SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION RENEWAL

Eligible Applicants:

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

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

Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development
Division of Neighborhood Revitalization
2 N Charles Street, Suite 450
Baltimore, MD 21201
410-209-5800
http://dhcd.maryland.gov/

SGCC Approved 4.23

LARRY HOGAN
Governor
BOYD K. RUTHERFORD
Lt. Governor
KENNETH C. HOLT
Secretary
OWEN McEVOY
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 or Renewal and Streamlined Application

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

Application Eligibility and Threshold Requirements

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

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

Threshold Requirements

All Sustainable Community applications must meet the following threshold requirements:

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

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

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

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

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

Application Submission and Evaluation

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

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

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

Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Deliver Sustainable Community Applications via email:

Subject Line: Sustainable Community Application
To: Carter Reitman
carter.reitman@maryland.gov
Copy: Olivia Ceccarelli-McGonigal
olivia.ceccarelli@maryland.gov

Site Visits. Follow-up Discussion, Technical Assistance

Attendance at a minimum of one application consultation session or training is mandatory for all applicants. Consult with Carter Reitman at 410-298-5849 or by email at carter.reitman@maryland.gov if you would like to schedule a meeting.

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

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

Approval

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

All questions related to the application, please contact Olivia Ceccarelli-McGonigal at 410-209-5826 or by email at olivia.ceccarelli@maryland.gov or your regional project manager, found at this link:
https://dhcd.maryland.gov/Communities/Documents/SRP/PM-Map-ContactInfo.pdf

RENEWAL APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

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

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

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

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

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PLAN ELEMENTS

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

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

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

ECONOMY: Describes projects centered on economic growth and management.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Additional Guidance for Developing the Sustainable Communities Action Plan

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 livable and sustainable community.

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

Action Plan Guidance

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

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

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

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

<u>CHECKLIST AND TABLE OF CONTENTS</u>

APPLICANT: Town of Westernport

NAME OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY: Town of Westernport

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

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

- Applicant Information

❑ **Section B – Sustainable Community Renewal Report (Projects, Strategies and Partners)**

- Part 1: Qualitative Assessment
- Part 2: Comprehensive Assessment
- Competitive Funding

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

- Action Plan

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

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

- Disclosure Authorization

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

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

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

I. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RENEWAL APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name of Sustainable Community:		Town of Westernport	
Name of Applicant:		Town of Westernport	
Applicant's Federal Identification Number:		52-6002086	
Applicant's Street Address:		50 Main Street	
City: Westernport	County: Allegany	State: MD	Zip Code: 21562
Phone Number: 301-359-3932	Fax Number: 301-359-5058	Web Address: townofwesternport.com	

Sustainable Community Application Local Contact:

██
██
██
██
██

Sustainable Community Contact for Application Status:

██
██
██
██
██

Other Sustainable Community Contacts:

██
██
██
██
██

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY – General Information

A. Sustainable Community Boundary and Description

(1) Are you requesting any changes to your Sustainable Community boundary? Describe why or why not?
No, no changes were changed to the Town's Boundary lines.

(2) If yes, Include the following in as an attachment:
   a. PDF or JPEG of modified Sustainable Communities boundary map,
   b. GIS shapefiles of modified Sustainable Community boundary (mapped to the parcel boundary),

(3) Approximate number of acres of entire SC Area: <u>564 acres</u>

(4) <u>Existing federal, state or local designations:</u>
   ☐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):

(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?

   In 2020, Westernport, MD had a population of 1.94k people with a median age of 32 and a median household income of $45,078. Between 2019 and 2020 the population of Westernport, MD declined from 2,156 to 1,938, a −10.1% decrease and its median household income grew from $42,014 to $45,078, a 7.29% increase.

   The 5 largest ethnic groups in Westernport, MD are White (Non-Hispanic) (97.7%), Two+ (Non-Hispanic) (1.08%), Asian (Non-Hispanic) (0.774%), White (Hispanic) (0.361%), and Black or African American (Non-Hispanic) (0.103%).

   None of the households in Westernport, MD reported speaking a non-English language at home as their primary shared language. This does not consider the potential multi-lingual nature of households, but only the primary self-reported language spoken by all members of the household.

   99.5% of the residents in Westernport, MD are U.S. citizens.

   In 2020, the median property value in Westernport, MD was $79,700, and the homeownership rate was 75.5%. Most people in Westernport, MD drove alone to work, and the average commute time was 37.2 minutes. The average car ownership in Westernport, MD was 2 cars per household.

B. Organizational Structure, Experience and Public Input:

(1) Describe any changes to the Applicant's organizational structure. Specifically, how has membership of the Sustainable Communities Workgroup changed in the last five years? Who are/were the leaders, and how will/did the Workgroup advisor or staff manage implementation of the SC Area Plan?
   The Town has the same organizational structure, but the Mayor and Commissioners are different than before. There was a complete turnover in 2018. The Mayor and Commissioners will be responsible for the leadership and implementation of the plan in the SC Area. The Town Clerk, Renee Morris, will assist with the implementation and administration of projects in the SC Area. The Town also has an MOA with Maryland Rural Development Corporation, so the Town's Circuit Rider, Laura Freeman Legge, will also assist with the implementation and administration of projects.

(2) What have been the strengths and challenges of the capacity of the Sustainable Communities Workgroup with respect to implementation of the SC Plan?
   a. The Challenges were that there was an entire administration change and the new administration was not aware that the town was a Sustainable Community. Once learned the Town was able to utilize the Sustainable Community Plan to help work through water projects and applied to the Community Legacy Fund for a façade grant.

(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 Sustainable communities plan was based on the Town's Comprehensive Plan. The Town has held work sessions in December of 2022 which were open to the public to discuss the new Plan.

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

   No

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: 2 Improve Water Quality
Projects: Water Phase IV and Luke Waterline

Partners: MDE, MRDC, Verso

Impact: Replace failing waterlines within Town limits with Phase IV water Project, and installed a waterline from Westernport to the Town of Luke when the papermill shut down, and the Town was no longer going to receive Potable Water.
With Phase IV the system was looped where it could be to reduce the amount of dead ends on the water system which helps improve water quality long term and also helps with fire protection. This project was funded 50% by MDE and 50% by the Town. The estimated water savings after the project is 100 gallon per minutes.
Luke Waterline was funded – 87.5% by MDE and 12.5% by Verso Corp.

Accomplishment 2: Housing
Outcome 2: Decrease the number of foreclosed blighted properties in town
Projects: 327-329 Maryland Ave, 439 Vine St, Vacant Property Vine Street, and 2 Vacant Wood St.

Partners: CDBG, MRDC, Allegany County, Westernport Housing Board

Impact: Demolished 6 blighted properties in town in various locations. Making the community safer where buildings were falling into the street.

Accomplishment 3: Quality of Life
Outcome: 3: Protect and improve the aesthetic and cultural appeal of the historic town
Projects: Project Clean Up Westernport

Partners: Town of Westernport Commissioners and Code Enforcement Officer

Impact: The Town budgeted $10,000 to match up to $500 per resident to improve the outside area of their homes. It encompassed trash clean ups, window replacements, concrete/sidewalk repair, roofing, and façade/paint outside areas.
The new code enforcement officer drives through the town daily to locate problem areas and addresses them, based off the Town's Code.

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

Outcome: Reduce the quantity of stormwater runoff and mitigate flood risks

Narrative: The Town continues to have major stormwater/flooding issues during high rain events. The Town has applied to MDE to replace/reline sewer lines, but has only relined the Lincoln Drive area which was approx. 1300 linear feet and was a $600,000 project. The estimated project cost for the Town's sewer replacement is $22Million.

Outcome: Attract more people and businesses to the CBD

Narrative: The streetscape on Main Street has approved with updated native plants and removal of invasive trees, but the sidewalks are not ADA compliant. The sidewalks along Church St. are now ADA compliant, but the Town needs to apply for funding to update along Main Street as well.

Outcome 3: Expand access to non-auto transportation

Narrative: Bus frequency done by the county has decreased due to COVID-19 restrictions and no progress has been made for a trail connecting to Westernport. DNR is working with the county to create a trail 2.5 miles East of Town, but no plans have been made to connect Westernport yet.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RENEWAL REPORT

PART II: COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT

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

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

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

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

ENVIRONMENT	YES	NO	N/A	If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?
1. Has there been an improvement in water quality? Have you completed any projects intended to improve water quality? Ex. impervious surface reduction, stormwater improvements etc.	X			Completed Phase IV Water Project and the Luke Waterline Project
2. Have you improved wildlife habitat in your community? Ex. native plantings, pollinator gardens, rain gardens	X			There have been native plants planted along Main Street and invasive plants have been removed along George's Creek at Creekside Playground area.
3. Have you increased access to green space, parks or outdoor recreational opportunities?	X			The Town purchased the Maryland Ave ballfields, playground, and basketball courts. Which is approx. 6 acres of previously unowned land, which the former papermill owned, but sold to a private buyer. The Town was able to purchase it from the private buyer.
4. Have you implemented operational sustainability practices (example: town hall enhancements) and/or community-based practices? (ex. Rain barrels or rain gardens at residences, recycling, composting etc)	X			Bought new town hall with more energy efficient appliance, changed to LED lighting in new building, filter plant, and town garage. Installed new furnace at Filter Plant reducing gas costs. Also installed EV parking place in Main shopping district.

OTHER:				

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			New Hair saloon, massage place, toy store in the main Plaza and a new bakery on Main St.
2. Did the Municipality/ Sustainable Community area receive any designations that support local economic development?		X		No, but the plan to apply to receive a Main Street designation in FY 2023.
3. Has there been an increase in foot traffic in the Main Street/commercial district?	X			Yes, because of the new businesses on Main St. there are more people walking to the business district.
4. Have the number of commercial vacancies decreased?		X		No, commercial vacancies have increased
5. Has there been an increase in local jobs within the Sustainable Community for its residents?		X		No, There has been a decrease because the local papermill shut down in 2019.

6. Has there been an increase in workforce development training or other opportunities for connecting potential employees to well-paying jobs?	X			Yes, workforce Allegany is ran by Allegany College, which is offered in the County, but it is not
OTHER:				

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		No
2. Have there been improvements to the public transit infrastructure?		X		No
3. Has there been an increase in sidewalks? (Amount in linear feet). Were accessibility elements added, such as more ADA-accessible ramps and signage/signals? Has there been a noticeable increased use of these walking places?	X			ADA compliant ramps installed along Church Street.
4. Have there been any roadway improvements that support "Complete" or "Green" streets?		X		No
5. Has traffic congestion along major roads decreased? (Amount in percent)		X		No,

OTHER:				
HOUSING	**YES**	**NO**	**N/A**	**If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?**
1. Have any residential facades or interiors been improved? Has the energy efficiency of any housing units been increased?	X			Façade improvements with program over summer windows in houses were also replaced.
2. Has the homeownership rate increased?	X			Yes, rates increased over the Covid-19 pandemic
3. Has there been an increase in the number of housing units in the Sustainable Community area? What number and/or percent are affordable? How many are within .5 miles of a transit stop?		X		No, There isn't current room for expansion of houses, but apartment buildings have been updated within city limits.
4. Has there been demolition of blighted properties?	X			Yes, 6 blighted properties have been demolished.

	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?
5. Has the residential vacancy rate decreased?	X			Yes, most of the vacant houses that were for sale sold over the Covd-19 pandemic
6. Has the jurisdiction partnered with any community development corporations to improve its housing stock, increase the availability of affordable housing, or support those experiencing homelessness or being threatened with eviction? Has the jurisdiction initiated any of its own programs to do the same?		X		We have tried for social worker did not receive
7. Has there been an increase in homeownership counseling services or individuals accessing such services?		X		No.
OTHER:				
COMMUNITY HEALTH & QUALITY OF LIFE	**YES**	**NO**	**N/A**	**If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years** **If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?**
1. How many historic properties were renovated/improved? To your knowledge, did the		X		None to our knowledge, but the houses that were demolished had asbestos abatement prior to demolition.

renovations mitigate certain environmental hazards such as lead and asbestos?				
2. Have there been improvements and/or additions to your public or community available spaces? Examples include museums, community centers, public plazas, murals and public art.	X			Museum is reopened, new city building allows space for public meetings.
3. Are there opportunities for residents to gather, communicate and celebrate? Do they serve multi-generations and all populations in the community? Examples are wide-ranging and may include fairs, community history days, neighborhood meetings, etc.	X			Tree lighting, home fest, parades, some were limited because of COVID though.
4. Have there been any changes in access to health and wellness services? Examples include mobile clinics, hospitals, telehealth opportunities.	X			Yes, the doctor's office and pharmacy both closed down.

5. Are there any residential health and wellness opportunities in place (i.e. athletic facilities, recreational indoor/outdoor courses or groups)?	X			Yes, but not being utilized by public
6. Do all residents have access to healthy food options such as fresh food grocery stores, farmers markets, community gardens, etc., within the Sustainable Community?		X		No, there are no grocery stores within the town limits with access to fresh foods.
7. Has there been a decrease in crime rate?		X		No, the sheriff's department keeps records of crime rate, the Town no longer has a police force.
8. Do all residents have access to the Internet and other basic utilities and services?	X			Yes all residents have access to internet, water, and sewer services.
OTHER:				

LOCAL PLANNING & STAFFING CAPACITY	YES	NO	N/A	If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years. If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?
1. Have there been any infill developments?	X			Yes, the new city building was a vacant building and it has been renovated and moved into.
2. Has there been an increase in the amount of preserved/protected land?		X		No
3. Have there been any developments hindered by growth constraints? If so, please describe. Example constraints could be inadequate infrastructure, insufficient zoning density/intensity, or lack of buildable land.	X			Growth in the business district is hindered by Flood Zones
4. Have there been any zoning or policy changes that have fostered growth or redevelopment in your Sustainable Community?		X		No

5. Have there been any significant improvements to the municipal infrastructure within the Sustainable Community (i.e. street lighting, water/sewer lines)?	X			LED Street Lights were installed in every street light. Water Phase IV was completed. Lincoln Drive sewer project was completed. Paving was done on Westernport hill and new gas lines were installed.
6. Have you hired any new staff members, reassigned duties, or procured the services of a contractor to increase or better align local capacity? Have you implemented any professional development programs?	X			MRDC hired the former Mayor of the Town and she is now the Town's Circuit Rider, also the water operator position to changed to include Project Manager
7. Has your community initiated or completed any planning efforts that will support the Sustainable Community area, including comprehensive planning, small area planning, or planning studies?	X			Yes, water and sewer Engineering studies were completed in 2019 and 2020.
OTHER:				

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): ● **50 Main Street Façade Improvements** ● ●	DHCD	$50,000		
Strategic Demolition Fund (SDF): ● **327-329 Maryland Ave Demo** ●	DHCD	None	Funding was received from CDBG instead	
Community Safety & Enhancement Program:	MDOT			
Maryland Bikeways Program:	MDOT			
Sidewalk Retrofit Program:	MDOT			
Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund: **Phase IV**	MDE	$1,100,000	Project was 50% grant and town paid other 50%	

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

USDA **Lincoln Drive**	USDA-RD	$600,000	Loan from USDA to reline Lincoln Drive Sewer	
CDBG Demolition – 327-329 Maryland Ave	CDBG	$209,000		

COMPETITIVE FUNDING: Are there any types of projects/needs for which your Sustainable Community needs funding; however, there isn't a funding source?
The Town needs a new Salt Dome for winter salt storage but has not been able to find a grant program for it.

Sustainable Community Action Plan

Town of Westernport

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
- Roughly 100 acres of forested and agricultural areas - Maryland has invested decades and millions of dollars in cleaning up this part of the Potomac, long considered a dead river because of acid mine drainage and other industrial pollution - Improving biodiversity in the Potomac River and George's Creek Watershed. - Westernport sponsors an Allegany County recycling site and electronic recycling events - Significant recent water system improvements with Phase IV Water Project completion and Water Phases 5-7 starting construction in 2024. - Town has easily accessible EV chargers along Main Street. - The air quality has improved since the paper mill shut down in 2019	- The portion of the Potomac River in Westernport suffers from water discharge pollution from the Verso Corporation paper mill in neighboring Luke and the UPRC wastewater facility, creating issues with source contaminants and high turbidity levels. Although the mill is shut down there is still discharge flowing into the system. - The town is subject to rockslides and landslides - Flood and sinkhole risks due to proximity to the river and creek - Poor drainage - the combined sewer system overflows due to stormwater and flows directly into stream systems, there are no ponds or trenches within the municipal boundaries, residents illegally connect their stormwater drainage devices to the sanitary sewer system - Point and non-point source pollutants resulting from sewer line leaks, municipal and industrial surface discharge, mining, and Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) - Lack of vegetation and buffers along the stream channels allows for extensive erosion and sedimentation - At 14.62 acres of Open Urban Land (ballparks and playgrounds), the town is nearly 50 acres short of adequate recreation space when measured against the state standard

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
Outcome 1: Reduce the quantity of stormwater runoff and mitigate flood risks Progress Measures: reduction in runoff	Strategy A: Improve stream buffers - Support integrity of soil through ongoing projects such as the soil nailing and planting native species. - Increase vegetation to stabilize stream banks and prevent erosion and sediment load	- MDE - Department of Natural Resources - Allegany County Planning Services

	Strategy B: Enforce high quality storm water design for any new development or redevelopment projects • Apply for grant funding through MDE or USDA-RD to complete a storm drainage study Strategy C: Separate Storm water from Sanitary Sewer System • Apply to MDE for sewer/storm water rehabilitation and Washington Street CSO removal.	
Outcome 2: Improve water quality Progress Measures: adequate temperature, turbidity, bacteria, nutrient and sediment loads	Strategy A: Implement nonpoint source best management practices and program enhancements to control the loads of pollutants into Georges Creek and the Potomac River • Apply to MDE for sewer/storm water rehabilitation and Washington Street CSO removal. Strategy B: Plan for capital improvements that will protect and improve the quality of water resources and provide safe drinking water • Utilize MDE's State Revolving Loan Fund and Linked Deposit Program • Continue working on Water Phases 5-7 and apply to USDA-RD for remaining funds MDE has funded 50% loan forgiveness so far Strategy C: Support enforcement of state's water quality standards at the Upper Potomac River Commission wastewater treatment facility Strategy D: Support state programs in the area to resolve Acid Mine Drainage	• MDE • Allegany County • USDA-RD • Maryland DNR
Outcome 3: Improve access to healthy lifestyles for Town residents Progress measures: Attendance, number of vendors, and sales volume at farmers market, community garden plots reserved, new parklets and recreational spaces	Strategy A: Expand recreational space in town • Develop vacated properties as parklets • Develop a downtown park where former city building was in Central business district Strategy B: Establish and promote a weekly farmers market on town property • Work with local hospital to bring farmer's market back into Town. • Secure local vendors, artists/entertainers, and/or entrepreneurs such as fitness instructors, nutritionists, chefs, etc. to attend each week • Develop a marketing plan to encourage Town and area residents to participate Strategy C: Establish and promote a Community Garden • Set up a garden committee for planning, fundraising, and evaluating the garden • Build necessary facilities such as a storage shed and water connections • Determine the number of plots and the assignment structure	• UPMC Hospital • Local School Outdoor Groups • MD DHCD • Rural Maryland Council • MRDC

	• Design an educational program for local school children	
Outcome 4: Make improvements to energy efficiency in town Progress Measures: Reduce electric/gas consumption by 15% after determining baseline year	Strategy A: Replace municipal vehicle fleet with new and converted alternative fueled vehicles • Apply to MSEC for grant funding Strategy B: Form baseline reports using Microsoft Excel for electric/gas uses by month in all town owned buildings • Apply to MEA for funding to replace windows/doors in old buildings and retrofit lighting in areas it hasn't been completed. Strategy C: Leverage and support households and businesses with state grant programs for energy efficiency projects and improvements, particularly for LMI families.	• Maryland Energy Administration • MSEC • Town employees and Circuit Rider to set baseline

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
• Good recreational fishing in the Potomac allows the town to host an angler's rodeo every year -- fishing in the North Branch of the Potomac is worth $3 million annually, and the river provides opportunity for guiding and whitewater outfitting businesses • Businesses in town: Moran Manor Nursing & Rehabilitation (skilled nursing facility owned by Mid-Atlantic Health Care LLC), Fair Price Market, McDonald's, Dollar General, Subway, Boal funeral parlor, Fox's Pizza Den, M&T Bank, Port West Restaurant, First United Bank, Roderick Furniture Outlet, Tri-Towns Pharmacy, Sam's Sweet, Got Toys, & etc..	• Verso Corp., was the largest employer in this part of Western Maryland shut down in 2019 reducing over 700 jobs within a 5 mile radius of Westernport. • 6 miles to the nearest full grocery store in Keyser, WV • Blight resulting from vacated properties • Over 17.9% of the population is below the poverty line according to the 2020 census • Downtown businesses have space constraints and take issue with congestion

• Local School is at 100% capacity	

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners

Outcome 1: Attract more people and businesses to the Central Business District
 	
Progress Measures: **New** businesses, reported revenue/profit increases at existing businesses
	Strategy A: Implement a streetscape improvement project on Main Street
	  • Improve all sidewalks to be ADA accessible
	  • Install additional street furniture (benches, decorative lighting, trees, landscaping, repositioned utilities)
	  • Install Park at 107 Washington Street to allow for outside eating and vendor set up.
	
	Strategy B: Create a marketing campaign to promote existing events and shops, as well as available properties, along Main Street
	  • Publish an inventory of available storefronts for small business owners
	  • Create wayfinding and branding to thematically unify the town center area
	  • Market the Commerce Department's menu of tax credits and incentives for job creation, women/minority/veteran-owned businesses, etc.
	  • Utilize the Maryland Economic Development Assistance Authority and Fund (MEDAAF)
	
	Strategy C: Grow recreational tourism
	  • Increase awareness of boat ramp with signage on Routes 135 and 36 and internet marketing
	  • Sustain and attract more recreational fishing opportunities
	  • Work with Allegany Tourism to help with marketing
	
	Strategy D: Promote local workforce development opportunities to generate entrepreneurship among residents and potential business owners
	  • Explore opportunities to bring entrepreneurial trainings or a start-up speaker series to local schools or community facilities
	  • Create partnerships with business departments at Allegany College, Frostburg State, Potomac State (WVU) to offer workshops for Lonaconing residents and to advertise commercial space to enterprising students
	  • Utilize front of new city building to advertise for workforce development programs.
	  • Attract a satellite facility for a local community college or state university
	Strategy E: Acquire former American Legion and help new businesses or established business to build new building/buildings
		• Business owners
		• Chamber of Commerce
		• WVU or FSU
		• DHCD
		• Allegany County Tourism
		• MDOT
		• Allegany County Department of Economic Development

Outcome 2: Make aesthetic improvements to Town Center to attract professional and commercial development Progress Measures: Number of new tenants in previously disinvested buildings.	Strategy A: Set up a retail incentive package to attract buyers or tenants for Main Street storefronts (commercial façade improvement program to allow property or business owners to restore and improve historic buildings, rental assistance, tenant fit-out) • Market the program to potential buyers of vacant storefronts and/or current property owners who could draw visitors to town • Other business needs include: coffee shop, small/specialty market, art studio, clothing and boutique, home decor and gift shop, accounting/tax services, ice cream shop, day care, shoe store, hobby/fishing/outdoors store, pet groomer/boarding, gym/fitness studio	• Business owners • Chamber of Commerce • WVU or FSU • DHCD • Allegany County Tourism • MDOT • Allegany County Department of Economic Development

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
• Town sits at the intersection of Routes 36 and 135, with U.S. 220 within a 10 minute/roughly 5 mile drive linking Westernport to Frostburg, Cumberland, and points south in West Virginia • Westernport is mentioned as a potential Park and Ride location along Route 36 by the Allegany County comprehensive plan • CSX rail freight passes through en route to/from Cumberland • 0.7 mile trail connection spans from the town of Luke at Mullen Avenue to the Walnut Street in the Town of Westernport • Possible benefits from the proposed Georges Creek Trail - a rails-to trails project linking the Potomac to Frostburg via a minimal used CSX line; if completed, the proposed trail would connect to the Great Allegheny Passage in Frostburg • Good sidewalk access along the eastern spur of MD-135 (Church Street), on Main Street, and the part of MD-36 nearest to the town center; some sidewalks are present in residential areas as well.	• Lack of public transportation to meet the needs of residents • Congestion problems occur downtown due to the McDonald's drive-thru, threatening the staying power of local businesses • Some gaps in the residential sidewalk network as well as on the northernmost part of MD-36 and the western spur of MD-135 (Front Street) • Few public transit options • Average commute times for employees in Westernport are 37.2 minutes which is longer than the U.S. Average. • 9.74% of the workforce commute in excess of 90 mins

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
Outcome 1: To the extent possible, create a pleasant entrance to and walkable environment along the Potomac River Progress Measures: visible improvements, new interest in visiting town and park	Strategy A: Enhance non-auto access to Front Street • Request a sidewalk or trail along the riverside • Apply for MDOT trail, bike, and pedestrian funding: Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP); Recreational Trails Program (RTP); Bikeways Grant Program; Bicycle and Pedestrian Priority Areas; Retrofit Sidewalk Program; and Retrofit Bicycle Program	DHCD, MDOT, SHA, Allegany County, Land and property owners
Outcome 2: Make Main Street and the rest of town an interesting and inviting place to walk Progress Measures: greater pedestrian activity and enhanced facilities	Strategy A: Complete a streetscaping project along Main Street • •Ensure all sidewalks are ADA accessible • •Install additional street furniture (benches, decorative lighting, trees, landscaping, repositioned utilities), wayfinding or other branding signage Strategy B: Ensure adequate parking near Main Street • Complete a parking study • Create parking on demolition sites or infill areas within the floodplain • Use curb extensions to allow additional parking Strategy C: Expand sidewalk access to residential areas • Develop a prioritized list of target areas for new or repaired sidewalks • Apply for MOOT Retrofit Sidewalk Program	DHCD, MDOT, Allegany County
Outcome 3: Expand access to non-auto transportation 'Progress Measures: Increased bus frequency, centralized paratransit resources, new trail connections	Strategy A: Create a resource that centralizes and/or consolidates transit and paratransit schedules and information by utilizing the Town's website • Convene a stakeholder meeting with other towns served by HRDC • Identify a responsible party for creation and distribution of a new informational resource • Prepare a plan to keep the resource up-to-date and redistributed as needed Strategy B: Implement a rail trail and connectivity to planned or proposed greenway/bikeway trail systems in Allegany County, Garrett County, and Mineral County (WV} • Work with the County to make improvements to the trail to Luke in order to provide an alternative nonmotarized route connecting the communities	HRDC, DHCD, MDOT, Allegany County, Mineral County, WVU, FSU, Mountain Maryland Trails
Outcome 4: Improve the gateways along Route 36 Progress Measures: visible improvements, new interest in visiting town and park	Strategy A: Enhance walkability and non-auto access to town from the north • Extend sidewalks north of Waverly Street • Add a bike lane with signage to encourage non-auto travel and eco-tourism opportunities between other Georges Creek towns and the Dans Mountain State Park	DHCD, MDOT, SHA, Allegany County, Land and property owners

	• Apply for MDOT trail, bike, and pedestrian funding: Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP); Recreational Trails Program (RTP); Bikeways Grant Program; Bicycle and Pedestrian Priority Areas; Retrofit Sidewalk Program; and Retrofit Bicycle Program	

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
• Inexpensive housing with a roughly 70% homeownership rate • Infill opportunities in the low and medium density areas of town, include undeveloped parcels without blighted homes • New Town Hall has 5 rentable low income apartments available	• Town owned land on Smoot Street and Clay Street is overdue for development. • Dilapidated properties in need of rehabilitation or demolition, several which have been demolished. • Sites that could be adequate for infill housing are located in the floodplain

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
Outcome 1: Attract retirees and young families to reside in town Progress Measures: Demographic composition, number of new or redeveloped housing units, number of vacant properties	Strategy A: Create infill residential opportunities in low density areas without existing homes • Identify most optimal sites for new housing • Acquire or market land to private/nonprofit developers • Support construction with state grant/loan applications and funding Strategy B: Redevelop blighted properties in the medium density residential areas • Create/update an inventory of homes experiencing disrepair	DHCD, Housing developers,

	• Contact owners of occupied homes about code violations and funding incentives for repair • Set up a residential façade improvement program by applying for Community Legacy funds from DHCD Strategy C: Utilize vacant properties without homes for high density options, including transitional elder care housing Strategy D: Leverage down payment assistance programs for first time home buyers • Work with the Department of Housing and Community Development on their Maryland Mortgage Program that provides home loans and down payment assistance to Maryland working families who are first time homebuyers and bring in an income below a certain level.	

Outcome 2: Decrease the number of foreclosed and blighted properties in town
 	
Progress Measures: The current number of blighted properties will decrease by XX properties within the next 5 years, number of vacant properties removed
	Strategy A: Determine the number of foreclosed properties within the Town boundaries.
	    • Administer a survey
	    • Set up and maintain a database
	    • Recommission the Housing Board within Town
	Strategy B: Acquire and/or demolish severely dilapidated homes
	    • Apply for Strategic Demolition Fund grants from DHCD
	Strategy C: Replace blighted homes with infill development, such as apartments or townhouses
	    • Share the inventory with private and nonprofit developers
	    • Develop RFPs
		DHCD, CDBG Demolition fund, Town's Code enforcement officer, Allegany County, MRDC

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
- Long history, originally established as a stopover point for hunters and trappers - Skilled nursing facility in town (Moran Manor Nursing & Rehabilitation) - Civic, religious, and cultural organizations such as the Westernport Heritage Society, Masonic Temple, volunteer fire department, and many churches - Westernport is a site for the Maryland Food Bank's mobile pantry - Town is eligible for inclusion in the Canal Place Heritage Area - Allegany County branch library in town - Several public facilities in town such as the Potomac Fire Company #2, Westernport Police Department, Tri-Town Emergency Medical Services, Senior Center, and Westernport Heritage Society - Boat ramp amenity is well-suited for kayaks and canoes launched by whitewater and fishing enthusiasts - Nearby to the Dans Mountain State Park, Savage Dam, and Wildlife Management Area	- Shrinking population since the 1970s, remaining cohort is aging substantially - Too few community services available in town - In recent years, complaints have surfaced about drug activity, especially on Maryland Avenue, to which the County Sheriff has responded by installing surveillance equipment in hot spots - Middle and high schools have consolidated with other county schools and moved farther out of town - Library recently reduced its hours, and is now closed on Mondays - At 14.62 acres of Open Urban Land (ballparks and playgrounds), the town is nearly SO acres short of adequate recreation space when measured against the state standard

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
Outcome 1: Support aging population Progress Measures: Number of ederly residents able to stay in town	Strategy A:Enhance the frequency and reliability of services for needy seniors, including transit, social, wellness, & healthcare opportunities. - Implement a more comprehensive schedule of senior activities at the library or the new town hall - Create a consolidated transit resource on Town's website	Allegany County Transit, HRDC, Maryland Department of Health, Mt. Laurel Medical Center

Outcome 2: Protect and improve the aesthetic and cultural appeal of the historic town Progress Measures: cleanliness of properties and vacant lots	Strategy A: Enforce Junk Abatement Law and incentivize owners to maintain debris-free properties Strategy B: Acquire or promote the restoration or demolition of privately-owned properties in disrepair	Maryland Department of Housing & Community Development, Allegany County Department of Economic & Community Development, Maryland Historic Trust, Allegany County Tourism office
Outcome 3: Improve access to healthy lifestyles for Town residents Progress measures: Attendance, number of vendors, and sales volume at farmers market, community garden plots reserved, parklets and recreational space added	Strategy A: Establish and promote a weekly farmers market • Select and set up a conducive farmers market site with pavement or freshly planted grass with paths, and/or other decorative features and amenities such as picnic tables, benches • Secure local vendors, artists/entertainers, and/or entrepreneurs such as fitness instructors, nutritionists, chefs, etc. to attend each week • Develop a marketing plan to encourage Town and area residents to participate Strategy B: Establish and promote a Community Garden along Maryland Ave or empty lot along Main Street • Purchase and prepare the land for garden plots • Set up a garden committee for planning, fund raising, and evaluating the garden • Secure a financial sponsor • Build necessary facilities such as a storage shed and water connections • Determine the number of plots and the assignment structure • Design an educational program for local school children Strategy C: Maintain and enhance recreation areas to retain rural character • Develop vacated properties as parklets • Promote the boat ramp within Town Center Strategy D: Develop fitness and wellness programming for all age groups Strategy E: Establish and promote an awareness campaign for drug abuse and crime prevention	Maryland Department of Housing & Community Development, Allegany County Department of Economic & Community Development, Maryland Historic Trust, Allegany County Tourism office, Allegany County

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
- Town receives planning assistance from Allegany County - Relatively dense residential development - Four simple zoning districts -- Neighborhood Commercial, Suburban Residential, Town Center, and Town Residential - Adequate land supply for the future population given that it is declining - Town has a Circuit Rider who is involved with grant application and administration	- Many town structures are in the 100-year floodplain, including Town Hall - Declining household size may require the construction of additional housing units on scarce remaining land - Aging water lines and sewer transmission pipes throughout the town contribute to loss of water

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
Outcome 1: Concentrate future development in targeted areas Progress measures: maintenance and reuse of the built environment (% of land cover maintained)	Strategy A: Incentivize infill and reuse of the built environment given the projected population decline. Propose new town ordinances Strategy B: Discourage building or rebuilding along the creek and in other sensitive areas. Promote best practices for design and protection of sensitive areas	
Outcome 2: Address Water Service Area issues Progress measures: installation of updated water system	Strategy A: Support ongoing implementation of Allegany County Master Water and Sewer Plan, including: - Savage River/Westernport Filtration Plant and Upgrade, - Westernport/McCoole Connection, - Savage River Mill Run Extension, - Westernport Stoney Run Sewer Connection, - Westernport Combined Sewer Rehabilitation, UPRC System Rehabilitation and Extension - Continue Water Phases 5-7 Project	

SIGNATURE LETTER

On behalf of Town of Westernport, I hereby approve the application for renewal of the Sustainable Communities designation for Town of Westernport. 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.
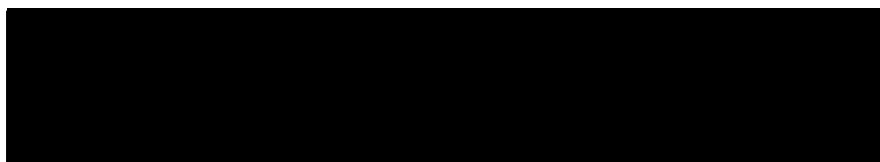
Judy Hamilton, Mayor_____
Type Name and Title

2/17/2023_____
Date