness through health and wellness programs and facilities that create inclusive communities. These projects may include built environment, indoor spaces, outdoor environments such as increasing community gardens and access to services including educational facilities and programs; health and wellness facilities and programs that serve multi-generations; senior facilities and programs; youth facilities and programs; facilities and programs for the disabled; civic amenities, access to quality food options; collaborations with faith-based organizations; arts and entertainment education; and homelessness prevention, services, and facilities. Projects should include community engagement that includes participation in the selection of strategies and outcomes, progress reports, and evaluation.

Strengths	Weaknesses
• Well-funded and proactive Carroll County Public Library branch • County-funded and administered Taneytown Senior & Community Center • Large number of law enforcement officers live in Taneytown • Presence of civic groups (Lions Club, Taneytown History Museum, American Legion, Knights of Columbus, Freemasons)	• Lack of low- or no-cost indoor space for youth sports in winter • No urgent care clinic in Taneytown • Greater demand for sports fields than capacity • Vandalism in City parks • Perception of increased crime and "kids these days"

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[10] Added language to note cost impact of enforcement; moved enforcement to a separate strategy

[11] Added potential private enforcement partner to Implementation Partners to reflect City's limited staff capacity to achieve enforcement

- Many City-sponsored recreational programs during good weather months
- Abundance of kids' sports teams in Taneytown Athletic Association

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
Outcome 1: **Create annual downtown festivals** Progress Measures: Schedule of annual downtown festivals	Strategy A: Identify theme or purpose for festivals Strategy B: Work with businesses to engage them and their customers Strategy C: Plan and execute events	Main Street Taneytown Advisory Board, Taneytown Chamber of Commerce, Carroll Arts Council
Outcome 2: **Offer arts & entertainment education programs** Progress Measures: Carroll Arts Council holding events in Taneytown	Strategy A: Identify types of arts & entertainment education most likely to appeal to residents and visitors Strategy B: Find appropriate space in Sustainable Communities Area to host programs Strategy C: Find funding as necessary Strategy D: Plan and execute events	Carroll Arts Council, Main Street Arts & Entertainment Committee, Maryland State Arts Council
Outcome 3: **Increase City involvement with County-operated Taneytown Senior & Community Center** Progress Measures: Schedule of programs held at Center	Strategy A: Survey community on the types of activities desired Strategy B: Coordinate with Carroll County on logistics of using Community Center Strategy C: Create calendar of events and execute	MD Department of Health[12], Carroll County Bureau of Aging & Disabilities, residents

Local Planning and Staffing Capacity

This section is concerned with a local government's ability to plan for the community's future and to meet the current needs of residents.

Strengths, weaknesses and outcomes might focus on the following: updating zoning ordinances or land use; updating municipal/local policies, taxes, fees, etc.; increasing local government staff capacity; and updating planning documents like sector plans or comprehensive plans.

Strengths	Weaknesses
- Well-informed and engaged Planning Commission - Zoning and developing regulations promote smart growth principles - Sustainable Communities Area includes different commercial, residential, and mixed-use zones	- Past zoning has segregated the most affordable housing and therefore low-income residents in certain parts of the Sustainable Communities Area - Building Code Enforcement is done at the county level, eliminating any relationship between property owners or contractors and

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[12] Added Maryland Department of Health as Implementation Partner for Outcome 3 per review team instruction

• City Council has authorized hiring of contractor to perform Comprehensive Plan update[13]	enforcement officials; perception of County inconsistency or variability • Lack of full-time Main Street Manager for a municipality with population above 5,000[14] • Many projects do not trigger the Design Standards (City Code, Chapter 206 - Design Standards for Taneytown Historic District (inventory number Carr-1196)) because they do not require a county building permit or change the height or area of a structure[15]

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
Outcome 1: **Develop high-density residential opportunity within Sustainable Communities Area** Progress Measures: Adoption of ordinance permitting certain high-density residential opportunities in appropriate areas	Strategy A: Identify parcels eligible for high-density residential building Strategy B: Create zoning tool that gives City and developers flexibility without rezoning or zoning text amendments	Taneytown Planning Commission, Maryland Department of Planning

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[13] Strength added to reflect that City is in the process of completing a Comprehensive Plan update
[14] Weakness added per review team instruction
[15] Weakness added to acknowledge limitations of existing design standards for Taneytown Historic District, which do exist contrary to review team comments

SECTION D – SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES WORKGROUP ROSTER

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