# SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

# APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION RENEWAL

## Eligible Applicants:

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

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

Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development

Division of Neighborhood Revitalization

2 N Charles Street, Suite 450

Baltimore, MD 21201

410-209-5800

http://dhcd.maryland.gov/

**LARRY HOGAN,** *Governor*                    **KENNETH C. HOLT,** *Secretary*

**BOYD K. RUTHERFORD,** *Lt. Governor*                    **TONY REED***, Deputy Secretary*

## OVERVIEW OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

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

## PURPOSE OF RENEWAL AND STREAMLINED APPLICATION

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

## APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

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

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

## SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES BENEFITS

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

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

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

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

## Application Eligibility and Threshold Requirements

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

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

Threshold Requirements

All Sustainable Community applications must meet the following threshold requirements:

1) Sustainable Community Area boundaries must be entirely within a Priority Funding Area (PFA) and should be an area in need of renewal and reinvestment that would benefit from a targeted long-term strategy;

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

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

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

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

## Application Evaluation

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

## Priority Funding Areas

All Sustainable Communities must be located entirely within a Priority Funding Area. Applicants can verify Priority Funding Area boundaries by visiting the MDP website at: http://www.mdp.state.md.us/OurProducts/pfamap.shtml

## Application Training

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

## Application Submission

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

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

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No incomplete applications will be accepted.

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

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## Site Visits, Follow-up Discussion

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

## Approval

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

## Contact Information

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

| DIVISION OF NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION, STATE REVITALIZATION PROGRAMS **REGIONAL PROJECT MANAGERS** | | |
|---|---|---|
| REGION 1:<br>• Northwest Baltimore City<br>• Northwest Baltimore County<br><br>Larry Brown<br>Program Officer<br>Phone:  410-209-5819<br>Email: larry.brownjr@maryland.gov | REGION 2:<br>• Northeast Baltimore City<br>• Northeast Baltimore County<br><br>Garland Thomas<br>Project Manager<br>Phone:  410-209-5803<br>Email: garland.thomas@maryland.gov | REGION 3:<br>• Southeast Baltimore City<br>• Southeast Baltimore County<br>• Anne Arundel County<br><br>Olivia Ceccarelli-McGonigal Project Manager<br>Phone: 410-209-5826<br>Email:<br>olivia.ceccarelli@maryland.gov |
| REGION 4:<br>• Southwest Baltimore City<br>• Southwest Baltimore County<br>• Howard County<br><br><br><br>Nick Mayr<br>Project Manager<br>Phone: 410-209-5842<br>Email:<br>nicholas.mayr@maryland.gov | REGION 5:<br>Western Maryland<br>• Allegany<br>• Frederick<br>• Garrett<br>• Washington<br>• Carroll<br><br>Sara Jackson<br>Project Coordinator<br>Phone: 410-209-5812<br>Email: Sara.jackson@maryland.gov | REGION 6:<br>Washington DC Metropolitan<br>• Prince George's<br>• Montgomery<br><br><br><br>Duane Felix<br>Program Officer<br>Phone: 410-209-5825<br>Email: Duane.Felix@maryland.gov |
| REGION 7:<br>Upper Eastern Shore<br>• Harford County<br>• Caroline<br>• Cecil<br>• Kent<br>• Queen Anne's<br>• Talbot<br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br>Ashlee Green<br>Project Manager<br>Phone: 410-209-5815<br>Email: Ashlee.Green@maryland.gov | REGION 8:<br>Lower Eastern Shore, Southern Maryland<br><br>Lower Eastern Shore<br>• Dorchester<br>• Somerset<br>• Wicomico<br>• Worcester<br><br>Southern Maryland<br>• Calvert<br>• Charles<br>• St. Mary's<br><br><br>Raynell Cooper<br>Jr. Project Manager<br>Phone: 410-209-5836<br>Email: Raynell.cooper@maryland.gov | |

## SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PLAN ELEMENTS

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

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

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

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

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

**QUALITY OF LIFE:** Quality of life accomplishments and objectives may include crime, socio-economic demographics, educational opportunities, museums, libraries, historic and cultural assets, civic amenities, faith-based organizations, economic health of households, sense of place, etc.

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

## RENEWAL APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

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

**A. Contact information, General Information, Organizational Capacity:**

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

B. **Qualitative and Comprehensive Report on accomplishments over past <u>five</u> years**:

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

**C. Sustainable Communities Action Plan Update:**

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

## CHECKLIST AND 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 application should be tabbed and organized as follows:**

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

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

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

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

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

❑ **Section F – CD-ROM:** The CD-ROM should include the following contents:

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

- **GIS shapefiles of the modified Sustainable Community boundary (if requesting a modification) and other GIS related data**

- Pictures (jpeg format) of your accomplished projects of the last five years **(as indicated in Section B)**

- Digital copy of completed Sustainable Communities Renewal Application

## I. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RENEWAL APPLICANT INFORMATION

# Name of Sustainable Community:

_____Catonsville-Patapsco_____

**Name of Renewal Applicant:**
Baltimore County Department of Planning

**Applicant's Federal Identification Number:**   52-6000889

**Applicant's Street Address:** 105 W. Chesapeake Ave., Suite 101

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

**Phone Number:** 410-887-3480  **Fax Number:** 410-887-5862  **Web Address:** www.baltimorecountymd.gov

**Sustainable Community Renewal Application Local Contact:**

**Name:** Patrick McDougall        **Title:** Planner III, Western Sector, Neighborhood Response Team

**Address:** 105 W. Chesapeake Ave., Suite 101  **City:** Towson  **State:** MD    **Zip Code:** 21204

**Phone Number:** 410-887-3822  **Fax Number:** 410-887-5862  **E-mail Address:** pmcdoug@baltimorecountymd.gov

**Other Sustainable Community Contacts:**

**Name:** Amy Trexler Mantay            **Title:** Division Chief, Neighborhood Response Team

**Address:** 105 W. Chesapeake Ave., Suite 101  **City:** Towson   **State:** MD   **Zip Code:** 21204

**Phone Number:** 410-887-2507  **Fax Number:** 410-887-5862  **E-mail Address:** amantay@baltimorecountymd.gov

## I. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY – General Information

A. **Sustainable Community Boundary and Description**

(1) Are you requesting any changes to your Sustainable Community boundary? Describe why or why not? Yes. The County proposes expanding the present boundaries to include the Oella community to the west, and other parts of Catonsville to the east. The western expansion will more effectively link the Catonsville – Patapsco Sustainable Community with Howard County's Ellicott City Sustainable Community, in recognition of the synergy between Oella and Ellicott City and opportunities to strengthen that link. The eastern expansion is predominantly intended to incorporate portions of Catonsville that play a major role in the daily life of the Sustainable Community (SC) area, including educational institutions, arts and recreation facilities, public services, and business and employment areas including the UMBC Technology Center. This area also includes the Spring Grove campus, a portion of which was recently developed as a park for the area, and whose redevelopment opportunities may be expanding in coming years. It should be noted that in some cases within this application there will be mention of impacts from these areas, though they are presently and technically outside of the Sustainable Community boundary.

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

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

(3) Approximate number of acres of entire SC Area: Existing: 4,047 acres (6.32 square miles), Proposed new boundaries: 6,314 acres (9.87 square miles)

(4) Existing federal, state or local designations:

   ☐Main Street ☐Maple Street

   ☑National Register Historic District ☑Local Historic District

   ☐ Arts & Entertainment District ☐State Enterprise Zone Special Taxing District

   ☐BRAC ☐ State Designated TOD

   ☑ Other(s): Catonsville Commercial Revitalization District, portion of Baltimore National Pike Commercial Revitalization District, Catonsville Design Review Area, Patapsco Heritage Area, Maryland Historic National Road Scenic Byway

(5) Describe the SC Area's current demographic trends (with respect to age, race, household size, household income, educational attainment, number of housing units, or other relevant factors). How have demographics changed in the last five years?

All data in this section derives from the American Fact Finder and American Community Survey (ACS), products of the U.S. Census Bureau, for the required time period for the renewal of the Sustainable Community application. The ACS data, which is from 2016 data, utilizes a five-year average that is a moving sampling of five individual years. Each year, approximately 2.5% of households participate in the ACS.

**Present Approved Boundaries**

The Catonsville-Patapsco sustainable community area ("SC area") has 29,600 persons, representing an increase of 190 persons (or 0.65%) from five years ago. Population in the SC area has a median age of 41.79 years, which is slightly higher that the countywide median age of 39.1. Approximately 15.35% of the area's population is 65 years of age or over, which was basically the same (15.32%) five years ago. There was a reduction in persons in the 5-9, 15-24, and 40-54 age groups, by 360, 492, and 928 respectively. The largest population growth took place in the 25-29 (increase of 506) and 30-34 age groups (increase of 622).

The racial demographic profile of SC area is predominantly white, with 81.18% of population in the "white alone" racial group. This percentage decreased slightly from five years ago, when 81.35% of population was white, yet is significantly higher than the countywide figure of 62.9%. There was a decline in "black or African American alone" population from 3,705 five years ago to 3,146, as well as a decline of 261 in the "some other race alone" category. There was significant growth (875) in Asian or Hawaiian/Pacific Islander population and slight increase (30) in American Indian and Alaska Native alone in the SC area. The proportion of people from the Hispanic or Latino origin category increased from 3.87% to 4.13% or 86 persons in the same timeframe. People in this ethnicity may be of any race, according to the federal definition.

The household size grew from 2.63 to 2.70. Currently, there are 11,619 housing units and 10,908 households (or occupied housing units, whether owner or renter occupied). The ACS statistics indicate that there was an overall reduction in housing units (76), owner occupied units (117), and renter occupied units (242). However, the County's permit system shows that only 15 permits for razing single family dwellings were issued during the period, with new construction during the same timeframe accounting for 157 new residential units including 93 single family structures and 64 condominium units in four buildings. The reduction in the number of housing units and households in the ACS data may be a result of survey inaccuracies.

Among persons 25 years old or over (21,174) in the SC area, 94.7% graduated with a high school diploma (including equivalent) or higher. Approximately 51% of persons 25 years old or over hold a bachelor's or higher educational degree. These two percentages are higher than those of five years ago, which were 93.01% and 41.35% respectively. The educational attainment in the SC area is higher than that countywide (91% for high school or higher, and 37% for bachelor's or higher).

The area's median household income changed from $79,258 to $90,486 in five years. The income level in the SC area is over 31% higher than the county's median income of $68,989.

Overall, the SC area has maintained a relatively steady amount of population, with significant increases in the 25-29 and 30-34 years old age groups. Educational attainment has risen and is higher

than the countywide averages, and the median income is significantly higher than that earned countywide.

**Basic Demographic Data for Proposed Expanded Boundaries**

Total estimated population: 37,127
Estimated population 65 and older: 6,789 (18.3%)
Estimated population 24 and younger: 12,214 (32.9%)
Estimated White (alone) population: 29,290 (78.9%)
Estimated Black/African American (alone) population: 4,380 (11.8%)
Estimated Hispanic/Latino (of any race) population: 1,385 (3.7%)
Total housing units: 14,122
Occupied housing units: 13,160 (93.2%)
Vacant housing units: 962 (6.8%)
Occupied housing – owner occupied: 9,462 (71.9%)
Occupied housing – renter occupied: 3,698 (28.1%)
Age 25 and over with high school diploma/equivalency or higher: 94.0%
Age 25 and over with bachelor's degree or higher: 49.0%
Average median household income of tracts within expanded area (excluding tract 4925, which is dominated by UMBC): $86,347

**B. Organizational Structure, Experience and Public Input:**

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

The Baltimore County Department of Planning continues to assume lead responsibility for preparing Sustainable Community applications and for creating and implementing Sustainable Community Action Plans. Other Baltimore County agencies including but not limited to Public Works, Economic and Workforce Development, Environmental Protection and Sustainability, and Recreation and Parks continue to play vital roles in achieving the goals and objectives associated with Catonsville – Patapsco and other Sustainable Communities.

The county's SC Workgroup has a leadership team composed of the department director, deputy director, one division head and five additional staffers who are highly experienced in community planning, community development, community revitalization, community outreach, public relations and demographics. Members of this leadership team at the Department of Planning are as follows, with new staff or new/revised positions marked in *italics*: Director Andrea Van Arsdale, *Deputy Director* Jeff Mayhew, *division head* Amy Mantay, and Western Sector lead Planner *Dennis Wertz*. Other Department of Planning staff involved with the preparation of the renewal application and/or its implementation include: Western Sector Planner *Patrick*

*McDougall*, Western Sector Planner *William Skibinski*, Demographer Kui Zhao, and Planner/GIS Specialist Jen Meacham.

Over the past five years the leadership of the workgroup has worked with various partners, including other government agencies/sections, to make progress towards the priorities identified in the original Sustainable Community (SC) application. The workgroup leadership and partner agencies/sections interacted with various local parties such as civic and business associations, home and business owners, and with applicable State of Maryland agencies to collaboratively achieve the various progress measures described in the "assessments" sections of this renewal application. In some instances groups individually took advantage of funding opportunities afforded as a result of local Sustainable Community designation, with little assistance from the County.

Public input for the "action plan" section of this document was procured in two ways—direct input as solicited from potential stakeholders, and through the presentation of public input that was previously captured within prior/other plans and input processes. The former includes input provided by Catonsville Rails to Trails, the Patapsco Heritage Greenway organization, the Baltimore County Arts Guild, and advocates for connecting Oella and Ellicott City via a new bicycle and pedestrian bridge. Input was solicited from the Greater Catonsville Chamber of Commerce, but not received.

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

The primary strength of the workgroup, as constituted, is the amount of institutional experience possessed by its members, most of whom possess decades of experience with working with citizens and organizations. Successful implementation of various activities that have taken place since the approval of the original SC application has resulted both from leadership experience, and from a well-established governmental structure that administers a wide range of programs through which progress has been accomplished. In numerous cases, strong cooperative relationships with state and federal agencies has provided additional funding that has been put to use for the benefit of the Catonsville-Patapsco SC.

There have likewise been challenges to SC implementation. These include competition for available funding sources (both internal and external), difficulties with staff, public (citizens, civic and non-profit groups), and private (businesses) time availability and investment as a result of other obligations, lack of knowledge of the myriad programs and associated requirements, and in some cases a lack of staff, public, and private expertise required for certain purposes and opportunities such as more complex grant and loan programs.

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

Public input was solicited for various aspects of the original (2013) SC application, and for this renewal application. This document reflects input and information provided by two groups, Catonsville Rails to Trails (CRTT) and the Patapsco Heritage Greenway, while the Catonsville Chamber of Commerce did not respond to a request for input. However, it should be noted that many of the County staff that provided information and input for this renewal document regularly work with area citizens, groups, businesses, institutions, etc.,

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and could therefore offer substantial insight.

The action plan included within this renewal reflects the goals, objectives, priorities, strategies, etc. outlined in numerous adopted plans, including but not limited to: the Baltimore County Master Plan 2020;, the 2017 Baltimore County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan; the Western County Pedestrian and Bicycle Access Plan; The Catonsville Plan; the Baltimore County Consolidated Plan, FFY 2016 to 2019; the Lower Patapsco Small Watershed Action Plan; the Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Plan; the Maryland National Road Corridor Partnership Plan; and various environmental and public works plans.

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

To be determined. The County is hopeful that more opportunities specifically associated with the Maryland Sustainable Communities program, such as grant and loan funding only available for designated SCs, will be pursued within the next five years. Some assistance with developing a better comprehension of the programs and their intricacies may be needed in the future. Additionally, some assistance with outreach may likewise be desired.

# SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RENEWAL REPORT
## PART I: QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT

## Purpose:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Accomplishment 1:** Revitalized "main street" community commercial centers of Catonsville and Paradise along Frederick Road
*Outcome: Sustainability and growth of "main street" Catonsville and Paradise*

*Projects: Within the Catonsville Commercial Revitalization District along Frederick Road, which is the heart of the SC and includes "downtown" Catonsville and a portion of the Paradise area, there has been a substantial amount of development and redevelopment that includes many businesses that have enhanced the vibrancy of the area. These include:*
- *New and diverse dining option including Black Kettle, El Patron Mexican Grill, Farmhouse Greens, Franco's Italian Bistro, Peace A Pizza, Sprout Natural Choice, and Wieland's BBQ.*
- *New businesses that have contributed to the "old-meets-new" nature of the commercial district of "The Ville," include Ash + Oak Salon and Spa, Bark! Natural Pet Food and Supplies, B Boutique, Hub C'Ville Bike Shop, Jam's Attic Consignment Boutique, Lush 35 Salon and Grooming Spa, Pat's Porch candy store, and Whimsey Cakes.*
- *New medical and professional offices that offer convenient nearby services to the greater Catonsville community, including Catonsville Dental Care, The Centers – Orthopaedic Associates of Central Maryland, Frederick Road Veterinary Hospital, Long and Mueller Physicians, and multiple local offices of national/regional insurance and realty companies.*

*Partners: Catonsville Chamber of Commerce*

*Impact: The independent and local character of most new businesses in the revitalization district has contributed to its overall success and made downtown Catonsville and Paradise an attractive place to visit. Most other "main street" areas of Baltimore County, which generally radiate from Baltimore City and are situated in close proximity to the Baltimore Beltway (I-695), have not been able to match the vibrancy of Catonsville and Paradise.*

**Accomplishment 2:** Enhanced Winters Lane Community
*Outcome: Rehabilitation of ten units for affordable housing, in the Winters Lane Historic District*

*Projects: Phases of project completed to date include:*
- *Development of memorandum of understanding between the County and Saint Ambrose Housing Aid Center, featuring requirements for historic preservation measures (Winters Lane being a historically African-American residential community listed on the National Register of Historic Places);*
- *Development of architectural and construction drawings, including review and approval;*
- *Solicitation of construction bids;*
- *Application for and approval of required zoning variances;*
- *Procurement of financial approvals and execution of associated financial documents.*

*Partners: The County's partners for this effort include:*
- *Saint Ambrose Housing Aid (property owners, who will utilize various funding sources to have homes rehabilitated and modernized, then rent out under affordable housing parameters);*
- *Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (grant funding through Community Legacy program);*
- *U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (grant funding through the HUD HOME Investment Partnership Program, and Community Development Block Grant Program)*

*Impact: This project will renovate and update ten aged structures that are outdated in terms of functionality, preserve the historic nature of the historic district, and provide quality affordable housing opportunities.*

**Accomplishment 3:** Designation of the Patapsco Valley as a Maryland Certified Heritage Area

*Outcome:* The Patapsco Heritage (Greenway) Area was formally approved as Maryland's 13th and most recent Certified Heritage Area in 2015, some 13 years after its designation as a Recognized Heritage Area. Please note that the Heritage Area crosses county boundaries, and includes parts of both Baltimore County and Howard County. Thus, the information below includes activities and impacts for both jurisdictions.

*Projects:* A total of 12 projects were funded through $539,408 in matching grants from the Heritage Program, as follows:

- Three management grants totaling $300,000;
- Two management plans totaling $130,000;
- Two marketing/promotional grants totaling $15,000;
- One events grant for Patapsco Valley History Days, for $5,000;
- Four capital project/rehabilitation grants totaling $89,408, which involved stream restoration, geotrail construction, cemetery survey and signage, and the Barnard Fort House rehabilitation/re-use projects.

*Partners:* Patapsco Heritage Greenway is the key partner for Heritage Areas funding and activities. That organization identifies over 100 partners, ranging from government agencies and quasi-public entities (e.g., Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, Maryland Historical Trust), non-profits (Preservation Maryland, Baltimore County Arts Guild, Chesapeake Bay Trust), to corporate and private donors and volunteers (REI, Northrup Grumman), to schools (Catonsville High School, Catonsville Middle School, St. Mark's School), to assorted beneficiaries (Friends of Patapsco Valley State Parks, Catonsville Arboretum, Lurman Woodland Theater). Nine such partners are identified as grantors, seventeen as grantees, six as in-kind grantees, and twenty-three as parties providing volunteer services.

*Impact:* The Patapsco Heritage Greenway has become a highly effective organizer of many different initiatives and activities that benefit two Sustainable Communities (Catonsville-Patapsco and Ellicott City), including preservation and restoration projects. The organization likewise uses its funding to support area activities spearheaded by other organizations/groups, including stewardship, interpretation, heritage tourism, recreation, and management.

**Accomplishment 4:** Enhance bicycle and pedestrian trail network

*Outcome:* Better opportunities to safely walk and bicycle throughout the SC area.

*Projects:* Strong progress has been made over the past five years, including:

- 0.8 miles of additional segments of the Catonsville Short Line (a multi-purpose trail) constructed through the efforts of the non-profit Catonsville Rails-to-Trails organizations. Another 0.3 miles of on-road connections were also created.
- 1/3 of a mile of dirt path at Catonsville Community Park was improved with 8' wide paving, connecting with 1.6 miles of newly signed and partially marked on-road bicycle routes along Winters Lane, Old Frederick Road, and Dunbar Avenue. This effectively connects that park with the Banneker Community Center and Frederick Road (itself a bicycle route).
- Nearly 10 additional miles of designated bicycle routes signed and/or marked within the SC area, including Frederick Road, Edmondson Avenue, and Hilton Avenue.

*Partners:* Catonsville Rails-to-Trails (CRTT), with whom the County has a MOU and lease to enable them to make improvements to and temporarily administer the County owned Short Line Trail. CRTT was also the party responsible for arranging the donation of that rail right-of-way to Baltimore County. Also, Maryland Department of Transportation.

*Impact:* The progress within this area has greatly enhanced both pedestrian and bicycle access and expanded the network of connected trails, paths, bicycle routes, and sidewalks within the SC area. The greater Catonsville area now has the most extensive and functional bicycle and pedestrian network in Baltimore County.

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

*Outcome:* Enhanced Winter's Lane Community
*Narrative:* This effort is well underway at present, and is documented later in this renewal application. However, substantial progress has not yet been achieved. The completion of work on ten affordable housing units in the Winters Lane community will represent a positive step in the right direction.

*Outcome:* Greater recognition and implementation of the Maryland National Road Corridor Partnership Plan
*Narrative:* The 2014 Maryland National Road Corridor Partnership Plan Update reported that the State's planned streetscape project along Frederick Road (State Route 144) from Bishops Lane to the City Lane "continues to be on hold." To date this project, which is situated in the Paradise neighborhood, still has not gone forward. The Partnership Plan also identified "a multi-use trail connecting Ellicott City with Catonsville" as an enhancement priority. While numerous trail construction, enhancement, and renovations projects have taken place throughout the Catonsville community, no bicycle and pedestrian connection has been established. As of the formulation of this renewal application, there has been recently renewed interest in creating such a connection through the construction of a bicycle and pedestrian bridge where the former rail bridge existed just north of Frederick Road. This would provide a direct link with the Trolley Line #9 Trail, which connects Oella with Catonsville.

# SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RENEWAL REPORT
## PART II: COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT

## Purpose:

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

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

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

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

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

| ENVIRONMENT | YES | NO | N/A | If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years<br>If NO, why not?  What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes? |
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| 1. Has there been an improvement in water quality? | | | X | While there has been biological, bacterial, and trash water quality monitoring activities in the SC area, there is insufficient data to determine trends in water quality.  There are no chemical water quality trend stations within the SC area. |
| 2. Has the amount of impervious surface in your Community been reduced? (Amount in SF) | | X | | Impervious surface area in this SC area increased by approximately 7.87 acres in the past 5 years. Continued development within the plan area is largely responsible for this increase, which equates to approximately 0.2%. |
| 3. Have there been improvements and/ or additions to your park and/ or recreational green space? | X | | | While situated just outside the bounds of the Sustainable Community, the County's new Spring Grove Park serves the recreation programs of the Catonsville Rec and Parks Councils (within whose boundaries the Sustainable Community is situated). The 8.8-acre park site was acquired from the State of Maryland with the use of Program Open Space (POS) funds, and subsequently developed – also with the assistance of POS funds - with two lighted athletic fields (one synthetic turf, the other grass) and parking. Two new trails were also developed or improved within the plan area, with more details provided within the Transportation section on page 10. |
| 4. Did the Sustainable Community implement any recycling or waste reduction programs? | X | | | While no new comprehensive recycling or waste reduction programs have (to our knowledge) been implemented in the past five years, sporadic community-based events have taken place, including an annual Community Recycling Day hosted by The Children's Home, and various "dumpster days" that help to combat problems such as illegal dumping. Private companies have also hosted scheduled local opportunities to safely dispose of and recycle potentially harmful (environmentally) electronics and devices such as televisions, computer equipment, and room air conditioners. No data on the frequency of these community events is available. |
| 5. Do all residents have access to healthy food options (i.e. fresh food grocery stores, farmers markets etc.) within the Sustainable Community? | X | | | Two farmers markets are centrally situated within the core of "downtown" Catonsville. The Catonsville Farmers' Market operates on Wednesdays at the Christian Temple, 5820 Edmondson Avenue. The Catonsville Sunday Farmers Market, Sponsored by the Catonsville Chamber of Commerce, operates at 15 Mellor Avenue. Other healthy food options available within the plan area include the Catonsville Cooperative Market (1905 Edmondson Avenue), and Rooster + Hen (2302 Frederick Road, through which fresh produce from a CSA are distributed). A number of chain grocery stores including |

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| | | | | Aldi (6503 Baltimore National Pike), H Mart (800 N. Rolling Rd.), and Giant Food (6223 Baltimore National Pike) likewise offer fresh foods. Additionally, construction has recently begun for a new gourmet grocery to be named 818 Market, which will feature local produce and products. |
| **OTHER**: Stream restoration at Catonsville Community Park | X | | | An approximately ¼-mile segment of unnamed stream was restored at Catonsville Community Park. The project was completed to combat erosion problems along the stream. |

| **ECONOMY** | YES | NO | N/A | If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years. If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes? |
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| 1. Has there been an increase in the number of new businesses in your Main Street/ Commercial District? | X | | | According to the Baltimore County Department of Economic and Workforce Development, there was a net increase of 16 businesses within the full 21228 zip code. By and large, new development within the Catonsville Commercial Revitalization District has involved mostly local and independent, non-chain businesses that have contributed to the vibrancy of the community. A substantial number of new businesses have opened within that district over the past five years, as detailed previously in the accomplishments section. A small section of the Baltimore National Pike Commercial Revitalization District, which straddled Baltimore National Pike (Rt.40), is situated within the north end of the SC area. This area has remained relatively stable in terms of commercial activity, most of which is concentrated within two shopping centers at the southwest and southeast corner of Rt.40 and N. Rolling Rd. |
| 2. Did the Municipality/ Sustainable Community area receive any designations that support local economic development? | X | | | The Patapsco Heritage Greenway was approved as a Maryland Heritage Area in 2015 (see more detailed description in "Accomplishments" section). Additionally, while situated just outside the SC area, the University of Maryland – Baltimore County received a 5-year enterprise zone designation, the "Regional Institution Strategic Enterprise Zone" (RISE). This functions of the designation include: helping its research park support established businesses; offering incubator and accelerator services; and helping researchers to commercialize work. The enterprise zone is an important area employer for Catonsville and southwest Baltimore County. |

| | YES | NO | N/A | If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years. If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes? |
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| 3. Has there been an increase in foot traffic in the Main Street/commercial district? | X | | | There has been an estimated foot traffic increase of approximately 20% within the Catonsville Commercial Revitalization District over the past five years. The commercial core of Catonsville has thrived, and is supported by a strong pedestrian and bicycle network and a "main street" area conducive to strolling and shopping. |
| 4. Have the number of commercial vacancies decreased? | X | | | According to CoStar, a commercial property listing database, during the same five years the American Community Survey data was sampled and compiled, the commercial vacancy rate within the Sustainable Community dropped from 4.6% to 1.4%. Commercial properties may include offices, retail, industrial, medical, and flex. Additionally, within the 21228 zip code the commercial vacancy dropped from 7.6% in 2012 to 3.4% in 2017. |
| 5. Has there been an increase in local jobs within the Sustainable Community for its residents? | X | | | There are no statistics available for enumerating created jobs on the basis of residency. In other words, there is no data associated with whether or not new jobs within the SC area were filled by residents or by those living outside the area's boundaries. However, according to the Baltimore County Department of Economic and Workforce Development, within zip code 21228 the number of paid employee positions increased from 15,905 in 2012 to 16,716 in 2017. This would appear to indicate an increase in local jobs. |
| **OTHER**: | | | | |

| TRANSPORTATION | YES | NO | N/A | If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years. If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes? |
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| 1. Has the amount of bike trails/paths increased? How many linear feet do the trails cover? | X | | | More than 0.8 miles of new trail has been constructed since early 2013 along the Catonsville Short Line Trail, with another 0.3 miles of associated on-road trail connections. The Short Line Trail has evolved through the efforts of the non-profit group Catonsville Rails to Trails (CRTT), which has made good use of substantial grants and donations. Baltimore County improved a 1/3-mile section of dirt pathway through Catonsville Community Park, creating an 8' wide paved path that connects with approximately 1.6 miles of marked and/or signed bicycle route between that park, Banneker Community Center, and Frederick Road. The County and State have also designated, marked, and signed another 9.7 miles of bicycle lanes/routes on roads including Frederick Road (4.8 miles), Edmondson Avenue (3.7 miles), and Hilton Avenue (1.2 miles). |

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| 2. Have there been improvements to the public transit infrastructure? | X | | | The bus stop at the "Paradise Bus Loop" was renovated to include an interior mural, enhanced and sheltered seating, and improved landscaping and lighting. Multiple changes to bus routes were made by the Maryland Mass Transit Administration, which is the key agency responsible for providing and administering public transportation infrastructure. UMBC has also expanded their transit system for students, faculty, and staff, with multiple routes service the SC area. |
| 3. Has there been an increase in sidewalks? (Amount in linear feet) | X | | | Approximately 760 linear feet of sidewalk has been installed along Old Frederick Road between Edmondson Avenue and Pleasant Drive, resulting in enhanced pedestrian access to Westchester Elementary School. |
| 4. Have there been any roadway improvements that support "Complete" or "Green" streets? | | X | | There have been few new streets built within the SC area, which is mostly built-out and well established. Baltimore County has generally opted against initiating large scale acquisition of expanded road rights-of-way that would be required for complete streets. Such acquisition programs are costly, with affected landowners often being unwilling sellers. |
| 5. Has traffic congestion along major roads decreased? (Amount in percent) | | X | | Overall there has not been any measurable decline in road congestion, despite the area being relatively bicycle and pedestrian friendly. The I-695 (Baltimore Beltway) interchange improvements at Frederick Road have helped to improve traffic flow in that area, though the limited road width and single lane in each direction – combined with large number of vehicles traveling that roadway - still result in backups during peak travel hours. Rt.40 (Baltimore National Pike) between I-695 and N. Rolling Road remains a heavily congested area, carrying traffic flows more nearly triple that of Frederick Road near I-695. Comparisons of the "Annual Average Weekday Daily Travel" (AAWDT), as reported by the Baltimore Metropolitan Council, are shown below, with the first quantity for each location being from 2015, and the second from 2012.<br><br>Frederick Road – Paradise Ave. to City-County line: Decrease from 12,931 to 11,501<br>Frederick Road – Paradise Ave. to I-695: Increase from 18,111 to 19,040<br>Frederick Road – I-695 to Ingleside Ave.: Decrease from 22,661 to 20,540<br>Frederick Road – Ingleside Ave. to Rolling Rd.: Decrease from 14,541 to 14,051<br>N. Rolling Road – Frederick Rd. to Rt.40: Decrease from 11,132 to 11,092<br>S. Rolling Road – Bloomsbury Ave. to Frederick Rd.: Increase from 16,230 to 17,110<br>Rt.40 – St. Agnes Lane to City-County line: Decrease from 29,400 to 25,640<br>Rt.40 – Rolling Rd. to I-695: Decrease from 56,550 to 56,480 |

| OTHER: | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **HOUSING** | **YES** | **NO** | **N/A** | **If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years**<br>**If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?** |
| 1. Have any residential facades been improved? | X | | | The County's Single Family Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program, which receives its funding through HUD-CDBG, provided funding for 11 projects totaling approximately $155,000. These funds were used for more than residential façade improvements, and included such work as repair and replacement of roofs, windows, doors, electrical, plumbing, furnaces, gutters and downspouts, and soffit. |
| 2. Has the home ownership rate increased? | X | | | Based on data from the American Community Survey (ACS) for the period most closely associated with the past five years, the home ownership rate in the area increased from 77.2% to 78.7%. |
| 3. Has there been an increase in the number of housing units in the Sustainable Community area? What number and/or percent are affordable? | | | X | Data associated with the subject of housing unit quantities appears to conflict (thus the "N/A" response). The ACS statistics indicate that there are 76 less housing units, 117 less owner occupied units, and 242 less renter occupied units as of the most recent survey report. However, the County's records indicate only 15 razing permits for residential structures have been issued since the start of 2013 (see #4, below), while new construction during this time period resulted in 157 new units.<br><br>All of the Catonsville Patapsco SC (CPSC) falls within Baltimore County's affordable housing "Areas of Opportunity," as defined through the Voluntary Compliance Agreement settled with a coalition of affordable housing advocates in March of 2016. The vast majority of the SC area is defined as a "Very High Opportunity Area" and is targeted for specialized incentives to promote rental housing for families with household incomes of 60% or below Area Median Income (AMI). Ten units in the historic African American community of Winters Lane are being substantially renovated according to historic preservation standards and will be rented to households earning less than 30% of AMI to meet a stated goal of providing opportunities for those families most in need of affordable housing. Details on various funding sources for Winters Lane is presented later in this document. The County is actively using the financial incentive of direct funding to support the substantial rehabilitation of several scattered site affordable housing units. |

| | YES | NO | N/A | |
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| 4. Has there been demolition of blighted properties? | X | | | No large scale demolition project involving blighted property has taken place. Only 15 residential razing permits have been issued since the start of 2013. Of these, 10 involved the replacement of older, less functional residential structures with more modern housing, sometimes replacing multiple adjacent residences with new and larger structures. Two other residences were razed in order to accommodate different land used. In only two instances did the razing permit involve demolition without any form of replacement – whether residential or otherwise - constructed. One other permit was recently issued, with its future status unknown at this time. |
| 5. Has the residential vacancy rate decreased? | | X | | The estimated number of vacant units rose from 428 unit (vacancy rate of 3.66%) to 711 units (6.12%). By comparison, the U.S. Census Bureau's American Fact Finder reports that the countywide residential vacancy rate was 6.5% in 2013 and 7.2 % in 2016, with the rate having increased each year between 2010 and 2016 (the available reporting periods). Thus, the SC area's vacancy rates remain lower than the countywide rate. |
| **OTHER**: Westside Men's Shelter relocation. | X | | | Baltimore County's Westside Men's Shelter was relocated in 2015, moving to a different location on the State's Spring Grove Campus. The new homeless shelter provides expanded space, approximately 50% more beds, and more functional areas including a medical facility, laundry room, social room, computer room, and garden. |
| **QUALITY OF LIFE** | **YES** | **NO** | **N/A** | **If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?** |
| 1. Has there been a decrease in crime rate? | | X | | Overall the violent crime rate (reported instances per 100,000 inhabitants) within the SC area increased from 289 in 2013 to 470 in 2017. It should be noted that those rates are significantly lower than the countywide figures of 508 in 2013 and 614 in 2017. The property crime rate likewise increased, from 1,976 in 2013 to 2,142 in 2017. Again, the rates are lower than the countywide figures of 2,873 (2013) and 2,838 (2017). The SC area's 2017 crime rates of 470 violent and 2,142 property are remarkably similar to the statewide 2016 rates of 472 violent and 2,285 property. |
| 2. Have there been improvements and/ or additions to your public spaces (i.e. museums, community centers, public plazas)? | X | | | Situated just outside of the bounds of the SC area, the Performing Arts and Humanities Building (PAHB) at the University of Maryland – Baltimore County opened in 2014. The structure features a 375-seat concert hall, 250-seat main theatre, 125-seat black box theatre, multiple small performing arts areas, and gallery spaces for visual arts. The shows, concerts, displays, and other arts activities at PAHB provide greatly expanded arts opportunities for residents of the SC area. |

| | | YES | NO | N/A | |
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| 3. | Has there been an increase in public art/ arts & entertainment programs/venues (i.e. murals, movie theatre, music events)? | X | | | Four additional murals were painted within the Catonsville Commercial Revitalization District, at Duesenberg's Café, the Catonsville Short Line Trail at Shady Nook Avenue, the Beauty Bar, and the Paradise Bus Shelter. Additionally, the Catonsville area is the centerpiece of the proposed Patapsco Arts and Entertainment District, for which a 2018 application is being submitted for the purpose of making the area the first such district in Baltimore County. This is reflective of the area's numerous and popular arts events and attractions, which are estimated to draw more than 100,000 patrons annually. |
| 4. | How many historic properties were renovated/improved? | X | | | A total of 44 properties within the area have been issued Certificates of Appropriateness for just over $530,000 in proposed eligible rehabilitation expenses. Approximately $78,300 in property tax credits have been granted for projects completed to date. It should be noted that such rehabilitation projects are long term and often extend beyond the 5-year time frame associated with the Sustainable Community. |
| 5. | Are there any residential health and wellness opportunities in place (i.e. athletic facilities, recreational indoor/ outdoor courses or groups)? | X | | | Some significant enhancements to health and wellness opportunities have taken place since the approval of the Sustainable Community. The bicycle and pedestrian enhancements identified under #1 the prior Transportation section have been among the key improvements that support public health and wellness. As listed under #3 in the prior Environment section, the very recently developed Spring Grove Park's service area includes the Sustainable Community. |
| **OTHER**: | | | | | |
| **LAND USE/ LOCAL PLANNING** | | **YES** | **NO** | **N/A** | **If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not?  What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?** |
| 1. | Have there been any infill developments? | X | | | 108 occupancy permits have been issued for new residences within the Sustainable Community area since the start of 2013. The larger infill developments/subdivisions during this period were the Morsberger Property (43 permits for single family residences) and the Baker Property (32 single family residences). Smaller scale infill development involving multiple properties occurred within the Catonsville Heights neighborhood (4 single family), Eden Terrace subdivision (4 single family out of 23 approved units), and the Allen Property minor subdivision (3 single family). |

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| 2. Has there been an increase in the amount of preserved/protected land? | X | | | One 3.1-acre 100-year flood plain reservation within the Morsberger Property residential subdivision was deeded to the County through the development process. Additionally, an ~9-acre portion of the State's Spring Grove property was purchased from the State of Maryland to serve as a County park. Though situated outside of the existing SC area (but within the proposed expanded area), this site will serve the greater Catonsville community including the populace of the SC area. |
| 3. Have there been any developments hindered by growth constraints? | | X | | During the 2016 Comprehensive Zoning Map Process (CZMP) some applicants filed petitions for zoning changes that would allow for expanded and/or different forms of development for properties in which they have a stake. As with all such petitions, the merits of the proposed zoning change are evaluated by staff from multiple County agencies, staff recommendations are forwarded to the Planning Board, recommendations are sent to the applicable County Council member, and the Councilman/Councilwoman decides what – if any – zoning changes are to be made. |
| 4. Have there been any zoning or any policy changes that have fostered growth in your Sustainable Community? | X | | | A 2015 County bill was approved for the purpose of exempting commercial revitalization districts (CRDs) from basic service map standards that might otherwise limit development and redevelopment within the CRDs. This resulted in changes to the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations (BCZR), thereby safeguarding growth opportunities.<br><br>Additionally, a short distance outside of the approved SC area (and within the proposed expanded SC area) on W. Kenwood Ave. by Wilkins Ave., an ~15-acre tract of residentially zoned land was rezoned during the County's last CZMP to a business classification to accommodate a proposed commercial development project. This project is expected to have substantial positive impacts upon the SC area. |
| 5. Have there been any significant improvements to the municipal infrastructure within the Sustainable Community (i.e. street lighting, water/sewer lines)? | X | | | Approximately one mile of new 18" diameter water line was constructed along Sanford Ave., Magruder Ave., Mellor Ave., and Hilltop Road as part of a larger water line construction project between Frederick Road and Wilkens Avenue. The project was completed to reinforce the area's water supply.<br><br>Approximately seven miles of sanitary sewer mains were relined in the portion of the SC area bounded by Baltimore National Pike (Route 40) to the north, Edmondson Avenue to the south, Winters Lane to the west, and I-695 to the east.<br><br>Since the start of 2013 more than 30 sanitary sewer manholes have been rehabilitated/ rebuilt. |
| **OTHER**: | | | | |

| COMPETITIVE FUNDING: Use the rows below to list competed funds sought for sustainability or revitalization projects since receiving Sustainable Communities designation. | Source (federal, state, foundation, etc.) | Amount Received | If no funding was received, what technical or other assistance from the state would help with future applications? | Other Notes |
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| **Community Legacy (CL):**<br>• Winters Lane Housing Rehabilitation Project: Rehabilitation of 10 housing units within 5 duplexes on Winters Lane in the Winters Lane Historic District. | DHCD (state) | $250,000 | | Funding combined with numerous other funding sources, under a MOU with St. Ambrose Housing Aid Center. |
| **Video Lottery Terminal Fund (VLT):** Three Baltimore County "Boost" Fund loans were provided to small/minority/woman/veteran-owned businesses within zip code 21228. One was provided to Cycles West (now "HUB C'ville Bikes, within the existing SC area), and the others to Light Point Security, LLC and to RedShred, both at the UMBC Research Park. | MD Dept. of Commerce (state) | $265,000 | | The County's Boost loan funding derives from Maryland VLT funds. |
| **Neighborhood Business Works Program:** Two SC area projects received low cost loans through this program—more than $450,000 awarded to 6400 Frederick Road, LLC for façade and electrical system upgrades to businesses in the 6400 block of Frederick Road in the Paradise neighborhood; and $50,000 awarded for enhancements to Peace A Pizza at 15 Mellor Avenue in Catonsville. | DHCD (state) | $502,750 | | |
| **Maryland Bikeways Program:** FY'16 funding for bike route signage and marking along Winters Lane and vicinity ($6,118), and design of at-grade intersection on Bloomsbury Avenue for the Short Line Trail ($50,000). Additionally, since 2013 the non-profit Catonsville Rails to Trails (CRTT) utilized over $89,000 in Bikeways funding for multiple projects along the Catonsville Short Line Trail. | MDOT (state) | $56,118 County, $89,060 CRTT | | Other work, including installation of bicycle route signage and markings, was performed by the State Highways Administration. |

| Other Funding Programs: *examples are U.S. HUD Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), or grants from USDA, EPA, Appalachian Regional Commission, Chesapeake Bay Trust, Maryland Heritage Areas Association, Preservation Maryland, Safe Routes to School, Maryland Rural Development Corporation, Maryland Energy Administration, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, etc.*<br><br>*Please add more rows if necessary | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Single Family Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program (via HUD-CDBG)**: 11 miscellaneous projects. | Federal | $154,978 | | Pass-through of HUD-CDBG funding. |
| **HUD HOME Investment Partnership Program:** For Winters Lane project previously identified under "Community Legacy" on prior page. | Federal | $872,021 | | Funding combined with numerous other funding sources, under a MOU with St. Ambrose Housing Aid Center. |
| **Community Development Block Grant Program:** For Winters Lane project previously identified under "Community Legacy" on prior page. | Federal | $450,000 | | Funding combined with numerous other funding sources, under a MOU with St. Ambrose Housing Aid Center. |
| **County funds:** For Winters Lane project previously identified under "Community Legacy" on prior page. | County (outgoing grant to St. Ambrose Housing Aid Center) | $1,020,169 | | Funding combined with numerous other funding sources, under a MOU with St. Ambrose Housing Aid Center. |
| **Community Parks and Playgrounds (CPP):** For Catonsville Community Park trail project described previously under Transportation (#1). This was the last Baltimore County CPP grant before State legislation changed the eligibility to allow only municipalities to apply for program grants. | State | $100,000 | | Combined with other funding sources including Program Open Space. |

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| **Program Open Space (POS):** For Catonsville Community Park trail project described previously under Transportation (#1). | State | $57,943 | | Combined with other funding sources including Community Parks and Playgrounds. |
| **Program Open Space (POS):** For acquisition of the Spring Grove Park Site. See prior entry #3 under Environment. | State | $1,327,650 | | Property purchased from MD Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene |
| **Program Open Space (POS):** For development of Spring Grove Park. See prior entry #3 under Environment. | State | $2,490,000 | | Also involved $150,000 donation from the non-profit Catonsville Rec and Parks Council |
| **Community Revitalization Action Grants (CRAG):** 22 grants totaling nearly $60,000 were issued to local businesses and associations within the Sustainable Community, for various activities intended to promote local business and attract shoppers and other commercial patrons. Projects included advertising such as billboards and commercials, commercial district beautification and cleanup, and festival promotion. | County (outgoing grant program) | $59,212.23 (awarded) | | This is a County funding program, which provides grants to eligible businesses and business/community associations. |
| **Baltimore County Arts and Sciences Grants:** 19 grants totaling approximately $105,000 were provided to various groups for area arts, science, and cultural programs and activities from FY'14 through FY'18. Beneficiaries include the Catonsville Lurman Woodland Theater (concerts), Patapsco Heritage Greenway, Catonsville Presbyterian Church (concerts), Charlestown Chapel Concerts, and various programs/events at UMBC. | County and State | $105,000 | | A portion of the County's funding derives from the Maryland State Arts Council. |
| **Maryland State Arts Council Grants for Organizations and Community Arts Development:** 24 grants totaling approximately $220,000 were provided to various groups for area arts programs and activities from FY'14 through | State | $220,000 | | |

| FY'18. Beneficiaries include the Catonsville Presbyterian Church (concerts), Charlestown Chapel Concerts, and various programs/events at UMBC and CCBC – Catonsville. | | | | |
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| **COMPETITIVE FUNDING:** Are there any types of projects/needs for which your Sustainable Community needs funding; however, there isn't a funding source? |
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## III. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN UPDATE

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

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

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

Action Plan Guidance

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

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

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

3) **After defining the outcomes, list detailed strategies (break down to several action steps if needed) that will serve as the means to achieve those goals.** Example Economy: Strategy - Increase number of Town sponsored events → Develop with community input, a series of weekend events that the Town could host.

4) **List potential partners that can support the successful implementation of these strategies through different types of resources.** Example Economy: DHCD (Community Legacy program), Small Business Administration (Services and financial assistance) etc.

# Sustainable Community Action Plan

Name of Sustainable Community

**Submitted by Baltimore County, Maryland**

**4/16/2018**

# Environment

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

| Strengths | Weaknesses |
|---|---|
| <ul><li>The SC area features established watershed management, with two completed Small Watershed Action Plans-- Lower Patapsco and Middle Gwynns. Capital projects including stormwater conversion and retrofits, reforestation projects and stream restoration projects have been identified, and in some cases completed, within these areas. Additional opportunities for citizen actions have also been identified in these watersheds such as rain barrel installation and downspout disconnection.</li><li>The Catonsville area (as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau's "Census Designated Place") has substantial tree canopy cover, estimated at 55.9% as of 2014. This is substantially higher than the average of 38.1% within the urban section of the County's Urban-Rural Designation Line (URDL).</li></ul> | <ul><li>Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) exist in the watersheds covered by the SC Area for impairments including sediment, bacteria, and phosphorus. The area also contributes to the Baltimore Inner Harbor trash impairment, for which there is a TMDL. Implementation plans have been developed by Baltimore County to address these environmental weaknesses. Impairments without TMDLs in both watersheds include impaired non-tidal aquatic wildlife due to stream channelization, chlorides, and sulfates. Also, fish from Gwynns Falls are unsafe to eat due to PCB impairment.</li><li>Out of the roughly 4,047 acres of land area covered by the SC area, only an estimated 563 acres (about 13.9%) drain to stormwater facilities that provide water quality benefit. This is lower than the countywide average of 16.6% within urban sections of the URDL.</li><li>23.5% of the SC area is covered by impervious surfaces, which is slightly lower than the countywide average of 26.1% within the urban part of the URDL. Streams that have drainage areas with this amount of impervious are considered impacted and show signs of degradation such as erosion, channel widening, and a decline in stream habitat.</li><li></li></ul> |

| Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures | Strategies and Action Items | Implementation Partners |
|---|---|---|
| Based on the strengths and weaknesses identify the strengths on which you would like to build and the challenges you would like to address. What outcomes are you trying to achieve? Where/ in what area do you want those changes to happen? ⟶ <br> Progress Measure: Identify how you will know that you have achieved your outcome. | Identify strategies that will help your community to achieve each identified outcome to the left. If applicable, break down each strategy into specific action items that outline different steps of the strategy. Specify how you are planning to achieve the desired outcomes. ⟶ | Which community stakeholders need to be involved to realize each action step and strategy? Name specific public and/or private sector partners. |

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application – Action Plan Update

| Outcome 1: Improved water quality in non-tidal streams.<br><br>Progress Measures:<br><br>• Progress implementing actions listed in SWAP Action Strategies Tables.<br>• Reduced severity or elimination of water quality impairments.<br><br>Increase the amount of area treated by SWM practices with water quality benefit. | Strategy A: Work with institutional partners to reduce impervious cover at the sites identified in the SWAP.<br><br>Strategy B: Reforest stream buffer at feasible sites with a minimum width of 35 feet.<br><br>Strategy C: Redevelopment will lead to the creation of SWM facilities as well as retrofits and conversions of existing SWM facilities.<br><br>Strategy D: Investigate the feasibility of implementing stormwater retrofits to treat runoff from impervious surfaces (parking lots) at the sites identified in the Lower Patapsco SWAP. | • Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability<br>• Patapsco Heritage Greenway<br>• Blue Water Baltimore<br>• Institutions<br>• Private Businesses |
|---|---|---|
| Outcome 2: Tree canopy improvement<br><br>Progress Measures:<br><br>• Tree canopy - Measure tree canopy of the SC boundary when new land use data is available. It may take several years after trees are planted for them to be detected in the land use maps and GIS applications. | Strategy A: Tree Planting - Redevelopment may add shade trees and other vegetation to areas to the SC.<br><br>Strategy B: Tree Planting - Determine if there are locations for other tree plantings. | • Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection<br>• Patapsco Heritage Greenway<br>• Blue Water Baltimore |

## Economy

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

| Strengths | Weaknesses |
|---|---|
| • Relatively high level of educational attainment with 49% of Catonsville CDP residents having a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 37% for County as a whole. <br>• Nearby major institutions including UMBC and CCBC which provide a large number of high quality jobs and services to the community. <br>• Bwtech at UMBC Research and Technology Park offers 525,000 sf of flexible and well-outfitted office and wet-lab space on a 71 acres to over 100 startup companies. <br>• A vibrant and creative small business community – along with a thriving arts and entertainment scene. <br>• Historical, environmental, and cultural resources both within and near the SC area, which draw visitors from beyond the SC area. | • Downsizing of the Federal workforce, coupled with increased telecommuting and space consolidation could impact the future growth of the major Federal employment center just north of Catonsville. <br>• Could improve the connection with UMBC on events, projects, initiatives, and master plans. <br>• Some commercial areas and businesses are in poor physical condition, and/or are more prone to vacancy. |

| Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures ➔ | Strategies and Action Items ➔ | Implementation Partners |
|---|---|---|
| Outcome 1: Continued revitalization of the Catonsville Commercial Revitalization District, including the Paradise neighborhood inside the Beltway (I-695). <br><br>Progress Measures: <br><br>• Quantity and amounts of Commercial Revitalization Action Grants. <br>• Quantity and amounts of Commercial Revitalization Tax Credits. | Strategy A: Promote the Commercial Revitalization Tax Credit Program, which provides real property tax credits if physical improvements to business properties increase the assessed property value by $100,000 or more. <br><br>Strategy B: Provide Commercial Revitalization Action Grants to the Catonsville Chamber of Commerce for projects that benefit the revitalization district. <br><br>Strategy C: Implement postponed plans for the Paradise commercial area streetscape along Frederick Road. | • Catonsville Chamber of Commerce <br>• Local business owners <br>• Other County agencies, particularly Baltimore County Economic and Workforce Development <br>• State Highway Administration |

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|---|---|---|
| • Number of commercial permits issued for construction of and improvements to businesses that positively impact the district.<br>• Length/size of additional streetscape. | | |
| Outcome 2: Improvement in condition and character of businesses in less thriving sections of the SC area, along with a reduction in vacancy rate.<br><br>Progress Measures:<br><br>• Reduced quantity of vacant businesses.<br>• Quantity and amount of grants and loans.<br>• Number of commercial permits issued for construction of and improvements to businesses. | Strategy A: Encourage businesses to apply for and utilize state and county programs for which they are eligible, including: Neighborhood BusinessWorks, Community Legacy, Strategic Demolition Fund, Community Investment Tax Credits Program, Military Personnel and Veteran-Owned Small Business Loan Program, Video Lottery Terminal Fund programs (and Baltimore County's associated Boost Program), Small Business Loan Fund, Advanced Technology Loan Fund, Business Growth Loans, Community Revitalization Action Grants, Architects on Call, Building Improvement Loan Program, etc. | • Local business owners<br>• Other County agencies, particularly Baltimore County Economic and Workforce Development<br>• Applicable State agencies |

## Transportation

**(Transportation strengths and weaknesses can include access to transit corridors, pedestrian safety and accessibility/sidewalks, alternative modes of transportation, such as bikeways and trails, public transit, such as bus and rail, carpooling, proximity to transportation centers, parking, road conditions)**

| Strengths | Weaknesses |
|---|---|
| • Most extensive bicycle access network in Baltimore County.<br>• Strong network of public bus lines.<br>• The University of Maryland – Baltimore County (UMBC) offers multiple shuttles that traverse the SC area, providing students, faculty, and staff with an alternative form of transportation.<br>• Relatively extensive and well connected road network, with fairly easy access to interstate highways and to nearby transportation centers such as BWI (air and trains) and light rail stations to the north and south. | • Limited funding available for bicycle and pedestrian improvements.<br>• Narrow road right-of-way restricts the ability to have fully implemented "complete streets" along certain roadways. |

| Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures → | Strategies and Action Items → | Implementation Partners |
|---|---|---|
| Outcome 1: Improve bicycle and pedestrian connectivity<br><br>Progress Measures:<br><br>• Miles of trails/paths<br>• Miles of sidewalks/bicycle lanes/ side paths<br>• Number of key infrastructure improvements such as bridges, tunnels, signalized crosswalks, etc. | Strategy A: Work with Howard County, the Patapsco Heritage Greenway, and other potential parties to establish a solution for better connecting Oella and Ellicott City for bicyclists and pedestrians, potentially through the construction of a dedicated bike and pedestrian bridge.<br><br>Strategy B: Continue to work cooperatively with Catonsville Rails to Trails, other bicycle and pedestrian advocacy groups, Baltimore County Public Works, and the Maryland Department of Transportation/State Highway Administration to plan and implement bicycle and pedestrian enhancement projects. | • Howard County<br>• Patapsco Heritage Greenway<br>• Catonsville Rails to Trails<br>• Maryland DOT/SHA |

## Housing

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

| Strengths | Weaknesses |
|---|---|
| • Wide range of housing options, ranging from single family homes, to condominiums, to apartments, to senior living facilities. Housing value is strong overall, with eight of the nine census tracts associated with the SC area having median house values higher than the countywide average of $256,800. | • Rental housing disparity within the SC area. The original SC application identified a portion of the area where there was a significantly larger percentage of renter-occupied housing. This remains the case, though more so as a result of the very high rates of owner occupied housing in some portions of the SC areas (three of nine associated census tracts have owner-occupied rates greater than 90%, while another has a rate of 82%). Meanwhile, the lowest three rates of owner occupancy of SC area census tracts are 61.4% (tract 4002), 64.1% (tract 4008), and 65.5% (tract 4006). These rates are slightly below the countywide average of 65.8%.<br>• While the overall residential vacancy rate is approximately 1% lower than the countywide average, three of the nine census tracts (4002, 4006, 4008) had vacancy rates that are 1% or more higher than the countywide average.<br>• Housing is more commonly in poor condition and/or functionally lacking in some areas, particularly in close proximity to the Beltway and between the Beltway and City-County line. |

| Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures | Strategies and Action Items | Implementation Partners |
|---|---|---|
| Outcome 1: Strategically improve housing conditions and opportunities in portions of the SC area with higher rates of rental properties and/or housing that is deficient in function or condition.<br><br>Progress Measures:<br><br>• Proportion of owner occupied housing<br>• Average housing value<br>• Quantity and value of various housing improvement grants and loans | Strategy A: Promote and strategically target funding available through various local, state, and federal programs that are available for residential renovations and improvements. | • Residential property owners<br>• State and federal agencies including the MD Dept. of Housing and Community Development, and HUD |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Outcome 2: Ensure that quality affordable housing options are available.<br><br>Progress Measures:<br><br>• Quantity and value of completed projects at designated affordable housing residences.<br>• Quantity and value of new grants and loans to property owners of affordable housing, and to companies that construct new affordable housing units.<br>• Number of additional affording housing units created. | Strategy A: Continue and complete the Winters Lane projects through the partnership with the St. Ambrose Housing Aid Center.<br><br>Strategy B: Continue to utilize the $3 million per year the County has dedicated to support the creation of "hard units" of affordable housing. Work with companies that offer and construct affordable housing to provide additional opportunities within the SC area. | • St. Ambrose Housing Aid Center<br>• Owners and developers of affordable housing |

## Quality of Life

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

| Strengths | Weaknesses |
|---|---|
| • Crime rates are significantly lower than the countywide average (23.4% lower violent crime rate, 24.5% lower property crime rate).<br>• The SC area and greater Catonsville community enjoy a wealth of performing arts and concert opportunities, including those offered at UMBC, CCBC – Catonsville, Lurman Woodland Theater, "Frederick Road Fridays," "Catonsville Concerts at 3" at Catonsville Presbyterian Church, the Salem Players (at Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church), Banneker Historical Park and Museum, and the Chapel Concerts at Charlestown Retirement Community. The annual Catonsville Arts and Crafts Festival continues to be mainstay of the annual arts calendar, celebrating its 45th anniversary in 2018.<br>• Strong sense of community, embodied by such monikers as "The Ville" and "Music City, Maryland."<br>• Widespread access to quality educational opportunities (public and private, at every level from pre-school through university), libraries, historic and cultural assets, civic amenities, and faith-based organizations. | • Significant economic disparities within the SC area. The median household income of the most wealthy census tract ($144,479 in tract 4005) is more than double than double that of tracts 4002 and 4009 ($66,888 and $62,050, respectively). Tract 4002 was also the only census tract in the SC area with a higher percentage of residents under poverty than the countywide average.<br>• Lack of recognition of the historic Maryland National Road (Frederick Road), and resultant failure to capitalize upon potential tourism.<br>• Somewhat disjointed network of arts and entertainment opportunities. |

| Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures ➡ | Strategies and Action Items ➡ | Implementation Partners |
|---|---|---|
| Outcome 1: Expand upon the area's status as a thriving arts hub, and support efforts to provide arts and cultural opportunities for both area residents and visitors.<br><br>Progress Measures: | Strategy A: Work with partners including the Baltimore County Arts Guild to have Catonsville designated as a Maryland Arts and Entertainment District.<br><br>Strategy B: Continue to support arts and cultural events through the investment of Baltimore County Arts and Sciences Grants, Community Revitalization Action Grants (CRAG), and other grants programs, and inform not-for-profit, tax-exempt organizations aware of additional grant funding available through the Maryland State Arts Council. | • Maryland State Arts Council<br>• Baltimore County Arts Guild<br>• Baltimore County Arts and Sciences Commission<br>• Various arts and entertainment venues and organizations (public, not-for-profit, and private) |

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|---|---|---|
| • Attainment of designation as the County's first Maryland Arts and Entertainment District<br>• Number of arts and entertainment venues<br>• Number of arts and entertainment events | | |
| Outcome 2: Greater recognition of and access to historical and cultural resources.<br><br>Progress Measures:<br><br>• Grants secured by the Patapsco Heritage Greenway, as well as projects completed within that Maryland Heritage Area.<br>• Number of Maryland Historic National Road Corridor Partnership Plan recommendations implemented. | Strategy A: Work cooperatively with the Patapsco Heritage Greenway to implement their efforts as a Maryland Heritage Area, and to support historical and cultural activities within the Greenway area.<br><br>Strategy B: Expand efforts to accomplish the recommendations of the Maryland Historic National Road Corridor Partnership Plan. | • Patapsco Heritage Greenway and their partner organizations<br>• Maryland Historical Trust<br>• Community, civic, and business associations including the Catonsville Historical Society, Friends of Benjamin Banneker Historical Park and Museum, and Catonsville Business Association. |

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application – Action Plan Update

## Local Planning and Land Use

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

| Strengths | Weaknesses |
|---|---|
| • Overall land use pattern and zoning that support one of the healthiest and most successful commercial cores (Catonsville) in Baltimore County. | • Relative scarcity of undeveloped properties within residential and commercial zones, thereby limiting the potential for large scale new development. |

| Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures ➝ | Strategies and Action Items ➝ | Implementation Partners |
|---|---|---|
| Outcome 1: Provide suitable opportunities for growth, while at the same time protecting the character of established neighborhoods (such as Winters Lane) and commercial areas (such as "downtown" Catonsville).<br><br>Progress Measures:<br><br>• Number of effective zoning changes made during the 2020 CZMP.<br>• Permits for new construction and enhancements<br>• Quantity of vacant properties<br>• Job creation and retention | Strategy A: Utilize the 2020 Comprehensive Zoning Map Process (CZMP) to make appropriate zoning changes that will allow for suitable amounts and types of growth.<br><br>Strategy B: Provide suitable incentives for key projects through various County and State programs.<br><br>Strategy C: Consider potential expansion of commercial revitalization zone(s), particularly in cases where suitable growth could result. | • Baltimore County Economic and Workforce Development<br>• State agencies and entities such as the Dept. of Commerce, Dept. of Housing & Community Development, and the Maryland Economic Development Corporation<br>• Baltimore County Council<br>• Private developers |