



SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION RENEWAL

Eligible Applicants:

- *Local Governments with a Sustainable Communities Designation*
- *Local Government Consortiums with a Sustainable Communities Designation*

Application must be submitted
on or before the expiration date of
Sustainable Communities designation.

Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development

Division of Neighborhood Revitalization

2 N Charles Street, Suite 450

Baltimore, MD 21201

410-209-5800

<http://dhcd.maryland.gov/>

LARRY HOGAN, *Governor*

KENNETH C. HOLT, *Secretary*

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD, *Lt. Governor*

TONY REED, *Deputy Secretary*

OVERVIEW OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

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

PURPOSE OF RENEWAL AND STREAMLINED APPLICATION

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

APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

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

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

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES BENEFITS

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

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

Strategic Demolition Fund is administered by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development and provides grants and loans to local governments and community development organizations for predevelopment activities including demolition and land assembly for housing and revitalization projects.

The Strategic Demolition Fund catalyzes public and private investment in the reuse of vacant and underutilized sites. These funds are restricted to Sustainable Communities.

Application Eligibility and Threshold Requirements

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

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

Threshold Requirements

All Sustainable Community applications must meet the following threshold requirements:

- 1) Sustainable Community Area boundaries must be entirely within a Priority Funding Area (PFA) and should be an area in need of renewal and reinvestment that would benefit from a targeted long-term strategy;
- 2) The proposed Sustainable Community is within or near a town center or transportation center, or there is a need for financing assistance for small businesses, nonprofit organizations or microenterprises;
- 3) The updated Plan must be consistent with other existing community or comprehensive plans;
- 4) A Sustainable Communities Workgroup is re-convened and a roster of members should be provided with the application.

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

Application Evaluation

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

Priority Funding Areas

All Sustainable Communities must be located entirely within a Priority Funding Area. Applicants can verify Priority Funding Area boundaries by visiting the MDP website at:

<http://www.mdp.state.md.us/OurProducts/pfamap.shtml>

Application Training

The Department will be hosting various webinars for communities planning to submit a renewal application. Attendance at a minimum of one application training session is strongly encouraged for all applicants. Contact your Regional Project Manager (contact information page iv) to schedule an application training or verify when the webinars will be scheduled.

Application Submission

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

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

No incomplete applications will be accepted.

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

Site Visits, Follow-up Discussion

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

Approval

Approval of applications will be made by the Governor’s Smart Growth Coordinating Committee on the recommendation of an inter-agency review team. The review team is coordinated by the Department of Housing and Community Development.

Contact Information

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

DIVISION OF NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION, STATE REVITALIZATION PROGRAMS REGIONAL PROJECT MANAGERS		
<p>REGION 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northwest Baltimore City • Northwest Baltimore County <p>Larry Brown Assistant Director Phone: 410-209-5819 Email: larry.brownjr@maryland.gov</p>	<p>REGION 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northeast Baltimore City • Northeast Baltimore County <p>Garland Thomas Project Manager Phone: 410-209-5803 Email: garland.thomas@maryland.gov</p>	<p>REGION 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southeast Baltimore City • Southeast Baltimore County • Anne Arundel County <p>Olivia Ceccarelli-McGonigal Project Manager Phone: 410-209-5826 Email: olivia.ceccarelli@maryland.gov</p>
<p>REGION 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southwest Baltimore City • Southwest Baltimore County • Howard County <p>Nick Mayr Project Manager Phone: 410-209-5842 Email: nicholas.mayr@maryland.gov</p>	<p>REGION 5: Western Maryland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allegany • Frederick • Garrett • Washington • Carroll <p>Sara Jackson Project Coordinator Phone: 410-209-5812 Email: Sara.jackson@maryland.gov</p>	<p>REGION 6: Washington DC Metropolitan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prince George’s • Montgomery <p>Duane Felix Assistant Director Phone: 410-209-5825 Email: Duane.Felix@maryland.gov</p>
<p>REGION 7: Upper Eastern Shore</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harford County • Caroline • Cecil • Kent • Queen Anne’s • Talbot <p>Ashlee Green Project Manager Phone: 410-209-5815 Email: Ashlee.Green@maryland.gov</p>	<p>REGION 8: Lower Eastern Shore, Southern Maryland</p> <p>Lower Eastern Shore</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorchester • Somerset • Wicomico • Worcester <p>Southern Maryland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calvert • Charles • St. Mary’s <p>Ashlee Green Project Manager Phone: 410-209-5815 Email: Ashlee.Green@maryland.gov</p>	

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PLAN ELEMENTS

Ongoing designation as a Sustainable Community is contingent upon the continuation, expansion, and/or modification of a multi-year investment strategy that addresses the topic areas of Environment, Economy, Transportation, Housing, Quality of Life, and Land Use/Local Planning. The table below provides a non-exhaustive list of ideas that can be incorporated into each element as they are addressed in the sections that follow in this application.

ENVIRONMENT: Environmental accomplishments and objectives may include improvement of quality of land, water, air or watersheds, increased tree canopy, mitigation or adaptation to issues related to sea level rise, reduction of carbon footprint, improved energy conservation, access to local foods, green infrastructure, stormwater infrastructure/management, construction of parks, trails and other recreation facilities, recycling, improved water and sewer capacity, etc.

ECONOMY: Economic accomplishments and objectives may include increased regional accessibility, business attraction/retention, improved health of the business district and decreased commercial vacancies, improved accessibility to employment opportunities and economic drivers, adopted local policies/regulations that encourage economic growth, enhanced marketing and tourism, improvements to cultural and historic assets, etc.

TRANSPORTATION: Transportation accomplishments and objectives may include increased access to transit corridors, improved pedestrian safety and increased accessibility/sidewalks, alternative modes of transportation, such as bikeways and trails, public transit, such as bus and rail, carpooling, improved parking and road conditions, etc.

HOUSING: Housing accomplishments and objectives may include an increase in affordable, workforce or market rate housing, either for homeownership or rental, improved housing conditions and values, increase in housing programs, reduction in foreclosures and residential vacancies, increase in property values and home sale values, etc.

QUALITY OF LIFE: Quality of life accomplishments and objectives may 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.

LAND USE/LOCAL PLANNING: Land use accomplishments and objectives may include changes to zoning, improved land use policies, increase/decrease in taxes and fees, etc.

RENEWAL APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

The Sustainable Communities application for renewal has **three** sections:

A. Contact information, General Information, Organizational Capacity:

In this section, applicants are asked to update their contact information, provide information about demographic shifts over the past five years, discuss the strengths and weaknesses of their Sustainable Communities workgroup and share any technical assistance needs the workgroup may have.

B. Qualitative and Comprehensive Report on accomplishments over past five years:

The report is an opportunity to reflect on any accomplishments achieved in the Sustainable Community area. It is a tool used to evaluate if the SC applicant achieved its intended outcomes, implemented the strategies initially envisioned and identify what resources were used. Renewal applicants are encouraged to discuss how priorities, actions, and objectives were or were not achieved across the six elements listed on the previous page (v), including how any of the elements may have interrelated during the five initial years of SC designation.

C. Sustainable Communities Action Plan Update:

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

CHECKLIST AND TABLE OF CONTENTS

APPLICANT: Town of Union Bridge

NAME OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY: Town of Union Bridge

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

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

I. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RENEWAL APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name of Sustainable Community:

Town of Union Bridge

Name of Renewal Applicant:

Town of Union Bridge

Applicant's Federal Identification Number: 52-6019410

Applicant's Street Address: 104 W. Locust Street

City: Union Bridge

County: Carroll

State: MD

Zip Code: 21791

Phone Number: 410-775-2711

Fax Number: 410-775-1095

Web Address: www.townofub.org

Sustainable Community Renewal Application Local Contact:

Name: Mike Reynolds

Title: Circuit Rider

Address: 104 W. Locust Street

City: Union Bridge

State: MD

Zip Code: 21791

Phone Number: 410-775-2711

Fax Number: 410-775-1095

E-mail Address: mreynolds@mrdc.net

Other Sustainable Community Contacts:

Name: Dawn Metcalf

Title: Town Clerk/Treasurer

Address: 104 W. Locust Street

City: Union Bridge

State: MD

Zip Code: 21791

Phone Number: 410-775-2711

Fax Number: 410-775-1095

E-mail Address: unionbr@carr.org

I. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY – General Information

A. Sustainable Community Boundary and Description

(1) Are you requesting any changes to your Sustainable Community boundary? Describe why or why not? **The Town of Union Bridge does not want to change the boundary to our Sustainable Community area.**

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

- a. PDF or JPEG of modified Sustainable Communities boundary map,
- b. GIS shape files of modified Sustainable Community boundary (mapped to the parcel boundary),

(3) Approximate number of acres of entire SC Area: **617**

(4) Existing federal, state or local designations:

- Main Street Maple Street
- National Register Historic District Local Historic District Arts & Entertainment District
- State Enterprise Zone Special Taxing District BRAC State Designated TOD
- Other(s): Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area

(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?

Using data from “livability.com” the median age for the Town is 36 years old. In terms of racial statistics, 86% of the Town is white, 10% black, .3% Asian, 2.6% Hispanic and 1.1% is classified as “other”. Last, 7.3% of the Town is classified as a “Non-active duty veteran”

The median income is \$55,147 annually and the average household value is \$189,500.

Per Carroll County housing data, the number of housing units in Town limits has remained constant at 977 units over the last five years. The split between home ownership and rental is approximately 50%/50% with rental costs averaging \$841 per month.

B. Organizational Structure, Experience and Public Input:

(1) Describe any changes to the Applicant’s organizational structure. Specifically, how has membership of the Sustainable Communities Workgroup changed in the last five years? Who are/were the leaders, and how will/did the Workgroup advisor or staff manage implementation of the SC Area Plan?

In 2017, a part-time Circuit Rider began working with the Town.

The Sustainable Communities work group is now comprised of the following members;

Perry Jones - Mayor, Dawn Metcalf - Town Clerk/Treasurer, Tom Long - Chair of the Town's Planning and Zoning Commission, Edward Cueman -Town Planning Consultant and Mike Reynolds - Town Circuit Rider.

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

Challenges include little Town revenue, lack of funding and staff time.

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

The Town compiled a renewal team based on members of the Planning and Zoning Commission, Town Staff and an elected official. We met with the Town Council to discuss the status of projects identified in our initial plan and what, if anything, should be included in this update as well as new initiatives that may now take priority over some of the original ideas.

Staff worked to incorporate feedback from the community into this application. The Town shared an update to the residents in our quarterly newsletter that we were re-applying for this designation and welcome any feedback that anyone wanted to share on ongoing initiatives.

- (4) Would you like any technical assistance from State agencies to help expand the capacity of your SC Workgroup or implement your SC plan? Please describe with which revitalization strategies you would like assistance.

The Town does not require this assistance at this time.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RENEWAL REPORT

PART I: QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT

Purpose:

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

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

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

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

Example – Accomplishment 1

Outcome: Improved stormwater management

Projects:

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

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

Partners:

Chesapeake Bay Trust – provided technical assistance

MD DHCD – provided financial assistance in form of a Community Legacy grant (totaling \$50,000).

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

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

Accomplishment 1:

Outcome: Investments in Town livability.

Projects:

Project 1: West Broadway Street Reconstruction Phase 2 Completion

Partners:

*Department of Housing & Community Development - CDBG funding totaling \$365,443.93
Stambaugh's Inc. - Contractor employed to perform work.*

Impact: The project improved the road and sidewalk conditions on this particular section of Town road and sidewalks. Handicap accessible ramps were installed, the storm drainage system was upgraded and the water/sewer lines were replaced. This project addressed all six elements defined earlier in this application.

Accomplishment 2:

Outcome: Improvements in Town Infrastructure.

Projects:

Project 1: Inflow and Infiltration Study - The Town is experiencing growth and believes we may be experiencing excess inflow and infiltration, which is limiting hydraulic sewer capacity as well as treatment capacity at the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). Using funds obtained from the USDA, the Town retained the engineering firm GHD to conduct an initial inflow and infiltration study to help the Town understand the areas with the most potential rainfall derived inflow and infiltration (RDII) and recommend a path forward to reducing RDII.

Project 2: Purchase of one-ton dump truck with snow plow - The Town had a very limited fleet of vehicles and was in need of a truck that provided a larger hauling capacity and dumping ability along with emergency snowplowing ability to augment the contracted services provided to the Town.

Project 3: Purchase of Town work truck - The former work truck owned by the town was 17 years old and was purchased used. Funding was secured by the USDA to purchase a new truck to replace and retire our old truck as it was beginning to become unreliable.

Partners:

*USDA – Search Grant totaling \$27,300, Other USDA grants totaling \$37,500 and \$30,300 respectively
GHD- Town Engineering Firm
Crouse Ford in Taneytown
Ideal GMC in Frederick*

Impact: GHD has completed the I&I study and we are moving forward with their recommendation to conduct CCTV and smoke testing to further determine areas that need to be addressed with either sewer lining and/or replacement sewer piping if required. These are the first steps in what will be a large project for the Town.

The new Town vehicles are used daily. Our public works employee is no longer in fear of being stranded due to a mechanical issue and he is able to perform his daily duties to provide a much needed services for this Town and its residents. They are critical additions to our Town Infrastructure.

Accomplishment 3:

Outcome: *Utilization and enjoyment of Town assets is increased.*

Projects:

Project 1: *Expansion of Little Creek Walking Trail & Addition of Parking Lot*

Project 2: *Community Center Upgrade*

Partners:

Department of Community Housing & Development - CDBG funding totaling \$59,929.34

Maryland Department of Natural Resources - Community Parks & Playgrounds totaling \$20,000 and Program Open Space grant funding totaling \$129,001

Carroll County Department of Parks and Recreation – County match funds totaling \$3,380.70

State Highway Administration - Grant funding totaling \$8,909.44

Impact: *The expansion of the Little Pipe Creek walking trail has given the residents of Union Bridge a safe and scenic way to exercise, promote family time and well-being and bring out of Town guests into Town to experience what we have to offer. The professional designed and built parking lot gives visitors and residents a safe, off-street area to park and access the amenity. The project was completed in several phases as funding became available and spanned several years through completion.*

The Union Bridge Community Center is the focal point in Town for resident meeting and family functions to include reunions, weddings, birthday parties, bridal showers, etc... The Town made the decision to invest funding by a grant from Program Open Space (POS) to upgrade the center to make more energy efficient by adding insulation to much of the facility, drywall, paint and trim, new steel doors and new exterior windows. The Town would have liked to accomplish more however the funding received (even with a sizable inclusion from the Town) was not enough, so upgrades to the bathrooms and coat closet had to be eliminated for the time being. The upgrades turned out great and we have received many compliments from those who have utilized the center on how great it looks. We will be investing more into exterior improvements as well as finishing some interior projects as funding becomes available.

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: *Expansion of Waste Water Treatment Plant*

Narrative: *This objective is in progress with the beginning of the inflow and infiltration study. The Town is working with SERCAP to help coordinate more studies and develop a plan to execute this need.*

Outcome:

Narrative:

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RENEWAL REPORT

PART II: COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT

Purpose:

The purpose of the comprehensive assessment is to capture indicators of accomplishments in each Sustainable Community. Indicators should reflect the five year time period since the adoption of the Sustainable Communities Action Plan. Thus, the following questions focus on the common outcomes that were identified in the various Sustainable Community Action Plans approved by the State. The assessment will be grouped in the sections of Environment, Economy, Transportation, Housing, Quality of Life, and Land Use.

Please answer the following questions to the best of your knowledge.

Check “YES” if applicable to your community. If you answer “YES” please quantify the accomplishment (i.e. Q: Has there been an increase in the number of businesses in your Main Street/commercial district? A: YES 4 new businesses have opened in the past five years). If necessary, please also provide a short description of the accomplishment.

Please check “NO” if the question item did not have any impact on your community. If you answer “NO” please briefly summarize what kept you from achieving your plan’s desired outcomes.

Check “N/A”, if the question item does not apply to your Sustainable Community.

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

ENVIRONMENT	YES	NO	N/A	If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?
1. Has there been an improvement in water quality?		X		The quality of water for the Town has remained consistent.
2. Has the amount of impervious surface in your Community been reduced? (Amount in SF)		X		There has been no change.
3. Have there been improvements and/ or additions to your park and/ or recreational green space?	X			We have extended the walking trail at Little Pipe Creek and have upgraded our Community Center located at our Town athletic park.
4. Did the Sustainable Community implement any recycling or waste reduction programs?			X	The Town continues to pay for recycling for our residents.
5. Do all residents have access to healthy food options (i.e. fresh food grocery stores, farmers markets etc.) within the Sustainable Community?	X			There is fresh produce sold during the summer months in the parking lot located at 50 N. Main St. We also have two restaurants within our designated community that serve healthy choice options on their menus.
OTHER:				

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

ECONOMY	YES	NO	N/A	If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?
1. Has there been an increase in the number of new businesses in your Main Street/ Commercial District?		X		Unfortunately, the number of businesses has decreased including the PNC bank which closed its branch in Town. There is a new business working to open on Main Street which will offer a brewery which will include some food options.
2. Did the Municipality/ Sustainable Community area receive any designations that support local economic development?		X		However, the Town is and has long been designated a Priority Funding Area by the State.
3. Has there been an increase in foot traffic in the Main Street/commercial district?		X		Foot traffic has slightly decreased with the closure of several businesses located on Main Street.
4. Have the number of commercial vacancies decreased?		X		Unfortunately, there has been a slight increase in the number of vacancies.
5. Has there been an increase in local jobs within the Sustainable Community for its residents?		X		Jobs within the community have decreased with the closure of several businesses.
OTHER:				

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

TRANSPORTATION	YES	NO	N/A	If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?
1. Has the amount of bike trails/paths increased? How many linear feet do the trails cover?	X			We have extended the trail at Little Pipe Creek.
2. Have there been improvements to the public transit infrastructure?	X			There have been several road pavement improvements as well as road and sidewalk improvements on West Broadway.
3. Has there been an increase in sidewalks? (Amount in linear feet)		X		Sidewalks have not increased however there have been improvements to existing infrastructure.
4. Have there been any roadway improvements that support "Complete" or "Green" streets?			X	There has not been an opportunity to implement.
5. Has traffic congestion along major roads decreased? (Amount in percent)		X		Traffic has remained consistent due to the Lehigh Cement company located at one end of Town.
OTHER:				

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

HOUSING	YES	NO	N/A	If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?
1. Have any residential facades been improved?	X			There have been several residents who have invested in upgrading the facades on their homes located on Main Street.
2. Has the home ownership rate increased?		X		We have seen home foreclosures and an increase in the number of renters over the last 5 years.
3. Has there been an increase in the number of housing units in the Sustainable Community area? What number and/or percent are affordable?		X		The number of housing units has remained consistent.
4. Has there been demolition of blighted properties?			X	
5. Has the residential vacancy rate decreased?			X	
OTHER:				

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

QUALITY OF LIFE	YES	NO	N/A	If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?
1. Has there been a decrease in crime rate?	X			CAD (Dispatch Calls) 5-Year Comparison 2015 – 785, 2016 – 680, 2017 – 762, 2018 – 650, 2019(YTD) - 403
2. Have there been improvements and/ or additions to your public spaces (i.e. museums, community centers, public plazas)?	X			Yes. The Town used a grant from Program Open Space as well as considerable amount of Town funds to perform an upgrade to our Community Center.
3. Has there been an increase in public art/ arts & entertainment programs/venues (i.e. murals, movie theatre, music events)?	X			Yes. Since our initial designation as a Sustainable Community, Town residents have created a grass-roots volunteer organization titled “Dream Big Union Bridge” which has helped residents in need, held a “Duck Derby” event, community picnics, etc...
4. How many historic properties were renovated/improved?			X	
5. Are there any residential health and wellness opportunities in place (i.e. athletic facilities, recreational indoor/ outdoor courses or groups)?	X			Two baseball/softball fields One basketball court – outdoor Two outdoor tennis courts One soccer/football/rugby fields West Carroll Recreation Council FSK Jr. Eagles Baseball
OTHER:				

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

LAND USE/ LOCAL PLANNING	YES	NO	N/A	If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?
1. Have there been any infill developments?			X	There are no reasonable opportunities for infill development in Union Bridge.
2. Has there been an increase in the amount of preserved/protected land?			X	There have been no reasonable opportunities to increase in Union Bridge
3. Have there been any developments hindered by growth constraints?	X			There are two developments that are pending due to a need for an increase in the size of our WWTP.
4. Have there been any zoning or any policy changes that have fostered growth in your Sustainable Community?		X		Neither Town zoning nor Town policy are restraints to Town growth. It is market forces, limited Town financial resources, and State policy regarding financial participation (investment) in needed WWTP expansion all combining to restrain growth potential.
5. Have there been any significant improvements to the municipal infrastructure within the Sustainable Community (i.e. street lighting, water/sewer lines)?		X		No, however we have begun a researching the condition of the Town's sewer lines by conducting an inflow and infiltration study. The next steps will be conduct CCTV and smoke testing of the lines to determine how to proceed.
OTHER:				

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

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 Development Block Grant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MD-12-CD-29 W. Broadway Infrastructure 	DHCD - State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$365,443.93 		Grant awarded prior to original SC designation. Completed in 2014.
Program Open Space: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking Trail – Phase 3 • Walking Trail – Phase 4 • Comm. Center Remodel 	DNR- State Carroll County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$31,400 • \$36,214 • \$61,387 		
USDA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One Ton Truck • Town Pick-up Truck • SEARCH Grant – I&I Study 	USDA - Federal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$37,500 • \$30,300 • \$27,300 		
Community Parks & Playgrounds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking Trail – Phase 3 • Town Tennis Courts 	DNR - State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$20,000 - Awarded • Denied 	Requested \$37,500 to upgrade Town tennis courts as they have deteriorated.	
SHA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking Trail – Parking Lot 	SHA - State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$8,909.44 		
Heritage Fund Grant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design for Historic Well House at Town Hall 	Preservation Maryland - State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denied 	Requested \$5,000 to employ a designer to plan preservation of historic landmark adjacent to Town Hall and also add extra file storage if possible.	

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

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
Museums for America Grant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well House Museum at Town Hall 	Institute of Museum & Library Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Denied 	Requested \$18,800 to turn historic well house located at Town Hall into a museum.	
Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WTP Emergency Backup Generator 	FEMA – Federal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$73,387.50 		Sub-award of MEMA grant
Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sewer system improvements 	MDE - State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Denied 	We are not certain what help from the State would assist with this grant. We have applied 3 consecutive years and are currently ranked #72 in line for a grant or assistance.	Applied in 2017, 2018 & 2019
MDOT Special Projects Grant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town traffic signs 	MDOT – State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Denied 	Requested \$9,385.58 to install proper street signs in Town.	Also applied through State Farm grant. Also denied.
Other Funding Programs: <i>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.</i>				
*Please add more rows if necessary				

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

1. New Town Water/Sewer Billing System
2. File Storage Building for Town Hall
3. Town Hall Well House Museum/Welcome Center/File Storage
4. Further I&I Study/WWTP Expansion
5. Town Tennis Court Upgrade
6. Purchase of Correlating Logging Equipment for Water Leak Assessment
7. Purchase of Boom Mower for Town
8. Purchase of New Christmas Decorations
9. Purchase and Installation of Traffic Signs
10. Tree Plantings

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III. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN UPDATE

The Sustainable Community Action Plan (SC Plan or Plan) is meant to be a multi-year investment strategy – a strategic set of revitalization initiatives and projects that local partners believe will increase the economic vitality and livability of their community, increase prosperity for local households and improve the health of the surrounding environment. The Plan should be flexible enough to be updated regularly and renewed every five years as the community envisions new goals. The priority initiatives and projects identified in the action plan are your priorities for improving the livability of community places -- residential, commercial, or other public or private properties – and the sustainability of new work, retail, recreational and housing opportunities for residents. At the same time, the plan should only discuss the strategies that will impact the geographic area targeted for revitalization, so that resources have the best opportunity to have the intended effect. These projects can also be designed to reduce the environmental impact of the community through water and energy resource conservation and management strategies. In this way, the Plan can be a road map for local stakeholders as well as State agencies to work together to create a more a livable and sustainable community.

All communities submitted an SC Plan when the community earned its original designation. Some applicants may want to take advantage of the designation renewal process to outline new strategies, set new priorities or reaffirm existing strategies for their Sustainable Community. Changes to SC Plans may be due to changes in external factors affecting the community or changes in the priorities of the applicant.

Guidance for completing the Action Plan can be found on the next page.

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Action Plan Guidance

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

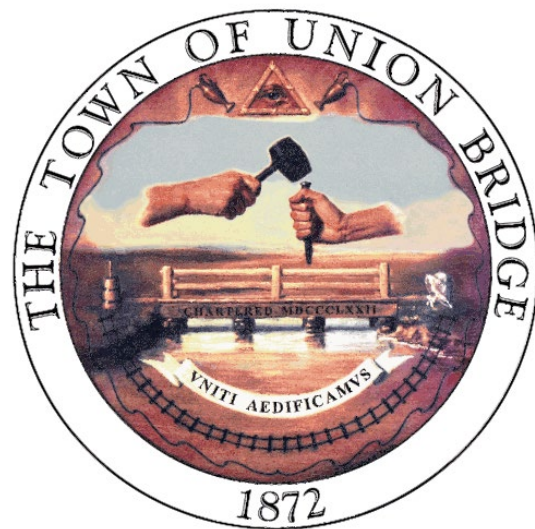
- 1) **For each of the different sections, pinpoint essential strengths and weaknesses of your community.**
Example Transportation: Strength - Good sidewalk connectivity. Weakness - Insufficient amount of downtown parking.
- 2) **Based on those strengths and weaknesses, formulate specific outcomes that address the most pressing issues or greatest potentials. Include a means of measuring the success of said outcome.**
Example Economy: Outcome – Expand broadband fiber optics in Town. Progress Measure - Linear measurement of fiber laid and number of residential and business connections.
- 3) **After defining the outcomes, list detailed strategies (break down to several action steps if needed) that will serve as the means to achieve those goals.** Example Economy: Strategy - Increase number of Town sponsored events → Develop with community input, a series of weekend events that the Town could host.
- 4) **List potential partners that can support the successful implementation of these strategies through different types of resources.** Example Economy: DHCD (Community Legacy program), Small Business Administration (Services and financial assistance) etc.

Sustainable Community Action Plan

Town of Union Bridge

Submitted by The Town of Union Bridge

1/28/2020



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Environment

(Environmental strengths and weaknesses can include but are not limited to quality of land, water, air, watersheds, tree canopy, risk of sea level rise, carbon footprint, energy conservation, access to local foods, green infrastructure, stormwater infrastructure/management, parks, trails and recreation, recycling, water and sewer capacity, etc.)

<u>Strengths</u>	<u>Weaknesses</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Little Pipe Creek trail offers a .5 mile trail and the county has planned to extend it 3.5 miles to connect to New Windsor • Cherry Branch Park had tree plantings in 2013 with help from the state • Summer farmers market • Town has curbside recycling program through Carroll County • The Park at the Community Center is well used and provides good recreation options • The county is completing a kayak boat launch site on Little Pipe Creek 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wastewater treatment is almost at capacity and can only accommodate an additional 34 units • Residents with dogs currently use the playground as a dog run • Current walking trails could use more amenities to increase their attractiveness and usage • The walking trails also do not have proper lighting • The grocery store in Town has closed • There is some flooding on Main Street

<u>Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures</u>	<u>Strategies and Action Items</u>	<u>Implementation Partners</u>
<p>Based on the strengths and weaknesses identify the strengths on which you would like to build and the challenges you would like to address.</p> <p>What outcomes are you trying to achieve? Where/ in what area do you want those changes to happen?</p> <p>Progress Measure: Identify how you will know that you have achieved your outcome.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Which community stakeholders need to be involved to realize each action step and strategy? Name specific public and/or private sector partners.</p>
<p>Outcome 1: Improve current green space and look to add additional green space.</p> <p>Progress Measures: Acres of green space added or enhanced</p>	<p>Strategy A: Enhance current walking trails</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action Step: Conduct an assessment of the trails to determine the lighting needs and possible amenities • Investigate state funding sources such as Program Open Space <p>Strategy B: Explore doing tree plantings along the walking trails in Little Branch Park to provide shade and improve aesthetics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action Step: Identify areas that require trees and what species of tree fits 	<p>Carroll County Maryland Department of Natural Resources</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Action Step: Explore the possibility of funding some work through the Maryland Urban and Community Forest Committee Grant <p>Strategy C: Take an inventory of green space throughout the town and develop maintenance plan</p> <p>Strategy D: Explore construction of dog park in the unused area next to the playground</p> <p>Strategy E: Investigate acquiring a vacant residential lot on West Elger Street and Warehime Alley for a park</p> <p>Strategy F: County completion of the kayak/boat launch on Little Pipe Creek.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Action Step: Consider enhancements to the launch site such a tables and grill station	
<p>Outcome 2: Address flooding in the town along Shepherd’s Mill Road</p> <p>Progress Measures: Projects completed</p>	<p>Strategy A: Collaborate with the Department of Natural Resources and the County to improve stormwater management along Shepherd’s Mill Road</p>	<p>Department of Natural Resources</p>

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Economy

(Economic strengths and weaknesses can include but are not limited to regional accessibility, business attraction/retention, health of the business district and commercial vacancies, workforce/employment and economic drivers, local policies/regulations, marketing, tourism, cultural and historic assets)

<u>Strengths</u>	<u>Weaknesses</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism strengths: National Register Historic District and Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area, Western Maryland Railroad Museum, Pipe Creek Friends Meeting Hall • The Lehigh Cement Company adjacent to downtown has been a major employer for decades • The town has a walking tour pamphlet that guides visitors through historic sites in the town • There is an active business association in the Town and the Town actively supports its businesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business struggling on Main Street – there are seven retail vacancies and little foot traffic • Employers are locating outside of Union Bridge • Low city revenue • The Town has lost its gas station, bank, and grocery store

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: Increase tourism attractions in the Town and attract visitors</p> <p>Progress Measures: Number of visitors</p>	<p>Strategy A: Market current historic and cultural attractions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action Step: Compile a list of historic and cultural sites to provide to tourists and include on the Visit Maryland Website • Action Step: Work with Carroll County Tourism to reprint and place the Union Bridge walking tour pamphlets in tourism centers. • Action Step: Explore creating an online site that promotes the town (Examples include Havre de Grace and Cumberland) <p>Strategy B: Explore bringing back the Holiday House Tour to attract visitors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action Step: Investigate if the tour could be partially funded through a Mini Grant from the Heritage Area Authority <p>Strategy C: Explore turning the pump station in town into a museum for historic artifacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action Step: Develop a proposal that lays out the purpose of the museum and some of the artifacts that would be in it 	<p>Carroll County Heritage Area Authority DHCD</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Action Step: Explore funding opportunity through Community Legacy Grants and MHAA Grants	
<p>Outcome 2: Retain current businesses in the downtown area and fill commercial vacancies</p> <p>Progress Measures: Number of businesses</p>	<p>Strategy A: Develop a commercial façade program for the downtown main street</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Action Step: Coordinate with DHCD to have a presentation on commercial façade program to property owners to get their buy inAction Step: Explore programs in other parts of Maryland, such as Oakland <p>Strategy B: Work with property owners to fill commercial vacancies at a reasonable rent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Action Step: Survey local businesses and property owners to understand the issues with filling vacant storefrontsAction Step: Consider incentives to attract new businessesAction Step: Educate property owners about programs to rehabilitate historic properties such as tax credits from the National Park Service <p>Strategy C: Support local businesses within the town</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Action Step: Reach out to the local Maryland Small Business Development Center staff for economic development supportAction Step: Support the Flood Zone’s creation of a year round farmer’s market that will begin in FebruaryAction Step: Educate local entrepreneurs about resources for new businesses such as the Business/Employment Resource Center and programs through Carroll County Community College	<p>Downtown Property Owners DHCD Maryland Small Business Development Centers Carroll County Community College Business/Employment Resource Center Union Bridge Business Association</p>

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<p>Outcome 3: Encourage growth in the town to attract new businesses</p> <p>Progress Measure: Number of town businesses</p>	<p>Strategy A: Work with the developer/owner of the site off of MD-75 to resolve infrastructure funding issues</p> <p>Strategy B: Continue to market Union Bridge as a place to buy a house; highlighting school quality and other amenities.</p>	<p>Property Owner</p>
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Transportation

(Transportation strengths and weaknesses can include 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, road conditions)

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADA accessibility recently improved on West Broadway Street, along with water/sewer line replacement and storm drainage upgraded • County Bike Trails bring bicyclists to the town • The town has 1.75 miles of trails for pedestrians and bicycles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Public Transportation • There are gaps in the sidewalk network, and some sidewalks need maintenance • The Lehigh cement factory create lots of truck traffic through the downtown

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: Improve the walkability of the neighborhood</p> <p>Progress Measures: Feet of sidewalk added and improved</p>	<p>Strategy A: Conduct a sidewalk inventory to identify gaps and prioritize maintenance</p> <p>Strategy B: Consider a new sidewalk on West Locust Street to connect the Community Center to the Main Street</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action Step: Reach out to Carroll County for help with funding and planning. 	<p>Carroll County Planning</p>
<p>Outcome 2: Work to improve biking in Town and attract bicyclists</p> <p>Progress Measures: Number bike parking spots, linear feet of marked bike paths</p>	<p>Strategy A: Identify and mark bike paths throughout the town – consider pursuing funding from MDOTs bikeways program</p> <p>Strategy B: Install bike parking in popular bike stops in the town to encourage cyclists to stay and explore the town.</p>	<p>MDOT</p>
<p>Outcome 3: Reduce truck traffic on Main Street while maintaining visitor, passersby, and resident vehicular traffic</p> <p>Progress Measures: Number of trucks going through Main Street</p>	<p>Strategy A: Continue to work with the Lehigh Cement Factory to discourage truck drivers from driving through the downtown</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action Step: Identify alternative routes for truck traffic • Action Step: Explore the installation of signage directing trucks to alternative routes • Action Step: Continue to partner with Lehigh to educate truck drivers of the alternate route 	<p>MDOT, Lehigh Cement Factory, Carroll County Planning</p>

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	<p>Strategy B: Explore creating a bypass for MD-75 which will change the route of trucks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Action Step: Reach out to county and state transportation partners to identify possible new routes for truck traffic• Action Step: Advocate for recommended road change to the appropriate county or state agency	
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Housing

(Housing strengths and weaknesses can include affordability, homeownership vs rental, housing stock diversity, housing condition and value, housing programs, foreclosures, residential vacancies, property values, home sale values)

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The town owns a senior housing complex that provides affordable rental until for seniors The downtown is listed on the National Register of Historic Places along with several other properties Habitat for Humanity has built several homes in Union Bridge in the past 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are an increasing number of renters There are a number of foreclosures , between 6 and 10, in the past year Many of the downtown commercial buildings have been converted into residential units There are residential vacancies in the town There are concerns of code violations that include junk vehicles outside of homes and trash/debris in the yard

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: Promote homeownership in the town (An addition of 670 homeowners if all developments planned occur)</p> <p>Progress Measures: Number of houses sold</p>	<p>Strategy A: Acquire vacant properties for renovation to create affordable homeownership opportunities</p> <p>Strategy B: Explore the redevelopment of the Parkinson and Roberts properties into new housing units.</p>	<p>Habitat for Humanity , DHCD</p>
<p>Outcome 2: Improve owner-occupied blighted residential housing stock to maintain pleasing aesthetics of older neighborhoods</p> <p>Progress Measures: Homes rehabilitated/cited</p>	<p>Strategy A: Engage Main Street Landlords to return to first floor commercial and upper story residential consistent with the history of the town</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action Step Develop a residential façade program working with the Maryland Historic Trust <p>Strategy B: Work with property owners to encourage upkeep and code compliance</p> <p>Strategy C: Explore creating a rental registry to identify landlords to contact about repairs and code issues</p>	<p>Maryland Historic Trust, DHCD, Property Owners, Renters</p>

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	<p>Strategy D: Work to see if the county circuit rider program could cover a Code Enforcement Officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Action Step: Explore working with other nearby towns (New Windsor) to share a Code Enforcement Officer <p>Strategy E: Engage and educate renters of their rights and encourage them to report code violations</p>	
<p>Outcome 3: Add Senior Housing in the town</p> <p>Progress Measures: Number of senior housing units</p>	<p>Strategy A: Explore acquiring the Nokes property in town for the development of additional housing units</p>	

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Community Health and Quality of Life

(Strengths and weaknesses can include crime, socio-economic demographics, access to healthcare, environmental hazards, educational opportunities, museums, libraries, historic and cultural assets, civic amenities, faith-based organizations, economic health of households, sense of place, etc.)

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Town has a violent crime rate much lower than the Maryland average (1.04 compared to 4.69 per 1,000 residents) Elmer A. Wolfe Elementary, the school in the Town, is a four-star school The Town’s Community Center offers recreation and a gathering spot for the Town Active volunteer groups within Union Bridge which enhance the vibrancy of the Town There are many sports fields and teams in and around Town Doctor and dentist office in Town to provide medical care The downtown area is a walkable area The Town has a pharmacy on Main Street Dream Big conducts an annual Easter Egg Hunt, in addition to the Duck Derby. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There isn’t a library in Town Residents do not have a computer lab anymore

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: Find alternative ways to provide library services</p> <p>Progress Measures: Number of projects completed</p>	<p>Strategy A: Explore bringing a bookmobile to the town on a regular schedule</p> <p>Strategy B: Work with the Carroll County Library System to get a computer lab in the community center for residents to access</p>	<p>Carroll County Public Library</p>
<p>Outcome 2: Create a sense of place through public art and other activities</p>	<p>Strategy A: Look to commission public art along the main street</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action Step: Explore funding opportunity through Community Legacy Grants, Carroll County Arts Council and MHAA Grants Action Step: Identify local artists to work with 	<p>DHCD, MHT, Flood Zone, Carroll County Arts Council</p>

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Progress Measures: Artworks in the town	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action Step: Support the mural being constructed on the Flood Zone 	
Outcome 3: Increase the number of community events and enhance current events	Strategy A: Explore holding a wine festival or other major public event put on by the town to bring together residents and attract tourists	Community Organizations
Progress Measures: Number of Events	Strategy B: Work with local organizations to promote their events to other residents	

Local Planning and Land Use

(Strengths and weaknesses in the local planning and land use subject area include but are not limited to zoning, land use, policies, taxes and fees, historical patterns of development, lot sizes and shapes, etc.)

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The town recently bought a dump truck with a snow plow for snow clearance The town now has a work truck to send out for repairs The Comprehensive Plan update passed in 2014 provides a strong framework for future development The town has zoning authority Union Bridge is part of the circuit rider program, increasing its capacity Carroll County provides planning services and review, regulates stormwater management, collects property taxes, and other critical services which supports the town 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The town is small and as a result does not have a lot of full time staff Two 230 unit housing developments stalled due to lack of WWTP capacity Floodplain and conservation areas in and around town limit land available for growth

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
Outcome 1: Ensure an accurate census count Progress Measures: Residents reached	Strategy A: Work with Carroll County to inform residents of the 2020 census and give them information on how to participate	Carroll County, US Census Bureau

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<p>Outcome 2: Address Wastewater capacity issues halting development</p>	<p>Strategy A: Continue to negotiate with developers of the two proposed development sites off MD-75</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Action Step: Coordinate with Carroll County on the updated county wastewater plan to MDE to set a capacity goal of 400,000 gallons (an increase of 200,000 gallons)	<p>Carroll County, Property Owner(s), Maryland Department of the Environment</p>
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SIGNATURE LETTER

On behalf of the Town of Union Bridge, I hereby approve the application for renewal of the Sustainable Communities designation for The Town of Union Bridge. I understand that the Disclosure Authorization and Certification from the original Sustainable Communities application continues to apply to the applicant local government, and as such the applicant agrees that not attaching an objection constitutes consent to the information being made available to the public, and a waiver of any rights the applicant may have regarding this information under Maryland's Access to Public Records Act, State Government Article, Section 10-611 et seq. of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

I also confirm that I am named or a former holder of my current title is named as an authorized official for the Sustainable Communities designation for my local government in the Local Government Authorization submitted with the original application.

See Attached for Signed Copy

Authorized Signature

Perry L. Jones, Jr. - Mayor, Town of Union Bridge

Type Name and Title

February 25, 2020

Date