Sustainable Community Application 2015

I. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name of Sustainable Community: 

Town of Trappe

Name of Applicant: Town of Trappe

Applicant's Federal Identification Number: 52-0971722

Applicant's Street Address: 4011 Powell Ave. PO Box 162

City: Trappe  County: Talbot  State: MD  Zip Code: 21673

Phone Number: 410-443-0087  Fax Number: 410-443-0562  Web Address: www.trappemd.net

Sustainable Community Application Local Contact:

Name: Jennifer Shull  Title: Planner

Address: PO Box 162  City: Trappe  State: MD  Zip Code: 21673

Phone Number: 410-443-0087 ext 103  Fax Number: 410-443-0562  E-mail Address: jennifer@trappemd.net

Sustainable Community Contact for Application Status:

Name: Erin Braband  Title: Clerk

Address: PO Box 162  City: Trappe  State: MD  Zip Code: 21673

Phone Number: 410-443-0087 ext 101  Fax Number: 410-443-0562  E-mail Address: clerk@trappemd.net
A. **Provide a description of SC Area boundaries. Include number of acres; federal/state/local designations; prior revitalization investments and smart growth.**

The Town of Trappe located on Maryland’s Eastern Shore is a small town based in a rural community surrounded by working agriculture with little to no commercial or industrial base. The town is a residential community with a mix of older but fairly well maintained housing stock including roughly 20% rentals. There is a mixture of single family homes on various lot sizes as well as townhomes, and a few buildings converted to apartments scattered thru out the town. Residents in the community commute out of the town via private vehicles using Ocean Gateway aka RT 50 for employment opportunities to either Cambridge located to the east, or Easton to the west. The town is not accessible via public transportation systems which are extremely limited in the region to the general population.

The identified SC area is the entire town boundary less annexed areas on the east side of RT 50 that are part of a major planned development initiated in 2005 that has yet to be developed. The boundaries include areas for economic improvement, and business retention on Ocean Gateway as well as Main/Maple Streets; older town areas that are flooded by poor stormwater management drains; an area to the west of town center on Barber Road that is flagged for manufacturing yet lacks municipal water/sewer access; sidewalk connectivity along Main St aka RT 565 for those living to the northwest adjacent to the single elementary school as well as areas identified for recreation improvement along Main Street.

Of primary importance is encouraging the few businesses in the center of town to remain, and to encourage new small businesses to locate within the town providing much needed services to the community. The town center is literally a crossroad of Maple and Main Streets, an area that was thriving in the fifties and sixties when the main highway ran thru the center of town on Main Street (State route 565). The town has two restaurants, one non-profit, a quilt shop, post office and a hair salon in the town center. Other businesses including a gift shop, daycare center, restaurant, bank and private preschool have left town following the economic downturn and those that remain struggle. A convenience store, a collectible book store, a storage facility, a shed/equipment sales business, and a frozen food distributor complete the businesses located within town on Ocean Gateway (State Rt 50).

Making the existing businesses and parks accessible to residents without having to walk in the street is critical. Areas of the town lack sidewalks, or have sidewalks that do not meet ADA standards, creating a connectivity issue for those pedestrians desiring to access the school, town office, post office, and other areas. The Town was previously turned down for a grant that would have funded a portion of the sidewalks needed, and has recently obtained assistance in constructing a critical link in connectivity on Main Street aka RT 565 via State Highway. That assistance will close the gap where sidewalk was absent from Home Run Baker Park to the White Marsh School/Lovers Lane townhome area. Pedestrians are forced to walk in the travel portion of a narrow road without shoulders, and with deep ditches on either side. This is the main travel path to the school, and used by many low income families walking to the town center.
The SC area contains approximately 308 acres.

The town has no federal, state or local designations nor have there been any revitalization programs since 1997.

B. Organizational structure, experience and public input

The workgroup consists of members of the Town Council, (Norm Fegel, Rose Potter, Tonya Pritchett, RD Diefenderfer and Don English), members of the Town of Trappe Planning Commission, (Chairman Edgar Harrison and Vice-Chair Bobby Quidas) and the Talbot County Economic Development Director, (Paige Bethke). They will be supported by town staff: the town clerk (Erin Brabant, and the town planner (Jennifer Shull). There are not any business organizations or community leadership groups from which to draw support or participation.

The Town Council President, Norm Fegel, will assume leadership of the group, and work with the others to develop subgroups with individual leadership using staff to implement the SC area plan with assistance from the partners and State agencies.

Recent past experience in administering public projects or revitalization efforts by the town is limited to very small locally funded infrastructure improvement projects. Town staff have experience obtaining state funds (Community Park and Playgrounds) for recreational improvements to the Lakeside community park; Nace’s park; and slum/blight demolition thru the CDBG program. With extremely limited staff, a clerk, part-time billing clerk, and a planner there have been few opportunities to implement or fund revitalization efforts. The Town’s general budget is $687,000.00 which does not include funding for either economic development, and very limited funds for infrastructure revitalization. The town has funded past projects in part with loans, grants or rearranged funding of other budget line items. Council members Norm Fegel and Don English typically take the lead in developing and guiding infrastructure improvement projects other than parks which is under the direction of Commissioner Rose Potter. The Talbot County Economic Development Director, Paige Bethke, will provide leadership and direction in the area of business revitalization and retention, with the assistance of Commissioner Tonya Pritchett who has expressed interest in this area. The strength of the team is its willingness to improve the town, and seek help. The weakness is the lack of depth in the implementation of a plan such as this, a lack of significant funding to implement an economic development drive by the town leaders and the inability to recruit more general citizen participation.

Notices of the development of a Sustainable Community Action Plan were placed on the town web site, and in the monthly town newsletter mailed with water bills. Other individuals were also contacted via email. There was an initial discussion at the regular town meeting about the potential of a SC designation, followed by dialogue with another town that had made application, and subsequently a meeting/workshop with staff from the State. An additional public workshop was held to review and fine tune the matrix action plan. Again, the public was invited but did not participate. The town’s comprehensive plan and Planning Commission support the items identified in the action plan, however, the Planning Commission does not believe it has the experience or knowledge to put together an economic development plan.
ROSTER OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY TEAM MEMBERS

Council of Trappe:
   President Norm Fegel, Vice President Rose Potter, Commissioner Tonya Pritchett,
   Commissioner RD Diefenderfer, Commissioner Don English

Maryland Dept of Commerce:
   Debbie Bowden, Sr Business Development Representative

Trappe Community Team:
   Margaret English, Julie Libby, Elizabeth Ferguson, Mike Sullivan, Flo Adams, Brandi
   Rosebrock, Nancy Dunn and other residents

Trappe Planning Commission:
   Chairman Edgar Harrison, Vice Chairman Bobby Quidas will represent the five member
   commission.

Talbot County Economic Development Commission
   Director Paige Bethke

Town of Trappe Staff:
   Clerk Erin Braband, Planner Jennifer Shull

U.S. Small Business Administration:
   Business Development Specialist, Rachel Howard

Kim Hardesty, Owner/Salon Inspire, Trappe Business
Sustainable Community Action Plan
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Environment</th>
<th>Strengths</th>
<th>Weaknesses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trails and Recreational</td>
<td>Hardscaping, lift stations, etc.</td>
<td>No parks east of Round 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water and Sewer Capacity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ecosystem</td>
<td>Vegetation, Monarch 🔘 National Park, Harrison Circle/Lakefront (Byrd Park)</td>
<td>No parks east of Round 10, lift stations, etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Desired Outcomes and Progress**

- Specific action items related to achieving the desired outcomes.
- Specific action items related to achieving the desired outcomes.

**Implementation Partners**

- Private sector partners, local stakeholders, community members, etc.

**Specific Action Items**

- Develop a comprehensive water management plan.
- Implement water conservation programs.
- Increase community engagement in water management initiatives.

**Private Sector Partners**

- Local businesses, utilities, etc.

**Community Engagement**

- Public meetings, workshops, etc.
- Social media campaigns.

**Measurement and Progress**

- Complete the implementation of water management strategies.
- Monitor water usage and conservation efforts.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weaknesses (Cultural and Historic Assets)</th>
<th>Strengths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Majority of population is retired/semi-retired</td>
<td>Proximity of boat launch for watermen, and recreational boaters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching Workforce</td>
<td>African American children, descendants of slaves, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Only few community events</td>
<td>Nearby Hopkins - Historical Relevance for existing schools and educational partners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boating Launch</td>
<td>Retail Lifebouy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Insufficient parking spots available downtown and at Telgat County</td>
<td>Real Estate Development Commission (TEDC) Implementation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No commitment of business community to County Economic Business District Small and Limited off Route 50</td>
<td>Low Tax Rates (one of the lowest in Telgat County)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Source, Debt Load</td>
<td>Elementary School as a major employer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No town marketing campaign to attract businesses or residents</td>
<td>Parks and Recreational Center, a major employer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Economy**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Projects</th>
<th>Strategy: Apply for Grants to Implement Stormwater Management</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Standing Water</td>
<td>Strategy B: Identify most impacted sites and projects that can mitigate the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Strategy A: Increase drainage of standing water sites</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Progress Measures:** Amount of Funding Awarded

**Outcome:** Complete Implementation of Stormwater Management Design
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Implementation Partners</th>
<th>Strategies</th>
<th>Measures</th>
<th>Progress/Measure</th>
<th>Outcome 1: Increase number of small businesses in town (council needs a plan)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Town of Truro, Island County, Department of Transportation &amp; Traffic, Timothy Highway</td>
<td>Implement strategies to work with SHN and other government partners to make signage improvements.</td>
<td>Strategy C: Increase and diversify business base.</td>
<td>Increase number of downtown businesses present</td>
<td>Increase number of small businesses in town (council needs a plan)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Road Department, Local Business</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Outcome 2: Increase designated parking for businesses</td>
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### Transportation

**Weaknesses**
- LACK OF ADEQUATE PARKING
- No public bus system (regional system with 2 stops per day in downtown)
- Access/Connectivity with Route 50 to Easton and Cambridge
- Many workers/pedestrians in town
- Most of Main St has sidewalks in downtown

**Strengths**
- Pedestrians, streets, sidewalks, and transportation
- Biking lanes and trails, public transit
- Bus and rail connection
- Proximity to transportation centers

**Implementation Partners**
- National Center for Safe Routes to School
- Maryland Department of Transportation
- Strategic Sarasota
- Trinidad Street Phase 2

**Strategies**
- Partner with SHa/MDDOT to create an implementation plan for new sidewalks
- Identify pedestrian pathways for school children and apply for Safe Routes to School funding
- Study where people walk/live/commute to and from

**Outcomes**
- Increase number of street lights
- Increase regional bus system ridership
- Increase regional bus system ridership

**Progress Measures**
- Feet of new sidewalk created
- Number of street lights installed
- Progress Measures: Signage for bus stops

**Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures**
- Increase number of street lights
- Increase regional bus system ridership
- Increase regional bus system ridership
| Implementation Partners | Strategies | Progress Measures:
needs of people of all economic backgrounds.
already has a diverse housing stock that meets the needs. Housing prices are stable and the town enviromental, transportation and economic
infrastructure.

Outcome 1: The Town would like to focus on its

- County Impact Fees/Town Water-Sewer Capacity Charges
- Some Foreclosures
- Construction (PUD) across Route 50 not built yet. 250 units
- Waiting for condo/townhouse/apartment/unit family unit
- Economic downtown placed hold on new housing construction

Strenghts:

- Housing programs, foreclosures, residential vacancies, property values, home sale values
- Housing strengths and weaknesses can include affordability, homeowner ship vs rental, housing stock diversity, housing condition and value

Weaknesses:

- Stable, middle and upper middle class, housing
- Duplexes, accessory units, 75% owner occupied
- Good variety/balance of housing type (townhouse, single family)
- No visibly blighted posses
- Healthy housing stock, built mostly in 1930's and 1960's

<p>| Weaknesses | Strengths |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Implementation Partners</th>
<th>Strategies</th>
<th>Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community Development</strong> Department of Housing and Urban Development</td>
<td><strong>Town of Trappe, Maryland</strong></td>
<td><strong>and more lifting</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Businesses</strong></td>
<td><strong>Support/Existing Community Events</strong></td>
<td><strong>Strategic: A: Create a work group to explore locations and funding for benches</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Town of Trappe, Churches, Local</strong></td>
<td><strong>Implements</strong></td>
<td><strong>Strategic: B: Increase</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Outcomes:**

- **Outcome 1:** Provide pedestrian improvements
- **Outcome 2:** Increase promotion of cultural activities

**Progress Measures:**

- Number of benches installed
- Number of cultural events held each year and number of attendees at each
- Number of activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strengths</th>
<th>Weaknesses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cultural assets, civic amenities, faith-based organizations, economic health of households, sense of place, etc.</td>
<td>No year-round or all season sports for kids, only seasonal, no neighborhood daycare center, inadequate use of school and facilities, lack of YMCA/VMCA/organized recreation activities and kids play in the streets</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Strategies:**

- Weeknight activities at local business | Weekly quilting activities at local business
- Extremely low crime rate | Extremely low crime rate
- Local Emergency Responders well equipped & trained | Local Emergency Responders well equipped & trained
- Trauma Center located within 30 min drive | Trauma Center located within 30 min drive
- Paid internships and Midwifery Scholarships funds at 30% UWC | Paid internships and Midwifery Scholarships funds at 30% UWC
- Class and antique car show to fundraise for fire department | Class and antique car show to fundraise for fire department and for Active Lanes Club
- No proficient band | Nonprofit/dependent band Worship service
- Neat and orderliness | Neat and orderliness
- Community Garden, Community Community/Garden, Community Garden | Community/Garden, Community Garden
- Extramural active fire department as a community meeting space (annual) | Extramural active fire department as a community meeting space (annual)
- Extramural active fire department | Extramural active fire department

**Strategies and Weakness can include crime, socio-economic demographics, educational opportunities, museums, libraries, historic and cultural assets, civic amenities, faith-based organizations, economic health of households, sense of place, etc.**
# Local Planning and Land Use

**Strategies and Weaknesses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strengths</th>
<th>Weaknesses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PUDs available/feasible on edge of town</td>
<td>County impact fee (mostly commercial)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case of access to sewer/drainage in zoning</td>
<td>Only special exceptions allowed in Village redevelopment sub-area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revisions proposed for sewer changes in zoning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village overlay (not district downtown)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Active Town Planning Commission</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## Strategies

- **Strategy A**: Identify appropriate locations for signage throughout town and develop consistent theme/design.

## Progress Measures

- **Progress Measure**: Signage hiking

## Outcomes

- **Outcome 1**: Provide placemaking signage for town
- **Outcome 2**: Increase the number of youth activities
- **Outcome 3**: Create more organized and year-round activities for youth

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**Implemenatation Partners**

| Department of Planning and Zoning, Maryland County of Trego, Trego County |
| Department of Planning and Zoning, Marquette County of Trego, Trego County |

**Strategies**

- **Strategy A**: Update comprehensive plan to promote PUDs and developable zoning
- **Strategy B**: Include emerging conditions for emerging technologies to foster write extensions for the plan
- **Strategy C**: Include linked maps

**Goals**

- **Outcome 1**: Complete comprehensive plan revisions.
- **Outcome 2**: Complete in-place to enable PUDs

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**V laurence**

| Department of Planning and Transportation, Administration, Arand County of Trego, Trego County |
| School's YMCA, Local non-profits, Elementary School, Trego County of Trego, Trego County |

**Strategies**

- **Strategy A**: Create a work group to explore feasibility and implementation of
- **Strategy B**: |

**Progress Measures**

- **Progress Measure**: |

**Outcomes**

- **Outcome 1**: |
- **Outcome 2**: |