
CHECKLIST & TABLE OF CONTENTS

APPLICANT: Baltimore County Department of Planning

NAME OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY: Catonsville-Patapsco

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

- TAB #1 Applicant Information**
- TAB #2 Sustainable Community Baseline Information - In addition to hard copies of the project location map, a detailed listing of parcels (i.e. Parcel ID Numbers) that form the project boundary should be included. Maps should also be submitted in electronic GIS form (shape file). If you have additional comments or questions, please contact Brad Wolters, Senior GIS Specialist, DHCD, wolters@mdhousing.org.**
- TAB #3 Local Capacity to Implement Plans & Projects: Attach Sustainable Communities Workgroup roster noted in Section III**
- TAB #4 Sustainable Community Plan**
- TAB #5 Progress Measures**
- TAB #6 Local Support Resolution**
- TAB #7 Signed Sustainable Community Application Disclosure Authorization and Certification**

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

I. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY APPLICANT INFORMATION**Name of Sustainable Community:** Catonsville-Patapsco

Legal Name of Applicant: Baltimore County Department of Planning

Federal Identification Number:

Street Address: 105 West Chesapeake

City: Towson**County:** Baltimore**State:** MD**Zip Code:** 21204

Phone No: 410-887-3480**Fax:** 410-887-5696**Web Address:** www.baltimorecountymd.gov

Sustainable Community Contact For Application Status:**Name:** Amy Mantay**Title:** Western Sector Coordinator

Address: Jefferson Building, 105 West Chesapeake**City:** Towson**State:** MD**Zip Code:** 21204

Phone No: 410-887-3480 x**Fax:** 410-887-5862**E-mail:** atmantay@baltimorecountymd.gov

Person to be contacted for Award notification:**Name:** Amy Mantay**Title:** Western Sector Planner

Address: Jefferson Building, 105 West Chesapeake**City:** Towson**State:** MD**Zip Code:** 21204

Phone No: 410-887-3480 x**Fax:****E-mail:** atmantay@baltimorecountymd.gov

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

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

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

A. Proposed Sustainable Community Area (s):

County: Baltimore

Name of Sustainable Community: Catonsville-Patapsco

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

Eastern boundary: Baltimore County/City line

Western boundary: Baltimore County line/Patapsco River

Northern boundary: Somerset Road and Baltimore National Pike/Route 40

Southern boundary: Varied; includes edge of Patapsco Valley State Park, Bloomsbury Avenue, northwestern edge of Spring Grove State Hospital Campus, over to Paradise.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

Approximate number of acres within the SC Area: _____

Existing federal, state or local designations (check all that apply):

- Community Legacy Area
- Designated Neighborhood
- Main Street
- Maple Street
- Local Historic District
- National Register Historic District
- A & E District
- State Enterprise Zone Special Taxing District
- BRAC
- State Designated TOD
- Other(s): Federal: Old Catonsville National Register Historic District Central Catonsville and Summit Park National Register

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

Prior Revitalization Investments & Smart Growth:

(a) List and describe any significant State and local smart growth or revitalization related program investments (for instance, Community Legacy or SC Rehab Tax Credit) that have been invested in the Area since the launching of Maryland's Smart Growth initiative and programs in 1997 (including Housing investment). What impact have these investments made in the community? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Streetscape improvements were installed along Frederick Road from Sanford Avenue to Bishops Lane in 2000, greatly improving the appearance of the area. The improvements included benches, trash receptacles, pedestrian street lights, concrete pavers, ADA pavers, street trees, and fencing. Sidewalks were replaced. Curb and gutter replacement was selective, as needed. The roadway was largely resurfaced. There were minor drainage and safety improvements. The utility poles for about two blocks (Winters Lane to just east of Ingleside and Bloomsbury Avenues), with the exception of Bill's Music store, were removed from the street and relocated to the rear of the buildings in the alleys. The cost of the project was approximately \$2.2 million. The State Highway Administration contributed \$750,000 and the remainder was County funds. The project was administered, designed, and constructed by the County.

The former Catonsville Elementary/Middle School was renovated into a recreation and community center, becoming a hub of community activity. The grounds include rejuvenated ballfields and tennis courts, and will become the trailhead for the Short Line Rails to Trails pathway.

Another significant revitalization project was the rehabilitation of the historic Banneker "Colored School" into the Banneker Community Center. The school named after Benjamin Banneker was built in 1869 in the Winter's Lane Historic District. The Winters Lane Historic District is historically significant for its association with the development of the African-American community in the Catonsville area. It is a cohesive African-American neighborhood that began to develop immediately following the Civil War, with the settlement of former slaves along the road's northern end and the establishment of a "colored" school on property purchased by the Freedmen's Bureau at the southern end.

The commercial centers of Paradise and Catonsville along Frederick Road are designated Baltimore County Commercial Revitalization Districts. Over the past 10 years, more than \$9.5 million in public and private funds has been reinvested in projects improving more than 133,500 SF of commercial space. A range of businesses were assisted including nine restaurants, Paradise Animal Hospital, Catonsville Office Building, and McDowell's Complete Chimney. The Catonsville Chamber of Commerce is awarded up to \$10,000 annually for district-wide improvements such as beautification projects and sponsoring of events that promote the area.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

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

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

There are several practical barriers to realizing smart growth objectives within the proposed SC's older commercial and residential areas. Generally speaking, they include

- Difficulty and high cost of assembling small lots with fractionalized, and often absentee, ownership for more dense, mixed use redevelopment
- Competition from areas with newer housing and commercial choices
- Walking and biking connections from the adjacent residential neighborhoods and UMBC are insufficient
- Attractiveness of the area for commercial development is diminished due to its proximity to the US Route 40 commercial corridor
- At present, the value of the existing "historic" character in the commercial areas is not acknowledged for its potential to attract economic development
- Shared parking is threatened by towing from the private parking lots
- The intersection of Frederick Road and Ingleside Avenue is nearing capacity and may hinder larger scale redevelopment

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

B. Community Conditions: Strengths and Weaknesses

(1) Describe the strengths and weaknesses in the proposed Area's existing built environment. For example, what is the condition of housing? Are there underutilized historic buildings and cultural places? What is the condition and availability of community parks and recreational assets? Are there transportation assets? What is the current condition of community infrastructure such as roads and lighting? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Strengths

Catonsville is a unique historic residential community that is traversed by several major commercial corridors that contain an eclectic mix of shops and restaurants. Historically Catonsville has always been an important crossroads for travelers commuting from Baltimore along the Frederick Turnpike (now Frederick Road) to Ellicott City and points further west. The Catonsville community established itself along Frederick Road and spurred the development of several historically prominent Baltimore neighborhoods. There are three historic National Register communities in the study area with excellent, well-maintained housing stock.

Frederick Road has historically tied Catonsville to the mills of Ellicott City. These two communities, while in separate counties, have many similarities and share a common history. In fact, the proposed Catonsville sustainable community study area is adjacent to the recently designated Ellicott City Sustainable Community.

Downtown Catonsville is a traditional "main street" setting along Frederick Road that serves as a community center. This role is bolstered by the presence of two schools, library, post office, churches, and a range of retail and restaurant uses. The Chamber sponsors several events here, including the Arts and Crafts Festival, Farmers' Market, and long running 4th of July Parade.

The Community College of Baltimore County, Catonsville and University of Maryland Baltimore County are unique assets to the area. The latter is a nationally recognized research institution that also provides a large employment base and houses a diverse student population who often live in the greater Catonsville community. The Community College with its century-old historic buildings alongside modern classroom facilities complements and supports the State's four-year universities. Together, these institutions provide a range of educational options for residents.

Catonsville has a growing network of hike and bike trails, the Benjamin Banneker Historical Park, and the Patapsco Valley State Park. See also Sections 3 and C.

Weaknesses

As with any historic community, there are always concerns with aging infrastructure, building upkeep, competition from newer developments, etc. This is particularly true for properties along Frederick Road and in the surrounding residential neighborhoods. It is critical that a range of public and private reinvestment opportunities be available for this area to be a truly sustainable community.

Frederick Road was the first federally planned and funded highway in the United States, is a designated "All American Road", and is part of The Maryland National Road Scenic Byway. Unfortunately, the community at large has not capitalized upon its historic status. This is a missed opportunity in terms of heritage tourism. Much more could be done to link and promote the Road, the historic character of the commercial and residential neighborhoods, former trolley trails, the Patapsco Valley, and nearby Ellicott City.

The condition and proliferation of rental housing in the Winter's Lane community is a concern for both the County and community. In close cooperation with the neighborhood, a housing survey and focused plan to address rental housing, encourage rehabilitation of owner-occupied housing, and increase homeownership are needed. Additionally, the residential neighborhoods "inside" the Beltway may be weakening in this economy and should be further assessed.

Frederick Road is the "front door" to many of the SC's neighborhoods. The commercial uses in the corridor need to convey a positive visual and functional image. Paradise, the gateway into the County, struggles with some marginal uses, a lack of re-investment in facades and building improvements, an outdated streetscape, and a lack of a distinct identity.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

(2) Describe the Area's land use/zoning make-up (residential, commercial, industrial, and mixed-use). Is the current land use or zoning conducive to revitalization investment? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Both the land use and zoning classifications can support revitalization investment. The proposed land use designation for the vast majority of the study area is listed as "T-5 Urban Center," in the Baltimore County Master Plan 2020. This land use designation has the following general characteristics: shops mixed with townhouses, larger apartment houses, offices, workplace, and civic buildings; predominantly attached buildings; trees within the public right-of-way; substantial pedestrian activity; shallow building setbacks or none; buildings oriented to street defining a street wall; 3- to 5-story buildings with some variation; stoops, shop fronts, galleries; parks, plazas, squares, and median landscaping. The zoning for the area consists of commercial zoning along Main Street and a mixture of medium to high density residential zoning. Additionally, the Planned Unit Development process can be used to foster investment that revitalizes the community.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

3) Describe strengths and weaknesses in basic features of community quality-of-life. For instance, is crime an issue for this SC Area? What is the condition and quality of educational choices available to the community? Are artistic, cultural, or community resources, events or facilities within or accessible to residents in the proposed SC Area? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Strengths

The proposed SC area is located between Baltimore City to the east and Patapsco State Park to the south and west. This gives the advantage of being close to urban amenities and natural environmental amenities as well. There are a diversity of historic buildings, residential charm, commercial and employment areas, and natural beauty that are unique to the Mid Atlantic Region.

Catonsville has all the qualities of a small town while having easy access to all of the amenities of being with a large metropolitan area. The center of Catonsville is a historic village with large Victorian homes and a traditional "Main Street" that is improving as part of a long-term commitment to commercial revitalization. Catonsville is known for its annual Fourth of July parade and summer concerts at Lurman Theater (outdoor amphitheater). Many restaurants, shops, and offices line the street that was part of the Maryland National Road. In addition, a number of specialty music stores have earned the area the nickname, "Music City Maryland."

The community enjoys numerous transit connections. Residents and businesses are located just minutes from four interstate highways (I-95, I-70, I-695, I-195 and Route 40), Baltimore-Washington International Airport, AMTRAK, MARC commuter service, and MTA Bus Lines & Light Rail.

Catonsville is also a community of strong civic pride with well organized and active business and community associations (Catonsville Chamber of Commerce, Catonsville 2020, Concerned Citizens of Catonsville) and strong area schools.

Patapsco State Park has 14,000 acres and five developed recreational areas along 32 miles of the Patapsco River. Hilton Area is the access to Patapsco Valley State Park that connects with Catonsville. The Rails-to-Trails movement has provided this community with two excellent walking paths. Streetcar Trail #8 is a short path between Catonsville Junction and Frederick Road. Trolley Trail #9 is a longer, more challenging trail from the end of Edmondson Avenue to the Patapsco River at Oella.

Weaknesses

There are many contributors to the community's quality of life, but in general, their importance must be better recognized, appreciated, and supported. The Patapsco Valley Park (PVP) is a true recreational, cultural, and historic amenity, but much more can be done to realize its potential as an invaluable contributor to the area's quality of life. We need to capitalize upon connections among the Park, emerging hike and bike trails, community parks, and the colleges. The "love/hate" relationship between UMBC and the surrounding community can weaken the area's overall quality of life. Opportunities to repair relationships and maximize the educational, cultural, and artistic benefits to the community may be missed.

As part of the newly formed Neighborhood Response Team (NRT) effort in the Planning Department, the strengths and weaknesses of the "Beltway" communities are going to be further assessed. The importance of addressing quality of life issues in maintaining and improving the viability of the County's older neighborhoods cannot be over emphasized. The Western NRT will be working with the SC associations to access all resources including those that would be available from the State through the SC designation.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

C. Natural Resources and Environmental Impact: Strengths and Weaknesses

(1) Describe the strengths and weaknesses of the community's "natural environment." in or near the Sustainable Community Area. What is the current condition of key natural resources - lands, air, water, watersheds, tree canopy, other? If the community is located in a coastal zone, what risks might the community be subject to associated with climate induced sea level rise? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Strengths

Baltimore County completed an assessment of the tree canopy in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service and the University of Vermont. The County is working to finalize multiple tree canopy goals for individual communities, watersheds and reservoirs, and Countywide. Currently, the County recommends that each Census Designated Place reach a 40% tree canopy cover. This goal is consistent with the State's goal, and the recommended forest cover by American Forests Inc. The State has also adopted a no net less policy for its forests, and its Governor's Sustainable Forestry Council recommends the state maintain 40% canopy coverage as well. Each Tree Canopy Map breaks down the land cover by land use and shows the 40% canopy goal for each land use. Catonsville currently has a 55% tree canopy cover. The land use categories are: transportation and utilities; residential; religious institutions; open space; educational institutions; commercial and public services; and agriculture. The 40% canopy goal is met by five of the seven land use categories in the study: residential (53%); religious (41%); open space (79%); educational (41%); and agriculture (98%).

Patapsco Valley State Park extends along thirty-two miles of the Patapsco River, encompassing 15,000 acres. It is an ecosystem rich in plant and wildlife species. Described in the Patapsco Heritage Management Report, the Valley has:

- A variety of vegetation including twenty-two plant species have been placed on the State's list of Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species by the Maryland Natural Heritage program
- One hundred and sixty-three ground cover species, including a variety of wildflower plants, ten species of fern, and various lichens, mosses and fungi.
- Eighty-five confirmed sightings of different bird species, thirteen bird species that are unconfirmed sightings, and fourteen bird species that can possibly be found within the park. Among the confirm sightings of bird species is a bald eagle, great blue heron, and various forest interior dwelling birds.
- Confirmed sightings of twenty-three different species of mammals, sixteen probable or unconfirmed sightings of different mammal species, and thirteen possible mammal species that live in or frequent the Patapsco Valley State Park property.
- Confirmed sightings of eleven different salamanders, twelve toads and frogs, one lizard, one skink, seventeen different snakes, and thirteen types of turtle species. Nine additional species of amphibians and reptiles are probable inhabitants of The Park is considered to be one of the best salamander breeding grounds on the East Coast.

The Patapsco Valley State Park is an important riparian buffer zone and the forested regions are vital to the ecology of the river. Tree roots and stream side vegetation stabilize stream banks, maintain water temperature (important for spawning). The Valley is a natural migratory corridor for fish, birds, and other animals.

Weaknesses

The Patapsco Rivers are assets, but at the same time can and have presented risk of harm and damage. Floods from major storms (Agnes contributing to the most serious flooding in recent memory) can cause the Patapsco to "backup", overflow and cause severe damage. During storms Irene and Lee, the Tiber overflowed its banks and caused unusual flooding from the upper end. The flood plain is fairly wide and inhibits some remediation efforts, and the management of stormwater runoff is a key issue to be addressed. Channelization of smaller waterways is also an issue.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

(2) Describe the strengths and weaknesses of any current efforts to reduce the community's "carbon footprint" or impact on the environment. Is recycling (commercial or residential) available to minimize waste? Are there current efforts to encourage the purchase and availability of fresh local food and other local products and services to the community? Describe any current energy or water conservation efforts that may be underway. If the community has not implemented one of the above initiatives, has the community identified a need or interest to pursue these or other efforts to reduce environmental impact, for instance through the new Sustainable Maryland Certified initiative? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Strengths

Baltimore County is working on a number of ways to reduce the carbon footprint in all of its communities. Baltimore County has an ongoing relationship with the State to reduce its carbon footprint through clean energy loan programs and clean communities grants. Through these state grant and loan programs, Baltimore County has been able to promote:

- Weatherization
- Encouraging the community to purchase compost bins from the county
- Planting young slow-growth trees
- Rain barrels and rain gardens

The Baltimore County Master Plan 2020 states that the benefits of local food production are enormous and include energy conservation, sustainability, food security and the potential for green jobs. The Master Plan recommends permitting ancillary activities that allow farmers to sell products grown on the farm directly to customers. A weekly Farmer's Market is held in Catonsville, enabling convenient access to locally grown vegetables, fruit, and other food.

Local community groups have been very active in reducing the environmental impact in Catonsville and specifically to the Patapsco River and State Park. The Patapsco Valley Heritage Greenway and the Friends of the Patapsco Valley State Park. Environmental have:

- Conducted 30 river/stream/watershed group cleanups, removing over 60 tons of trash/junk from Patapsco Valley in just one year
- Planted new trees and bushes as part of a new riparian buffer
- Conducted 7 tree maintenance events, providing maintenance on over 250 previously planted trees in Arbutus, Catonsville, Elkridge, Ellicott City and at UMBC
- Conducted 7 invasive plant removal events removing 1,991 pounds of invasive garlic mustard from the Patapsco Valley

The County's Green Building Program requires the use of green and sustainable building and remodeling practices when using County financing for housing for moderate-income households, individuals or communities. The goals are to improve energy efficiency and indoor air quality.

The Baltimore County Western Bike Plan recommends a bike trail that would connect bike trails from the Inner Harbor to Patapsco State Park. An increase in bike lanes would help reduce the auto dependency of residents along the Frederick Road and Baltimore National Pike commercial corridors.

The future environmental sustainability of Baltimore County depends on responsible solid waste management and recycling practices. Baltimore County's overall (commercial and residential) waste diversion rate of 63% in 2008, as calculated by the Maryland Department of the Environment, ranked first out of all Maryland jurisdictions. This figure reflects a recycling rate of 58% plus the maximum 5% waste prevention credit for engaging in specific activities designed to minimize waste. The County also experienced substantial growth in residential recycling tonnages since the February 1, 2010 start of single stream recycling for 237,000 single-family homes and town homes. Most Baltimore County employees already have easy access to single stream-recycling collection at work, and these opportunities are expanding. The public schools and the community college system also implemented a recycling program.

Weaknesses

There remain opportunities for improvement. Within the residential sector most recyclable material continues to be discarded as trash. Interring this at Eastern Sanitary Landfill (ESL) comes at a considerable cost to the taxpayer. Even more costly in financial and environmental terms would be the establishment of a new landfill in order to take pressure off the ESL, which has a projected 30-year operational capacity as of 2010. The County is actively working to expand single stream recycling to apartments and condominiums. Waste prevention and recycling is the most practical, convenient way that residents can make a positive difference with the environment and reduce landfill costs.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

(3) Describe the strengths and weaknesses of the jurisdiction's current stormwater management practices and how these may affect the proposed SC Area. Is redevelopment and retrofitting of infrastructure an issue or opportunity in this SC Area? Stormwater runoff is a significant source of pollution to Maryland's streams and the Chesapeake Bay. Buildings constructed before 1985 have little or no stormwater controls, and development between 1985 and 2010 have some controls. Updated stormwater regulations passed by Maryland's General Assembly in 2010 require that development and redevelopment projects utilize stringent stormwater controls. Sustainable Community Areas may have opportunities for redevelopment practices that can reduce stormwater flows. (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Strengths

The Stormwater Management Program addresses the impacts on stormwater quantity and quality resulting from new development after the construction phase is complete. Baltimore County has been delegated authority by the State of Maryland to enforce stormwater management regulations. The Stormwater Management Program is located within the DEPS – Stormwater Engineering Section. DEPS currently implements the requirements of the 2000 Maryland Stormwater Design Manual to new and redevelopment activities. The Stormwater Management Act of 2007 was incorporated into the County's regulations in May 2010 and further refinements will be integrated when all State regulatory changes have been completed. The delegation of this program is periodically reviewed by MDE and has consistently passed the review requirements.

The Program contains several components, including:

- Review of stormwater management facilities plans,
- Review of variance and associated fee-in-lieu requests,
- As built inspections, and
- Periodic inspections.

Baltimore County Code significantly affects the design of stormwater components for land development projects. Some of the more significant changes are:

- Environmental Site Design to the Maximum Extent Practicable must be addressed for all projects, including redevelopment.
- Three sequential plan submissions and reviews are now required: Concept SWM Plan; Development SWM Plan; and Final SWM Plan.
- Redevelopment projects will require 50 percent reduction in impervious surface or equivalent water quality management. Currently the requirement is 20 percent.
- No grading or building permits may be issued until sediment control and SWM plans are signed.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

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

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

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Strengths

An educated work force is essential for the success of economic and community conservation goals. Gainfully employed individuals contribute significantly to the tax base and the maintenance of their homes and communities. The skill level of the local work force is sometimes the critical factor in a company's decision to locate or remain in a certain area.

Baltimore County businesses report that the quality and availability of labor are among their top concerns. Workforce education begins at the earliest stages and is based on a strong system of public education. Baltimore County provides numerous programs that address workforce education.

The Catonsville Sustainable Community is located near several major employers, the Woodlawn Federal Enterprise Zone, UMBC, Research Park and BWI. The community is also a short drive to downtown Baltimore and I-95. Land values and rents are more affordable than neighboring Howard County and the public infrastructure in the Sustainable Community is an asset. This community has great small businesses with in its core and a strong base that supports these small businesses.

Baltimore County's telecommunications infrastructure provides system reliability, data, voice and image integrity, high performance transport, and flexibility in accessing new services. Co-carriers are available in major employment centers, offering price competition, increased diversity routing options, and faster rollout of new services and technologies.

Weaknesses

There are few opportunities, primarily due to lack of available land, to attract a major employer in the Catonsville Sustainable Community. The most appropriate area for larger scale employers would be along the Frederick Road commercial corridor, but as discussed earlier, the barriers to land assemblage make this realistically difficult.

Alternatively, workers in the Catonsville area must travel to employment centers. MTA buses would be the most likely source of public transportation to Woodlawn, BWI, or Columbia, or downtown Baltimore City and the routes are limited and take significant time.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

(2) Describe the jurisdiction's housing market and access to affordable workforce housing. What are the trends in residential construction (rental and homeownership), homeownership rate, foreclosure rate and, property values. Describe how and whether your jurisdiction's prevailing housing costs - both homeownership and rental - are affordable to households below 120% AMI, 80% AMI and 50% AMI. What efforts are in place currently to house individuals, families and the disabled at or below the AMI levels described above? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Overview

Baltimore County leads the region and ranks second in the state in terms of housing inventory. Most housing in the county is made up of owner-occupied single-family detached and townhouse units. Of the County's 327, 271 housing units, 64 percent were built prior to 1980. More than 90 percent were constructed prior to 1990. Approximately one-third of households are renters, with most renters occupying multifamily buildings with five or more units. The percent share of multi-family has only increased slightly from 23.7 percent to 24.6 percent between 2000 and 2008.

Baltimore County has led the region in residential construction, although the pace of new units has declined in recent years. Between 2000 and 2010, 24,265 units were built, including 15,910 single-family structures and 8,355 multifamily units. The homeownership rate of 67% mirrors the national average. Multi-family construction has been increasingly important due to economic conditions and current housing market dynamics.

Housing Affordability

The median housing value in Baltimore County increased 117.2% from 1990 to 2008, after adjusting for inflation. Owner occupied stock appreciation outpaced the increase in the median gross rent, which increased 48.6%. At the same time, the median household income increased only 23.4%.

Recently, however, housing affordability has become more challenging in Baltimore County, reflecting a nationwide housing problem associated with the economic recession. The proportion of both owners and renters experiencing an affordability problem increased significantly between 2000 and 2008. Between 2000 and 2010, The Housing Choice Voucher Program waiting list grew from 2,000 to 20,000 households.

The region's supply of affordable sales housing is heavily concentrated in and directly surrounding Baltimore City. These areas have a supply of inexpensive housing as a result the age of the structures as well as the national economic downturn, the housing market bust and an increase in foreclosures.

The Departments Housing Opportunities Program administers CDBG funds, HOME funds and other HUD state and federal programs. The Housing Opportunities Program originates, underwrites, administers and services housing loans, grants and tax incentives utilizing state, local, and federal resources. The program works to increase the supply of affordable housing, improve and maintain the existing housing stock, and strengthen neighborhoods through expanding public facilities and community amenities.

The County has undertaken several specific actions to expand housing opportunities for low and moderate income families. On the Westside of the County, specific projects are the Arbutus Supportive Housing, a 13 unit Single Room Occupancy facility for chronically homeless women; The Greens at English Counsel, a new affordable senior housing development in the Baltimore Highlands area; Pikeswood Apartments, a rehabilitated mixed income apartment property in the Liberty community; The Greens at Liberty and Old Court Estates, both new affordable senior projects in Randallstown. Other projects elsewhere in the County include Renaissance Square, a mixed income, mixed housing type project in Essex and The Greens at Logan Field, an affordable senior property to be constructed in Dundalk.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

(3) Describe the SC Area's demographic trends (with respect to age, race, household size, household income, educational attainment, or other relevant factors). (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

	2000	2010
Unemployment Rate	2.67%	3.05%
Residential Construction	Between 2000 and 2010	
Ownership	145	
Rental	84	
Total	229	
Homeownership Rate	72.7%	51.7%
Property Value		
Median House Value	\$133,400	\$295,350
Median Gross Rent	\$594	\$839
Foreclosure Incidents (Zip Code)	155	264
Area Share of County	5.28%	4.47%
Area Median HH Income	\$51,420	\$70,349
Metropolitan Region	\$49,938	\$66,195
HH Income < 50% of region's	\$24,969	\$33,098
HH Income < 80% of region's	\$39,950	\$52,956
HH Income < 120% of region's	\$59,926	\$79,434
Total Household	7,840	8,058
Families (Family Households)	4,964	4,946
% total households	63.32%	61.38%
Age Groups		
Under 5 years	1,154	1,186
5 to 9 years	1,211	1,194
10 to 14 years	1,257	1,199
15 to 19 years	1,114	1,169
20 to 24 years	990	1,286
20 to 24 years	990	1,286
25 to 34 years	2,508	2,614
35 to 44 years	3,366	2,544
45 to 54 years	2,931	3,217
55 to 59 years	958	1,518
60 to 64 years	735	1,311
65 to 74 years	1,519	1,521
75 to 84 years	1,324	1,106
85 years and over	608	652
Race & Ethnicity		
White	15,315	14,038
Black or African American	3,237	4,212
American Indian and Alaska Native	37	71
Asian	610	1,220
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Is	6	12
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	412	932
Household Size	2.40	2.43

Educational Attainment:

Population 18 to 24 years	1,370	1,535
% high school or higher	85.62%	81.45%
% bachelor's or higher	13.21%	15.52%
Population 25 years and over	13,989	13,875
% high school or higher	72.26%	89.02%
% bachelor's or higher	35.77%	37.52%

Sources: Federal, state, county agencies, and private companies

Notes:

- 1) The foreclosure data for 2000 are not available from state or private sector. The 2007 data are the only historic data on foreclosure.
- 2) The margin of error is not included in this table due to urgency of the work request
- 3) The unemployment for 2010 is from the Census Bureau, which is lower than that from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (8.3% for county and region)

III. LOCAL CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT PLANS & PROJECTS

A. Organizational Structure:

Describe the Applicant's organizational structure. Specifically, which organizations are members in the Sustainable Communities Workgroup and who are the respective staff? Who are the leaders, and how will the Workgroup advisor or staff manage implementation of the SC Area Plan? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The Baltimore County Department of Planning assumes lead responsibility for preparing Sustainable Community applications and for creating and implementing Sustainable Community Action Plans. The agency has the capacity and the will to maximize the impact of the SC designation. The agency has formed a county-government based Sustainable Communities Workgroup. Presently, two additional county agencies are active in the group, the Department of Economic Development and the Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability. Additional agencies, such as Recreation and Parks and Public Works, are engaged through their prior participation in existing plans that are important components of our applications and future projects. Our government-based workgroup and more formal agency representation will expand as we move forward.

The county's SC Workgroup has a leadership team composed of the department director, two division heads and five additional staffers who are highly experienced in community planning, community development, community revitalization, community outreach, public relations and demographics. Members of this team are: Department of Planning Director Andrea Van Arsdale; Liz Glenn, head of Neighborhood Improvement; Jeff Mayhew, head of Community Development; Dave Green, head of Neighborhood Response Team (NRT); Amy Mantay, Western Sector NRT leader, Donnell Zeigler, Western NRT, Jessie Bialek, Rural Planner, Kui Zhao, demographer and Master Plan coordinator; Laurie Hay, head of Commercial Revitalization; Kathy Schlabach, head of Strategic Planning. The SC leadership team will guide and supervise several departmental divisions that will be engaged. The department's recently established Neighborhood Response Team will take on leadership and implementation responsibilities associated with individual sustainable communities. The response team will interface with community-based organizations, non-profit organizations and other stakeholders. Additionally, Sharon Klots of the County Department of Economic Development will be involved, as will Ayla Haig, Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability.

Additional resources include the agency's Housing Opportunities Program and Commercial Revitalization Program. The Commercial Revitalization Program consists of experienced professionals from various disciplines including planning, commercial real estate, neighborhood stabilization, and banking. The program will continue to offer low interests loans, tax credits, and technical and business assistance to attract new investment.

III. LOCAL CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT PLANS & PROJECTS

B. Organizational Experience:

Describe the Applicant organization's past experience in administering revitalization plans and projects. Describe the roles of the members of the Sustainable Communities Workgroup, including their experience in implementing revitalization initiatives. What are the strengths and challenges of the capacity of these groups with respect to implementation of the SC Plan? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The Department of Planning is well versed in leading large-scale planning efforts and implementing a wide variety of projects associated with those revitalization plans. This robust capacity includes plans that have received crucial support from the Maryland Community Legacy Program administered by DHCD and gap financing for revitalization projects generating downtown employment with DBED and MDOT. All of this work has involved close collaboration and partnerships with key county agencies, state agencies, federal agencies, community organizations and private-sector stakeholders. This work also involves many contracts, requests for proposals and memoranda of understanding to clearly guide the involvement of formal partners.

The County has tackled significant redevelopment projects involving the transformation of formerly blighted and neglected properties. Working with HUD and other partners, the County gained control of the former Riverdale apartments and resolved a longstanding case of blight and neglect in Middle River. The property - now known as Waterview - stands as a beacon of neighborhood stability, comprising more than 60 acres of newly built residences. Similar transformative initiatives to overcome blight were carried out at the former Kingsley Park apartments in Middle River and the former Yorkway apartments in Dundalk. Newly built residences, including a multi-family building at Kingsley Park, now occupy both of these properties.

The county launched its partnership with DHCD's community legacy program as part of the Dundalk Urban Design Assistance Team (UDAT) planning process. The partnership continues to thrive and spawned the Dundalk Renaissance Corporation (a certified community development corporation). The county and the DRC have implemented many revitalization projects, including: Dundalk Avenue streetscape, Dundalk Community Center, Turner Station Community Center, Watersedge Community Center, Turner Station-Watersedge Roundabout, [[transformation of former Yorkway apartments,]] acquisition and rehab of 12 residences, Main Street designation, Maple Street designation and residential energy audits.

Baltimore County received crucial community legacy funding that supported the Randallstown UDAT plan of 2003-2004. This planning process received a community participation award from the American Planning Association. The plan's leading recommendation was to establish a multi-faceted community center. This project - involving an investment of \$9.7 million in county funds, \$2.9 million in state funds, \$400,000 in federal funds and the YMCA as a partner - was opened in 2009. Earlier a signature gateway park was completed.

Baltimore County administers a comprehensive Commercial Revitalization Program that seeks to reposition the County's aging downtown business districts. Using targeted public investment to leverage private reinvestment, the Program offers a range of complementary development and financial assistance tools to implement area specific revitalization strategies. These include an Architect on Call Program, Building Improvement Loan Program, tax credits, property and demographic data, small business loans, infrastructure improvements, organizational grants, regulatory changes, etc. Prior to the economic downturn, the County generally loaned over \$650,000 annually for revitalization projects and granted \$150,000 annually to business organizations for a variety of promotional events and beautification projects. The County has partnered with the State on several large revitalization projects, most recently with DBED on the complete renovation of the 150,000 SF Towson City Center and with MDOT on the Towson Square entertainment complex.

III. LOCAL CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT PLANS & PROJECTS

C. Public Input:

How did residents and other stakeholders in the community provide input to Action Plan described below in Section IV? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The Action Plan is the result of recommendations developed under the County Master Plan, the County Pedestrian and Bicycle Access Plan, the US 40 West Walkable Community Workshop, the Catonsville 2020 advisory committee's plan, and SHA's Frederick Road Neighborhood Enhancement Project. All of these plans benefited from public input. This input occurred in the form of advisory committee meetings, large-group public meetings, workshops, open houses, and public hearings.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

The Sustainable Community Action Plan (SC Plan or Plan) is meant to be a multi-year investment strategy - a strategic set of revitalization initiatives and projects that local partners believe will increase the economic vitality and livability of their community, increased prosperity for local households and improved health of the surrounding environment. The Plan should be flexible enough to be updated regularly and renewed every five years as the community envisions new goals. The priority initiatives and projects in the SC Plan should improve the livability of community places -- residential, commercial, or other public or private properties - and create new work, retail, recreational and housing opportunities for residents. These projects should also reduce the environmental impact of the community through water and energy resource conservation and management strategies. In this way, the Plan can be a road map for local stakeholders as well as State agencies to work together to create a more a sustainable and livable community.

A. Supporting existing communities & reducing environmental impacts.

(1) A community's approach to Smart Growth generally includes two inter-related areas of focus: encouraging reinvestment and growth in existing communities; and, discouraging growth that degrades natural resources, and farms and rural landscapes. Broadly describe your jurisdiction's Smart Growth approach and any significant accomplishments made over the last decade or so. (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Baltimore County has been successful in safeguarding its urban communities as viable places to live, work, tour, and raise families. The establishment of the Urban Rural Demarcation Line (URDL) in 1967, designation of the Owings Mills and White Marsh Growth Areas in 1975, creation of land management areas in the 1980s, and formation of the Middle River Redevelopment Area in 2010 are essential to maintaining the sustainable development and resource preservation throughout county communities. The County's growth and development has mainly taken place within the URDL. Ninety percent of its population resides in one-third of the County's land area.

Development statistics authenticate Baltimore County's success in enhancing community conservation and resource preservation. Within the County's urban areas, a range of housing types is available for an emerging diversity of residents. Most growth has occurred in the community conservation districts, designated growth and redevelopment areas, and urban core. Major redevelopment projects have featured high-density, multi-family dwellings in recent years. In 1989, the County established a goal to permanently preserve 80,000 acres of agricultural and resource preservation areas. Baltimore County has ranked among the top dozen counties nationwide for preservation progress, successfully saving approximately 52,000 acres of such valuable land.

The Baltimore County Master Plan 2020 continues the County's successful approach to growth management by emphasizing healthy and cohesive neighborhoods, supporting transit-oriented and walkable development, improving functional and efficient transportation networks, enhancing workforce training and business attraction, and reinvesting in existing infrastructure and aging housing stock.

Baltimore County strives to provide an adequate supply of a variety of housing types to meet the needs of people at different ages and stages of their lives. Approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in 2011, the Consolidated Plan is a five-year strategy for using federal, state, and local resources and funds to create decent housing, expand economic opportunities, and ensure a suitable living environment for low- to moderate-income persons. The Consolidated Plan represents a deliberate effort in an open and participatory process, fosters accountability between the county government and residents, and manages funding allocation according to performance and desired outcomes.

Reflecting the national trend, obtaining affordable housing is a challenge county residents. Baltimore County has implemented policies to assist its rental population. The County also is committed to increasing availability and accessibility of public services, economic advancement, transportation opportunities, and vital resources to improve the quality of life of minorities and low to moderate-income families and communities. Baltimore County's overall housing approach is to sustain neighborhoods, support broad community development activities, and renovate public facilities and infrastructure with crucial assistance from the Maryland Sustainable Communities program in partnership with the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and in collaboration with the Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) on the HUD Sustainable Communities Initiative.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(2) Describe any major investments in community infrastructure -water, stormwater, sewer, sidewalk, lighting, etc. -- that must be undertaken in order to improve the readiness or competitiveness of the proposed SC Area for private investment and compliance (if applicable) with TMDL regulations. Addressing the stormwater during redevelopment can reduce the pollution entering our streams and contribution to the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay. Investments in infrastructure, generally, can be an important catalyst for new private investment in the community. (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The proposed SC area is currently ready to compete, even with some infrastructure limitations. The SC area's competitiveness will be enhanced and improved by:

? The Maryland State Highway Administration has completed the preliminary engineering design for streetscape improvements along Frederick Road from Bishops Lane to the Baltimore city line as part of the Maryland Neighborhood Conservation Program. The proposed improvements will enhance the safety and aesthetics of the road and will include new curb and gutter, sidewalks, roadway resurfacing, and landscaping.

- The Maryland State Highway Administration recently completed the engineering phase of this project, which will include replacement of the Frederick Road Bridge over I-695. Construction is expected to be completed in Fall 2013. The new bridge will have an architectural finish, ornamental lighting, and decorative fencing.

- Constructing bicycle-compatible outside shoulders on Frederick Road between Holmehurst Avenue and Dungarrie Road.

- Constructing Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant sidewalks and pedestrian accommodations in the vicinity of the interchange.

- Develop streetscape design around a Complete Streets Program.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(3) Describe policies, initiatives or projects that the community will undertake or expand in order to reduce the SC Area's impact on the environment. Examples include but are not limited to: conservation or management of stormwater through retrofitting of streets and by-ways (Green Streets, rain gardens, etc.); retrofitting of facilities and homes for energy conservation; implementation of "green" building codes and mixed-use zoning; recycling of waste; clean-ups of watersheds; and, encouragement of "Buy Local" approaches that benefit local suppliers and food producers. A comprehensive menu of such actions may be found through the nonprofit Sustainable Maryland Certified initiative. (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

There are several policies, initiatives or projects underway or recommended in order to reduce the negative impacts on the environment:

? Implementation of the Western Bike and Pedestrian Plan to reduce automobile the use of cars and to promote a healthy lifestyle

- Continuation and expansion of local farmers' markets to bring locally grown produce to the communities on a regular basis

- As part of the Commercial Revitalization Program, continue the promotion of "Buy Local" campaigns

- As a public policy, improve water quality to the point where the Lower Patapsco will be safe for recreation

- With the Friends of the Patapsco Valley State Park, reduce trash in waterways and tributaries of the Patapsco River

- Implement habitat restoration projects to remove the biological impairment in the Patapsco watershed.

- Create riparian buffers and enhance existing buffers to quality forests to filter runoff and provide habitat. In the Patapsco watershed

- Continue funding for community clean-ups.

- Increase participation in single stream recycling.

- Increase the number and variety of watershed restoration projects.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(4) Which community groups or stakeholders will be key to the implementation of the initiatives and projects noted in this section? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The key community groups and stakeholders that will be involved in the implementation of this section's initiatives and projects include:

- County government including the Department of Planning, Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability, Department of Public Works, and Department of Economic Development.
- Friends of the Patapsco Valley and Heritage Greenway, Inc.
- Greater Catonsville Chamber of Commerce
- Concerned Citizens of Catonsville Community Association
- Winter's Lane Community Association

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

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

(1) What are the key assets that exist in the community upon which the Plan's projects and initiatives will build? Assets may include physical assets such as parks and historic structures and also civic and economic assets such as employers, educational institutions, and cultural organizations and activities. (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Downtown Catonsville is a keystone asset for the area. Known as Music City Maryland for its instrumental stores (Bill's Music, Appalachian Bluegrass, Baltimore Brass) and varied local concert venues, the charming downtown is now also becoming a preferred destination for dining. Downtown Catonsville has a comfortable pedestrian friendly structure, reinforced by an innovative streetscape that relocated unsightly telephone poles on several blocks.

The Catonsville Chamber of Commerce is an organizational asset promoting the downtown through festivals and events; establishing a Catonsville Heritage Foundation to support and enhance cultural organizations, historic preservation, community revitalization, and higher education scholarships; and assisting business and property owners. The Chamber has been a strong local partner with the CRP and will continue to be the essential bridge between the private and public sectors.

Educational Assets - With the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC), the Community College of Baltimore County Catonsville campus, and several private and public schools, the southwest county region offers educational opportunities at every level, from pre-kindergarten through graduate school and adult continuing education. Residents are well educated, with one in three having a college degree, one in ten having a graduate or professional diploma.

Employment – Area is economically well positioned. The Department of Economic Development lists UMBC/Southwest as one of nine business investment areas and describes it as a focal point for research-driven, technology-led economic development and entrepreneurship, especially in cyber security and alternative energy. The Catonsville Sustainable Community is located minutes from Woodlawn, home of thousands of Federal jobs and located in the recently created Enterprise Zone.

Patapsco Valley Heritage Area An extraordinary historical, natural, and recreational area shared by Baltimore and Howard Counties. It was also Maryland's first state park. The Sustainable Communities designation could significantly advance a unique partnership among Baltimore County, Howard County, MD Department of Natural Resources, the Friends of the Patapsco Valley and Heritage Greenway to work with the Urban Land Institute to officially certify the area and develop a working plan to promote and protect this invaluable asset.

Old Catonsville National Historic District, Winters Lane National Historic District, and Central Catonsville and Summit Park Historic Districts are distinctive neighborhoods that help define the greater Catonsville community and are worthy of continued preservation efforts. There are challenges in terms of rehabilitating and maintaining the integrity of the neighborhoods.

Frederick Road is part of the first federally planned and funded highway in the United States and a link in the scenic byway that follows one of the most historically and culturally significant transportation routes in the United States.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(2) What policies, initiatives or projects will reuse or enhance the historical assets, traditional business districts/Main Streets and cultural resources of the community? What actions will reinforce your community's authentic "sense of place" and historic character? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Catonsville/Paradise is a designated Baltimore County Commercial Revitalization District and the County's efforts will support the traditional downtown character of this community commercial center. Commercial Revitalization staff will use the Architect on Call, Building Improvement Loans, and tax credits to foster high quality façade improvements and redevelopment that are true to the small town historic nature of the area. These efforts will be augmented by the Baltimore County Design Review Panel that reviews all development in the District. The Catonsville 2020 Plan provides a framework for the County, the Catonsville Chamber, and the business and property owners to maintain and improve the revitalization momentum. Specifically, the Program's priorities are developing realistic parking requirements for traditional downtowns, enabling live music with safeguards for the community, repositioning several key buildings using historic design guidelines, evaluating the influence of the F-level intersection on revitalization efforts, and creating a working group of business and property owners to re-invigorate the Paradise business district,

Baltimore County has a strong historic preservation program to help property owners reinvest and improve their historic structures. Using the Department's award-winning Historic Preservation Guidelines, the Landmarks Preservation Commission and staff provide needed guidance for owners to successfully apply for Baltimore County historic tax credits. This will be critical to preserving the historic character of the buildings in the area's three national historic districts, especially in Winters Lane where the County is hoping to help the community rehabilitate and rejuvenate the housing stock.

Patapsco Valley Greenway – See B(3.)

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(3) Describe policies, initiatives or projects that will increase community access to green spaces, parks and other amenities? A community can gain social and physical benefits from access to a healthy natural environment. The inclusion of complete streets, trails, green space, parks and trees contribute to the character and health of a community. Examples might include improvements to the tree canopy by planting street trees, improving local neighborhood streams, or reusing a vacant lot for a new community park or playground. *(Answer Space 4,000 characters)*

Baltimore County Pedestrian and Bicycle Access Plan (please also see Section E1.). This plan contains numerous recommendations to improve pedestrian and bicycle access to existing parks and other amenities, as well as recommendations for shared use trails within local open spaces. Refer to Section E for more details.

The Friends of the Patapsco Valley and Heritage Greenways are initiating an Urban Land Institute Technical Advisory Panel process with the goal of obtaining certification of the Patapsco Valley Greenway as a Maryland Certified Heritage Area. This will build upon a previous effort begun in 1990s and Baltimore County and Howard Counties have agreed to be active partners in this project.

Baltimore County completed an assessment of its tree canopy in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service and the University of Vermont. The County is working to finalize multiple tree canopy goals for individual communities, watersheds and reservoirs, and Countywide. Currently, the County recommends that each Census Designated Place reach a 40% tree canopy cover. This goal is consistent with the State's goal, and the recommended forest cover by American Forests Inc. The State has also adopted a no net less policy for its forests, and its Governor's Sustainable Forestry Council recommends the state maintain 40% canopy coverage as well.

The Catonsville Sustainable Community consists of 6,204 acres of land, and far exceeds the County's goal of 40% tree canopy. Tree canopy covers 3,846 acres of the community, equating to 62%. An additional 18% of total acreage is covered in grass and shrub, and potentially available for planting. In efforts to increase the tree canopy, EPS planted "Energy Trees" at Bloombury Community Center, Catonsville Senior Center, and Wilkens Police Precinct. Grant funding was used to strategically plant trees around buildings to increase energy efficiency of the buildings. As the trees grow, it is anticipated that they will provide shade to reduce cooling costs in the warmer months. By dropping their leaves in the fall, these same trees allow sunlight to warm building exteriors, reducing heating costs.

Additional Projects in the Sustainable Community boundary.

- A trail system within both Catonsville Park and the Banneker Community Center grounds, connected to each other and to the surrounding residences by on-road bike routes.
- Short Line Trail, which is being pursued by the Catonsville Rails to Trails group with County assistance.
- Patapsco Valley State Park Trail, extended to provide a recreational amenity serving Southeast Baltimore County, as well as the adjoining Howard and Anne Arundel counties.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(4) Which community groups or stakeholders will be key to the implementation of the initiatives and projects noted in this section? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The key community groups and stakeholders that will be involved in the implementation of this section's initiatives and projects include:

- County government including the Department of Planning, Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability, Department of Public Works, Department of Recreation and Parks, and Office of Tourism and Promotion.
- Friends of the Patapsco Valley and Heritage Greenway, Inc.
- Maryland Heritage Areas Authority
- Maryland Department of Natural Resources
- Greater Catonsville Chamber of Commerce
- Concerned Citizens of Catonsville Community Association
- Catonsville Rails to Trails, Inc.
- Banneker Community Development Association

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

C. Enhancing economic competitiveness

(1) What economic development policies, initiatives or projects will improve the economy through investments in small businesses and other key employment sectors? What economic development and business incentives will you build upon or implement as part of the SC Plan? Examples could include but are not limited to: green-taping for expedited project application review; permitting and inspection; job training; business tax credits; and, revolving loan funds. (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The Sustainable Community will encourage redevelopment in the CBD to retain and attract new and better mixed use projects to create a well balanced and economically balanced commercial district. In the Catonsville/Paradise Commercial Revitalization District, the goals are to retain and attract a mix of uses that create a well-balanced and economically vital commercial center; improve the appearance and pedestrian orientation of the District; and market and promote the District to potential businesses and patrons. Catonsville is a fairly strong downtown that needs supplemental efforts to renovate and re-tenant several key buildings, and regulatory/programmatic changes to promote restaurants by addressing outdated liquor license and parking requirements, mixed use, live music, and outdoor seating. The County has specific incentive programs only in CRDs including Architect on Call, Building Improvement Loan Program, tax credits, specialized small business loans, and a range of educational and business counseling opportunities through the Baltimore County Small Business Resource Center. The Chamber is also eligible for grant funding to promote the districts and foster the implementation of the Plan.

Paradise section is struggling and the County, with the business and property owners, needs to focus on area specific actions to improve the tenancy and appearance. Paradise is an important gateway into the County and historic link on the National Road Scenic Byway. It is our experience that private sector improves their buildings after major public reinvestment in streetscapes. County could design a customized Architect on Call/loan/tax credit program to facilitate reinvestment.

Catonsville is a Patapsco Valley Greenway Gateway Community and this, as well as the National Road Scenic Byway designation, needs to be incorporated into promotional and marketing efforts for the area. With the rails to trails program and the potential bike and pedestrian connections, this area can become an important recreational/tourism location. Specific actions can be developed as part of the ULI TAP for PV.

The Department of Economic Development identified Southwest Baltimore County, which includes the SC area, as a business investment area. Its competitive advantages include a technology and industrial business community; Federal HUB Zone and State Enterprise Zone; proximity to federal labs, NSA and Ft. Meade; direct access to I-95 and BWI Marshall Airport; recognition of UMBC as a national leader in STEM graduates; University-affiliated Class A tech park and major business incubator and accelerator designed for cyber, bio and technology companies; robust, redundant data connectivity; Halethorpe industrial and office space is lower cost and larger spaces; UMBC production of skilled workforce; Catonsville revitalization; and CCBC Catonsville.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(2) What workforce development policies, initiatives or projects will increase access to jobs and economic opportunity for residents in the SC Area? Do you have a goal for job creation? Are green jobs an opportunity in the jurisdiction or SC Area? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Baltimore County is the major economic engine in terms of jobs (515,000) in the region with the second-largest number of jobs of any Maryland jurisdiction. The County economy is highly diversified, not dependent on any single industry or company. Among the sectors where the County is strong: financial services, defense, manufacturing, transportation, information technology and life sciences. The federal government also has a major presence in the County, as the national headquarters for both the Social Security Administration (SSA) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) are located in Woodlawn. The County's inter-connected web of large, medium and small firms in traditional and high technology sectors, and the high quality of the local workforce, also fosters stability and resilience. An important determinant of the County's economic health is the balance between export industries and local-serving industries. The difference between the local-serving and export-oriented sectors is critical because they depend on distinct revenue bases and infuse wealth into the local economy in different ways.

Together, export and local-serving businesses form the basis for a strong local economy. In short, residents follow good jobs and retail follows residents. The greater the County's success in retaining and attracting export businesses, the greater the spending power will be and demand for local-serving goods and services. As these businesses thrive, the County is able to offer an appealing quality of life to its residents. Employees in turn serve as customers for other businesses, circulating dollars back through the local economy. County businesses pay significant taxes that provide revenue to pay for schools, roads, parks and other public services.

In order to have better success in connecting County employees to employment sectors, Baltimore County has created a New Workforce Development Division strategic plan that will reinforce the Department's Strategic Operations Plan, and better align workforce training resources to the identified six high-employment clusters. A key component of this new approach will be to adopt the Career Pathways model advocated by the U.S. Department of Labor and Maryland DLLR. The Baltimore Regional Career Pathways design is a series of connected education and training programs and student support services that enable individuals to secure a job or advance in a demand industry or occupation. Career Pathways focus on easing and facilitating student transition from high school to community college; from pre-college courses to credit postsecondary programs; and from community college to university or employment. The Regional Career Pathways effort will partner with the Community College of Baltimore County.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(3) Describe whether the Sustainable Community will be impacted by the Base Re-alignment and Closure (BRAC) activities in Maryland. If impacted, how do the initiatives and projects in your Plan complement BRAC-related growth? (If not applicable, all ten points will be assessed based on answers to questions 1, 2, and 4) (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

As of September 15, 2011, the relocation of all direct Federal jobs identified for movement to Aberdeen Proving Ground and Fort Meade under BRAC 2005 was complete. Approximately 21,000 new Federal jobs came to Maryland in the move. However, most contractor expansions and relocations to date have settled very close to the APG and Fort Meade installations themselves. As a result, although Baltimore County will continue to be alert for opportunities to attract military contractors with more flexible location requirements to the County, the BRAC impact on Catonsville is not expected to be significant.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(4) Which community groups or stakeholders will be key to the implementation of the initiatives and projects noted in this section? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The key community groups and stakeholders that will be involved in the implementation of this section's initiatives and projects include:

- County government including the Department of Planning and the Department of Economic Development, and Office of Tourism and Promotion.
- Greater Catonsville Chamber of Commerce
- UMBC
- Community College of Baltimore, Catonsville
- Small Business Resource Center

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

D. Promoting access to quality affordable housing.

(1) What housing policies, initiatives or projects will expand housing choices - rental and homeownership -- for people of a range of ages, incomes, and also for disabled individuals? How will these actions address the current housing conditions and needs noted in Section II? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The Planning Department's Housing Opportunity Program seeks to expand the supply of affordable rental housing for families, disabled and homeless households, and elderly households. Existing homeownership programs including the Settlement Expense Loan Program and the Mortgage Assistance Loan Program provide deferred loans and grants to provide affordable homeownership opportunities for low to moderate income households. Further, the Single Family Rehabilitation Loan Program, Lead Hazard Reduction Program, and Emergency Repair Grant Program help existing homeowners make repairs and improvements to their homes to maintain and improve value, bring the properties up to the current building code, and to enable aging homeowners to remain in their homes.

The Program's emphasis on sustainability requires that developers and households seeking County resources for rehabilitation or new construction must use green building practices to ensure energy efficiency, improved indoor air quality, and water conservation. All new construction must be Energy Star compliant at a minimum. These programs, along with a focused community-based strategy that build upon the community's existing strengths, engage the community leadership and residents, and is sensitive to and respectful of the culture and heritage of the community will be utilized to revitalize and stabilize communities within the Sustainable Community Designated Areas.

For the Winter's Lane community, as determined through a collaborative planning process, existing programs can be used to encourage homeownership, repair existing rental properties, and provide mortgage and loan assistance. In addition, guidelines could be set forth to address protection and rehabilitation of historic properties and infill development.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(2) Will these housing initiatives or projects increase access to transit or community walkability and/or decrease transportation costs? In other words, will the housing investments result in more people living near work or town centers, or able to more conveniently reach work, school, shopping and/or recreation?(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

If possible, most workers prefer to live in close proximity to employment in order to maximize their quality of life, and minimize commuting time and expense. They require either affordable homeownership opportunities, or rental housing that are attractive, safe, inexpensive to maintain, and close to services, public transportation, employment, and recreation. Older traditional communities such as are found in the greater Catonsville area, have much to offer in this respect.

The criteria for funding housing investments are based on the principles of sustainability, walkability, energy efficiency, and respect and sensitivity to the local character and context of the action area communities. New communities must demonstrate their commitment to sustainability through the use of energy efficient building materials and practices, compact design, location of residential communities in proximity to public transportation and major transportation corridors, developing communities that are walkable and encourage pedestrian access as well as access for biking within the community and connections for biking and pedestrians outside of the community.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(3) What is your goal for of number of units to be created of affordable workforce housing, rental and homeownership? What populations (by income or special needs) will benefit from this increased access to affordable housing? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Housing need and housing market data reveal that Baltimore County has a need for additional affordable housing that meets the needs of households earning from 30% to 120% of the Area Household Median Income as defined by HUD based on household size. Research indicates that there is an increased need for rental housing that meets the needs of families including large families and families with disabilities. The Baltimore County Housing Office reports that there are over 20,000 households on the Housing Choice Voucher program waiting list with an expected waiting period of 9 years or more. Further, the presence of foreclosures in several communities demonstrates the reduction in the number of owner-occupied households and indicates the presence of distressed housing in many older neighborhoods including those identified within the Sustainable Communities designation applications.

Baltimore County has identified as a major housing goal to increase the number of housing opportunities for low to moderate income households that are located in areas of opportunity. This will include increasing the number of affordable rental housing units that meet the need of families, increasing the availability of rental and for-sale housing that is accessible to households with disabilities, increasing homeownership opportunities for low to moderate households, and finally reducing the presence of foreclosures through outreach, education and prevention activities as well as providing incentives for the purchase of foreclosures.

The County will also provide CDBG and Lead Hazard Reduction funds to assist up to 150 low to moderate income homeowners and affordable rental properties with rehabilitation and repairs to improve their properties. The County will also delegate its bond authority to the State of Maryland to provide financing for affordable rental housing.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(4) Which community groups or stakeholders will be key to the implementation of the initiatives and projects noted in this section? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The key community groups and stakeholders that will be involved in the implementation of this section's initiatives and projects include:

- Baltimore County Department of Planning
- Concerned Citizens of Catonsville Community Association

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

E. Support transportation efficiency and access.

(1) What policies, strategies and projects are envisioned to strengthen the transportation network that affects the proposed SC Area? How will these initiatives support transportation choices (including walking, bicycling, bus or rail transit, and carpooling) or otherwise promote an efficient transportation network that integrates housing and transportation land uses? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Implementation of the county Pedestrian and Bicycle Access Plan. The plan identifies the Catonsville community as a high priority target area for improved bicycle and pedestrian access. The framework for establishing a highly walkable and bikeable community already exists and can be readily built upon. Catonsville has an active private nonprofit organization, Catonsville Rails To Trails, which has been instrumental in building a network of trails and bike lanes connecting major destinations to open space areas and to the downtown. The presence of these amenities, together with the small town atmosphere of Catonsville, has been attracting young families that are interested in living a more sustainable lifestyle.

There are many opportunities to build on the spine that has been created or is currently under construction as recommended by the county pedestrian and bicycle plan. Within the SC area, the plan identifies 15 miles of on road bicycle facilities such as bike lanes, 5 miles of shared use paths, and 35 miles of sidewalks. In addition, locations for improved crosswalks, bicycle parking and other facilities are identified. Like many communities across Maryland, Catonsville was established as a small rural community, and many of its streets lack sidewalks. Within the SC area, improvements to the pedestrian environment will support use of the downtown, and help alleviate a perceived parking shortage and improve access to a number of bus stops in the area. The recommended bicycle improvements, which are part of a county-wide network, will provide local as well as more regional access. Major regional destinations that will be able to be accessed by bicycle include two local colleges/universities, the Halethorpe MARC station, the future Red Line stations. The plan also recommends a bikeway along the Patapsco River, as part of the creation of a Patapsco Heritage Greenway. This bikeway will link Catonsville not only to Ellicott City, but provides the opportunity to link to Southwest Area Park in Baltimore Highlands. The park is planned as a major junction point where bikeways in Baltimore County, Baltimore City, and Anne Arundel County will connect. This junction is critical regional link whereby Baltimore City and Baltimore County can connect to Anne Arundel County's existing BWI Trail and B&A Trail, which have been designated as components of the national East Coast Greenway.

Finally, the County plan recommends that supportive programming accompany the infrastructure improvements. Encouragement, education, and enforcement programs to initiate and ensure continued safe use of these new facilities will be essential to the development of a truly multimodal environment that integrates land use and transportation.

Residents of the Greater Catonsville area are potential users of the proposed Baltimore Red Line light rail project. See IV.E.(2) below for a description of this transit project.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(2) If applicable, describe the SC Area's connection or proximity to transportation centers (e.g. Metro, MARC, and light rail stations) and describe opportunities for Transit - Oriented Development (TOD). Will Plan strategies and projects contribute to jobs/housing balance or otherwise provide a mix of land uses that can be expected to reduce reliance on single-occupancy automobiles? (If transit or TOD is not applicable in your community, all points in this section will be based on questions 1 and 3) (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

At present, there aren't any transportation centers for Metro, MARC, or light rail located within the proposed Catonsville/Patapsco Sustainable Community.

The Catonsville community is served by a stop on the MARC Penn Line located in Halethorpe.

Catonsville is located near the western segment of the proposed Baltimore Red Line. The Red Line is a proposed 14.1-mile, east-west, light rail transit line connecting the areas of Woodlawn, Edmondson Village, West Baltimore, downtown Baltimore, Inner Harbor East, Fells Point, Canton, and East Baltimore.

Four Red Line stations are proposed to be located in Baltimore County. They are the CMS, Security Square, Social Security Administration, and I-70 Park and Ride stations. In particular, the residents of Catonsville are potential users of the Security Square and I-70 Park and Ride stations. Both of those stations have significant potential for new transit oriented development.

President Obama's Administration approved expediting the permitting and environmental review processes for the Red Line. Pending funding, construction is expected to begin in 2015 and operation could begin by 2021.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(3) Which community groups or stakeholders will be key to the implementation of the initiatives and projects noted in this section? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The key community groups and stakeholders that will be involved in the implementation of this section's initiatives and projects include:

- County government including the Department of Planning, Department of Public Works, and Department of Recreation and Parks.
- Greater Catonsville Chamber of Commerce
- Maryland Department of Transportation
- University of Maryland at Baltimore County
- Concerned Citizens of Catonsville Community Association
- Catonsville Rails to Trails, Inc. Baltimore County has established a strong partnership with this organization, and is assisting the group's efforts in building the Short Line Trail. The organization, in partnership with Baltimore County, was recently awarded a MD Bikeways grant for a feasibility study of the potential to reclaim the former rail tunnel under Bloomsbury Avenue, and to provide bicycle access to UMBC. The dedication and effort of CRTT is incredible—they are heavily involved in all of the planning, promoting, fund raising, construction, and maintaining of Catonsville bikeway network. They will continue their work on completing the Short Line trail and on providing additional connections to destinations throughout the Catonsville area.
- Catonsville Roundtable—Will assist in providing bicycle parking facilities, and in business-oriented encouragement programs

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

F. Coordinating and Leveraging Policies and Investment

(1) What specific steps will the Sustainable Community Workgroup take to coordinate policies and funding streams to remove barriers to investment and maximize and increase funding in the proposed Sustainable Community Area? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The SCW is composed of governmental, not for profit, business, and residential stakeholders representing a range of interest groups who will be well educated and motivated for success. County staff will be amply able to coordinate public policies and funding streams, especially as the Capital Improvement Program is extensively reviewed by Planning. Staff has also become quite skilled at seeking alternative funding as evidenced by the 2010 Pulaski Redevelopment Study, grant funding for the Western Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, grant funding for UDAT and Charrette plans as well as CDBG funds, HOME funds and other HUD state and federal programs.

The Sustainable Communities Workgroup recognizes that collaborations and partnerships are essential to attracting quality developers and re-development to established communities. Redevelopment cost can be a deterrent for developers. Many established communities may be more costly to develop due to the need to upgrade existing infrastructure or provide amenities that make the community more attractive.

The Sustainable Communities Workgroup will attempt to attract good developers by offering incentives to invest in projects that demonstrate community support, walkability, job creation and improved sense of place for Catonsville.

The Sustainable Communities Work Group includes the Housing Opportunity Program, the Commercial Revitalization Program, and the Department of Economic Development. All of these organizations have available resources to attract new investment to sustainable communities. The Sustainable Community Work Group will aggressively market available resources to maximize funding efforts when a desirable sustainable community project is identified and proves to be a good investment. Some of resources that will be available include low interests loans, grants, tax credits, and architect on call programs.

The Sustainable Communities Work Group will coordinate access to stakeholders, including citizens, developers, property owners, and government officials, to help identify appropriate sites in Catonsville. The Catonsville Community enjoys several established community and business associations. The organizations include The Catonsville Chamber of Commerce, Catonsville 2020 and Concerned Citizens of Catonsville and UMBC Group.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(2) How is the proposed Sustainable Community Plan consistent with other existing community or comprehensive plans? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The communities that make up the SC area have participated in comprehensive planning processes to address issues specific to their areas. These plans are:

- The Patapsco Heritage Greenway Management Study, by Rhodeside and Harwell, Inc., 2000 (updated 2012)
- Western County Bike Western County Pedestrian & Bicycle Access Plan
- Catonsville 2020: The Future of the Village, Baltimore County, 2012
- Maryland National Road Corridor Partnership Plan, Maryland Department of Planning, 2001 (update in progress)
- Lower Patapsco River Small Watershed Plan, Baltimore County, May 2012
- The US 40 West Walkable Community Workshop Report, Baltimore County et. al., 2005
- Consolidated Plan 2012-2016, Baltimore County, 2012
- Baltimore County Master Plan 2020

The Catonsville Patapsco Sustainable Communities application is based upon these plans and they will be the guiding elements for future planning and implementation. The work groups will involve additional members of the affected communities and interest groups as work proceeds.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(3) How will the Plan help leverage and/or sustain more private sector investments? *(Answer Space 4,000 characters)*

All stakeholders are becoming more and more aware of declining public funding and recognize the necessity of joint public/private/not for profit partnerships. Groups are becoming more creative in cobbling various funding sources together to achieve a common outcome. Likewise, stakeholders and funders are becoming more "hard nosed" in demanding clear outcomes and tangible results that benefit the community. County loan and grant programs have always required a private sector match and that will continue.

V. PROGRESS MEASURES

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

(1) List the specific outcomes that the Plan seeks to produce. (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

- Revitalized "main street" community commercial centers of Catonsville and Paradise along Frederick Road
- Enhanced bicycle and pedestrian trail network
- Enhanced Winter's Lane community
- Designation of the Patapsco Valley as a Maryland Certified Heritage Area
- Greater recognition and implementation of the Maryland National Road Corridor Partnership Plan
- Implementation of the Lower Patapsco River Small Watershed Action Plan

V. PROGRESS MEASURES

(2) And, list the specific benchmarks that will be used to measure progress toward these outcomes. (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Revitalized "main street" community commercial centers of Catonsville and Paradise along Frederick Road

- Changes in parking, liquor license, live music, and outdoor seating to better promote restaurant attraction and retention.
- Creation of a focus group of business and property owners in Paradise to develop a framework for revitalization
- Better integration of promotional and business opportunities along Frederick Road
- Streetscape improvements along Frederick Road in Paradise
- Attraction of a larger office user
- Building improvements to Plymouth Wall Paper building and Hilton Flower Shop building
- Façade improvements to buildings in Paradise

Enhanced bicycle and pedestrian trail network

- See attachment, Targeted Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Shared Use Path Improvements in Catonsville
- Number of pedestrian and bicycle projects completed, measured in 3-yr increments. Due to limitations on funding, initial projects will include ones that have already received some grant funding, such as Edmondson Avenue bike lanes, the Catonsville Park trail, and the Short Line Phase II paving, as well as ones that have lower implementation costs, such as bike route signage.

Enhanced Winter's Lane community

- Establishment of a working group of representatives of Winters Lane
- Completion of a housing survey and needs assessment
- Commencement of a collaborative planning process following the East Towson model. Housing rehabilitation, energy efficiency, infill development opportunities, infrastructure improvements, and historic character should be among the issues to address

Designation of the Patapsco Valley as a Maryland Certified Heritage Area

- Update of the Patapsco Heritage Greenway Management Study via an Urban Land Institute Technical Advisory Panel process

Implementation of the Lower Patapsco River Small Watershed Action Plan

The Lower Patapsco River SWAP is based on a 10-year implementation schedule (2021 endpoint). This timeframe is necessary to implement restoration measures and meet the Chesapeake Bay nutrient TMDL and the Patapsco River bacteria and sediment TMDLs. The ability to implement this plan within the 10-year timeframe is dependent upon the availability of staff and sufficient funding. The Lower Patapsco River SWAP Implementation Committee (an outgrowth of the Steering Committee) will meet twice per year to assess progress in meeting watershed goals and objectives and to discuss funding options.

Progress and success of the Lower Patapsco River SWAP will be evaluated during implementation based on the following: interim measurable milestones, pollutant load reduction criteria, implementation tracking, and monitoring. Performance measures have been developed for each action listed in Appendix A of the plan and will be used to gage the progress and success of proposed restoration strategies. Actions will be organized into two year milestones, with the first interval being July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2013, and the final interval being July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2021. The progress and success of actions in Appendix A will be evaluated on an annual basis.

Greater recognition and implementation of the Maryland National Road Corridor Partnership Plan

- Incorporation of the designation in marketing and planning information
- Development of interpretive themes
- Development of Marketing Priorities
- Creation and enhancement of wayside projects, as feasible

REPLACE THIS PAGE WITH
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT
RESOLUTIONS

**SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY APPLICATION
DISCLOSURE AUTHORIZATION AND CERTIFICATION**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Authorized Signature

Print Name and Title

Date