

**CHECKLIST AND TABLE OF CONTENTS**

APPLICANT: Town of Chesapeake City

NAME OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY: Chesapeake City

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:**

Chesapeake City

**Name of Renewal Applicant:**

Town of Chesapeake City

**Applicant's Federal Identification Number:**

**Applicant's Street Address:** 108 Bohemia Ave.

**City:** Chesapeake City                      **County:** Cecil                      **State:** MD      **Zip Code:** 21915

**Phone Number:** 410-885-5298 **Fax Number:** 410-885-2515 **Web Address:** www.chesapeakecity-md.gov

**Sustainable Community Renewal Application Local Contact:**

**Name:** Sandra Edwards                      **Title:** Town Manager

**Address:** 108 Bohemia Ave      **City:** Chesapeake City      **State:** MD      **Zip Code:** 21915

**Phone Number:** 410-885-5298 **Fax Number:** 410-885-2515 **E-mail Address:** s.edwards@chesapeakecity-md.gov

**Other Sustainable Community Contacts:**

**Name:** Valerie Walls                      **Title:** Clerk/Treasurer

**Address:** 108 Bohemia Ave      **City:** Chesapeake City      **State:** MD      **Zip Code:** 21915

**Phone Number:** 410-885-5298 **Fax Number:** 410-885-2515 **E-mail Address:** v.walls@chesapeakecity-md.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 Town is proposing to expand the boundary to include a 3+/-acre property that was annexed in 2015, which includes the site where the Town's new waste water treatment plant will be constructed (currently at 60% design with construction expected to begin later this year and completion of the WWTP in Spring/Summer 2020).

(2) Include the following 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: 335+/- acres proposed (currently 332+/-)

(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):

(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?

There has not been a new census since the initial application; however, the below reflects the latest estimates that we've been able to glean from online sources, including the 2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates:

Population in 2016: 713

Median age: 43.6

Under 5 years of age: 3.5%

5 – 19 years of age: 13.7%

20 -64 years of age: 62.6%

65 years of age and over: 20.2%

Race: Hispanic 1.96%; Black 2.22%; Native .42%; Some other race 2.1%; White 93.3%

Median Household Income = \$55,500

Poverty Rate = 10.9%

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

## Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section A

- (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 Workgroup did not meet collectively within the past five years rather it functioned more as a floating group where Town staff coordinated with individuals and sometimes multiple persons (from the members envisioned in the original application and others) on a project, event, etc. basis to implement the Sustainable Community Area Plan. This method has worked well thus far considering the workload of the Town's small staff and the busy schedules of the various Workgroup members and stakeholders.

- (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 strengths have been the varied and vast knowledge of the Workgroup members and stakeholders and their continued support for projects and initiatives advancing the goals and objective of the SC Plan. Of course, the main challenges continue to be limited time since so many in the Workgroup are over-extended and a lack of financial resources.

- (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?

As noted in the original application, the Sustainable Community Action Plan was and continues to be based on the Town's 2009 Comprehensive Plan and the Town's Revitalization Plan established in 2012 (March 2013 version attached), with the latter being the main driving document to date. Updates on the projects and initiatives outlined in the Revitalization Plan are provided regularly at the bi-monthly Town Council meetings, in the Town's quarterly newsletters, on the Town's website, and on the Town's Facebook page. Residents can and do routinely provide input at Town Council meetings and also at Planning Commission meetings. Further, the former mayor delivered State of the Town presentations in the Spring of 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016, in which he went over each element of the Revitalization Plan. These presentations were consistently well attended with typically 75 – 100 attendees, which is impressive for a town of only 713 people. A PDF of the 2016 PowerPoint presentation is included as an attachment. Further, in Winter 2015 the Town surveyed residents on quality of life issues and public service satisfaction. Only 19 surveys were returned, but there is relatively high confidence that the responses adequately reflected overall public sentiment at the time. A copy of the compilation of the 2015 Survey Results is included herein as an attachment. Lastly, public involvement and input is continually encouraged and always welcome.

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

The Town would certainly be open to technical assistance from State agencies on an as needed basis to implement the SC Plan. Currently, the Town routinely reaches out to various State agencies, such as MDP and SHA, for assistance and guidance on projects and policy matters. At this time, we have not identified areas where assistance is needed with respect to revitalization strategies; however, we do anticipate submitting a Community Legacy grant application this year for façade improvements throughout the SC Area so that could be an area where assistance may be needed.

# **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RENEWAL REPORT**

## **PART I: QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT**

### **Purpose:**

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

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

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

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

#### *Example – Accomplishment 1*

*Outcome: Improved stormwater management*

#### *Projects:*

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

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

#### *Partners:*

*Chesapeake Bay Trust – provided technical assistance*

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

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

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

**Accomplishment 1:**

*Outcome: Improved Water & Sewer Infrastructure*

*Projects:*

1. **Bohemia Manor Water & Sewer Extension Project completed in 2014.** This project extended water & sewer lines from the south limit of Town down to the Bohemia Manor High School & Middle School Complex. Since the school complex had a failing septic system it was brought into compliance with this project. Other landowners along the extension line that either had failing septic systems or lacked adequate percolation for a private system have been able to connect to the Town's water & sewer. This has allowed for the construction of a Dollar General store and the re-development of a commercial building (outside of Town limits, but still beneficial to the community) that had been sitting vacant for several years and was an eyesore. In addition, this project improved the financial position of the Town's Water & Sewer Enterprise Account.

*Partners: Cecil County Government, Cecil County Public Schools, USDA*

2. **Water main interconnection (from Delaware line to Town) completed in 2013.** Upon completion of the project the Town began purchasing water from Artesian. This project allowed the Town to close its two water plants and abandon the associated wells and take down the north water tower. The result is better quality water for Town customers and a considerable savings to the Town.

*Partners: MDE*

3. **Replacement new waters at every residence and business in Town completed in 2013.** This project allows for remote reading of the meters, which the Town now does in house, again saving the Town money.

*Partners: MDE*

4. **New Water Storage Tank near completion (will be completed this Spring).** This project will allow for storage capacity in instance of emergency outages (i.e. water main break) and will help with water pressure for fire suppression. Under construction picture attached.

*Partners Cecil County Public Schools, USDA, MDE*

*Impact of Projects: Improved water quality, improved service to customers, and a more fiscally sound Water & Sewer Enterprise Account.*

**Accomplishment 2:**

*Outcome: Improved water quality*

*Projects:*

1. **Removal of concrete swales along MD Rte. 286.** (pictures included in Attachment No. 11)

*Partners: SHA*

2. **Plantings throughout Town on public lands** (pictures included in Attachment No. 11)

*Partners: SHA*

*Impact of Projects: Improved water quality, improved aesthetics*

**Accomplishment 3:**

*Outcome:* Improved pedestrian and bicycle access

*Projects:*

1. **Ben Cardin Recreational Trail (Canal Trail) completed in 2015.** 1.8-mile trail along the connecting to the Mike Castle Trail in Delaware, which continues all the way to Delaware City.

*Partners:* Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

2. **Biddle Street Sidewalk Project & Traffic Calming Measures.** Sidewalks replaced and installed where nonexistent between Lock Street and the S-curve on Biddle Street (300 Block – 500 Block). Plans included as Attachment No. 6.

*Partners:* SHA

**Second Street ADA Compliant Sidewalk Project (retrofit).** Sidewalks replaces on both sides of Second St. from George Street to the Chesapeake Inn. Plans included as Attachment No. 7.

*Partners:* SHA

*Impact:* Increased walkability, increased opportunity for exercise, increased safety.

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

*Outcome:* Utility Lines – Burying underground.

*Narrative:* Financially prohibitive at this time.

*Outcome:* Sidewalk repairs and installations where sidewalk are nonexistent along Town owned streets and State roads.

*Narrative:* Cost prohibitive – grants needed. Once a few of the Town’s larger projects are moved into the construction phase we can focus on obtaining the grant funds needed for sidewalks along Town streets, meanwhile, the Town has asked SHA to install sidewalks where there currently are not any along Hemphill and Lock Streets.

## Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

*Outcome:* Installation of a gateway arch & signage and plantings on the north and south sides of town.

*Narrative:* Basically, SHA put the kibosh on this initiative because the improvements would be in their right-of-way and there were just too many safety concerns that could not be overcome.

*Outcome: Arts & Entertainment District Designation*

*Narrative:* As noted earlier, MSAC staff advised the Town that there was not an “anchor” to support the designation.



# **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RENEWAL REPORT**

## **PART II: COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT**

### **Purpose:**

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

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

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

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

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

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

<b>ENVIRONMENT</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>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?</b>
1. Has there been an improvement in water quality?	✓			The improvements are not measurable but are visually evident. Concrete swales replaced with grass swales, significant tree, shrub, and native plantings have occurred throughout town on public lands. Pictures included in attachments.
2. Has the amount of impervious surface in your Community been reduced? (Amount in SF)	✓			2 landscaped islands and 2 landscaped side bump-outs were installed within the paved area of Biddle Street as part of SHA's sidewalk retrofit project. Otherwise, the Town is largely a built environment except for a few large undeveloped parcels so it is not reasonable to have a goal to reduce existing impervious surface coverage, but there is a goal to minimize the expansion of impervious surface and lot coverages.
3. Have there been improvements and/ or additions to your park and/ or recreational green space?	✓			At Chesapeake City Community Park (Home of Chesapeake City Little League) a grant was received from DNR for lights on Field 2. The Town currently has grants from DNR for a comfort station and parking improvements at Helen Titter Park and for improvements (walkway, labyrinth, plantings, steps down to Ben Cardin Recreational Trail, and a bike rack) at Union Street Park.
4. Did the Sustainable Community implement any recycling or waste reduction programs?			✓	The Town already offers curbside recycling. Further, Chesapeake City has been the top recycling town in Cecil County for the past 7 years and we are poised to make it 8 years in a row (2017 total currently being tallied by the County).
5. Do all residents have access to healthy food options (i.e. fresh food grocery stores, farmers markets etc.) within the Sustainable Community?		✓		We have a number of restaurants within the Sustainable Community, but no grocery stores or farmer's markets. An attempt by a local church was made at a small-scale farmer's market in town in 2016, however, there was not enough interest from the residents to support it coming back in 2017. The failure could have been due to the time (day of week & time of day), location, and lack of promotion. Thus, the Town is considering facilitating a farmer's market. The first step will be to survey the residents. Also, we are currently in the process of surveying the residents to see if public transit via Cecil Transit is needed to provide access to healthy food options among other things.
<b>OTHER:</b>				

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

<b>ECONOMY</b>	YES	NO	N/A	<b>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?</b>
1. Has there been an increase in the number of new businesses in your Main Street/ Commercial District?	✓			The New Leaf opened in 2015 and sadly went out of business in 2016. North East Chocolates Too is renting space within Belles Emporium and is doing well. In 2017 Chesapeake City Water Tours, a private tour boat and ferry service, began operating from the Town dock – the owner was very pleased with the first season. There are other new businesses in Town, but they are located in spaces vacated by another business.
2. Did the Municipality/ Sustainable Community area receive any designations that support local economic development?		✓		The Town explored at length an Arts & Entertainment District designation, but was advised by Maryland State Arts Council staff that there was not an “anchor” to support the application. The Town subsequently brought Shakespeare in the Park to the Town once a year, but more cultural events, and more artist galleries are needed for the Town to obtain an A&E District designation.
3. Has there been an increase in foot traffic in the Main Street/commercial district?			✓	There is no measurable way to quantify the foot traffic, but when the weather is nice or there's a special/annual event the Town is hopping and people are strolling the streets.
4. Have the number of commercial vacancies decreased?	✓			Seven new businesses have moved into locations that were vacant.
5. Has there been an increase in local jobs within the Sustainable Community for its residents?	✓			Yes, there have definitely been additional jobs added, but nothing of major significance and nothing quantifiable.
<b>OTHER:</b>				

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>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?</b>
1. Has the amount of bike trails/paths increased? How many linear feet do the trails cover?	✓			1.8 miles - Ben Cardin Recreational Trail (Canal Trail).
2. Have there been improvements to the public transit infrastructure?		✓		No, however, the Town is currently in the process of surveying the residents to determine if public transportation via Cecil Transit is something that is wanted/needed.
3. Has there been an increase in sidewalks? (Amount in linear feet)	✓			Along Biddle Street as part of SHA's sidewalk retrofit project. Approximately 400 ft.
4. Have there been any roadway improvements that support "Complete" or "Green" streets?			✓	2 landscaped islands and 2 landscaped side bump-outs were installed within the paved area of Biddle Street as part of SHA's sidewalk retrofit project.
5. Has traffic congestion along major roads decreased? (Amount in percent)		✓		
<b>OTHER:</b>				

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

<b>HOUSING</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>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?</b>
1. Have any residential facades been improved?	✓			Eight.
2. Has the home ownership rate increased?				Unknown.
3. Has there been an increase in the number of housing units in the Sustainable Community area? What number and/or percent are affordable?				One new single-family residence constructed.
4. Has there been demolition of blighted properties?			✓	Old water tower on the north side was removed in 2014.
5. Has the residential vacancy rate decreased?	✓			Yes, there had been several empty residences under foreclosure and most, if not all, have been sold and are being lived in or under renovation to make habitable. Also, there are a few homes within town currently for sale, but we've definitely noticed and increase in sales and transfers in 2017.
<b>OTHER:</b>				

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

<b>QUALITY OF LIFE</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>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?</b>
1. Has there been a decrease in crime rate?			✓	No measurable way to quantify this, however, per the Winter 2015 Community Survey responses and from direct comments to staff, mayor, and councilmembers, it seems most residents feel the Town is quite safe.
2. Have there been improvements and/or additions to your public spaces (i.e. museums, community centers, public plazas)?	✓			The C&D Canal Museum located on the USACE property was at one time open on weekends. It is a great museum so in 2015 the Town approached the USACE about reopening it on weekends and they said if the Town obtained a person to staff it on the weekends then they would allow it to be open on weekends. Starting in 2015 the Town has staffed the museum on Saturdays and Sundays from April – October and visitation on weekends has been significant.
3. Has there been an increase in public art/ arts & entertainment programs/venues (i.e. murals, movie theatre, music events)?	✓			During the summers of 2013 & 2014 Town Hall served as an art gallery known as the Town Hall 10, where ten local artists displayed and sold their works on weekends. Unfortunately, the group fell apart after the 2014 season. In 2014 the Town began sponsoring an annual presentation of Shakespeare in the Park (performances by Brown Box Theatre group) on a Saturday evening in September in Pell Gardens. It has become a very popular and anticipated annual event.
4. How many historic properties were renovated/improved?				Town Hall was one of the buildings recently painted (photo included in Attachment No. 11). Major exterior renovations in the past five years have occurred at 225 Bohemia Ave., 208 Charles St., 405 George St., and 211 Bohemia Ave. (in process).
5. Are there any residential health and wellness opportunities in place (i.e. athletic facilities, recreational indoor/ outdoor courses or groups)?	✓			There is the Chesapeake City Community Park, home of Chesapeake City Little League, and Helen Titter Park that has an outdoor basketball court and large open field that is used in the fall for youth soccer practice. Also, the Ben Cardin Recreational Trail (Canal Trail) is used regularly by residents and visitors for walking, running, and bicycling.
<b>OTHER:</b>				

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

<b>LAND USE/ LOCAL PLANNING</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>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?</b>
1. Have there been any infill developments?	✓			One new single-family home was constructed on a lot that has been vacant for roughly 10 years since the former house burnt down.
2. Has there been an increase in the amount of preserved/protected land?	✓			The Town purchased the Bridgepoint property that has approval for 14 additional townhouse units (five already constructed) for \$62,000 in 2016. The Town is currently considering uses for the property, but has been leaning towards creating additional parking on the site for the Chesapeake City Little League complex located across Basil Ave. and for additional parking for various events in town that draw large crowds, such as the annual car show in August.
3. Have there been any developments hindered by growth constraints?		✓		There have been no developments formally submitted to the Town for approval within the past 5 years. There are only a few parcels in town with enough acreage to support a sizable development and the reasons why we have not seen development proposals submitted on these properties is likely a combination of factors, including the economy, the lack of sewer capacity (hopefully to be rectified in 2020), environmental constraints of the properties, and rigid design requirements (layout and architectural) intended to have growth resemble the traditional development layout of the Historic District.
4. Have there been any zoning or any policy changes that have fostered growth in your Sustainable Community?	✓			In 2017 there was an amendment to the Town's Comprehensive Development Ordinance (zoning ordinance) to re-establish satellite parking (offsite parking) throughout the town. This change will allow new businesses with limited parking on site to address parking via an offsite lot and will allow existing businesses to potentially expand if they can provide satellite parking.
5. Have there been any significant improvements to the municipal infrastructure within the Sustainable Community (i.e. street lighting, water/sewer lines)?	✓			Water main interconnection allowing purchase of water from Artesian, installation of new water meters for all residences and businesses, construction of a new water storage tank (to be completed this Spring), Bohemia Manor Water & Sewer Extension completed in 2014, new lighting installed in Ferry Slip Park in 2017, new wastewater treatment plant at 60% design and is expected to go out for bid this summer and construction to be completed in 2020.
<b>OTHER:</b>				

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

<b>COMPETITIVE FUNDING:</b> Use the rows below to list competed funds sought for sustainability or revitalization projects since receiving Sustainable Communities designation.	<b>Source</b> (federal, state, foundation, etc.)	<b>Amount Received</b>	<b>If no funding was received, what technical or other assistance from the state would help with future applications?</b>	<b>Other Notes</b>
<b>Community Legacy (CL):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Village Streetscape Project Design Phase &amp; purchase of benches &amp; trash receptacles</li> <li>• Village Streetscape Project Phase 1 Construction</li> </ul>	DHCD	\$180,000		\$100,000 received in latest application round for Phase 1 Construction of sidewalk along First St.
<b>Transportation Alternatives Program</b> Bohemia Trail	SHA	\$1,354,588		In final design. Construction to begin in 2018.
<b>Maryland Bikeways Program:</b> Bike racks	MDOT	\$1,4000		Installed at Ben Cardin Trailhead in 2016.
<b>Sidewalk Retrofit Program:</b> Sidewalk improvements along Second Street (they installed brick that the Town purchased using Community Legacy funding) and Biddle Street	MDOT	\$838,000 (\$312,000 & \$526,000 respectively)		Biddle St. completed in 2104, Second St. in 2015.
<b>Safe Routes to School</b> Chesapeake City Elementary School	SHA	\$53,700		In final design.
<b>Search Planning Grant</b> (preliminary planning & environmental reports for new WWTP)	USDA	\$30,000		Completed.



Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

<b>COMPETITIVE FUNDING:</b> Use the rows below to list competed funds sought for sustainability or revitalization projects since receiving Sustainable Communities designation.	<b>Source</b> (federal, state, foundation, etc.)	<b>Amount Received</b>	<b>If no funding was received, what technical or other assistance from the state would help with future applications?</b>	<b>Other Notes</b>
<p><b>Other Funding Programs:</b> <i>examples are U.S. HUD Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), or grants from USDA, EPA, Appalachian Regional Commission, Chesapeake Bay Trust, Maryland Heritage Areas Association, Preservation Maryland, Safe Routes to School, Maryland Rural Development Corporation, Maryland Energy Administration, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, etc.</i></p> <p>*Please add more rows if necessary</p>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Water Storage Tank/Tower</li> <li>• New WWTP</li> </ul>	USDA	\$1,000,000		The funding breakdown on the WWTP has not been determined to date, but the project cost is estimated at \$9 million.
<p><b>Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Water Storage Tank/Tower</li> <li>• New WWTP</li> </ul>	MDE	\$1,000,000		The funding breakdown on the WWTP has not been determined to date, but the project cost is estimated at \$9 million.
<p><b>Waterway Improvement Fund</b>                      Dredging of Back Creek Mooring Basin</p>	DNR	\$720,000	.	For dredging of the Basin & Town Dock areas, which was completed Jan. 2018. The USACE came through on funding for the Basin so the Town will on be using \$25,000 - \$30,000 of the award.
<p><b>Waterway Improvement Fund</b>                      Dock improvements (200' floating dock re-decked and pedestals added)</p>	DNR	\$73,500		Completed in 2015.

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

<p><b>COMPETITIVE FUNDING:</b> Use the rows below to list competed funds sought for sustainability or revitalization projects since receiving Sustainable Communities designation.</p>	<p><b>Source (federal, state, foundation, etc.)</b></p>	<p><b>Amount Received</b></p>	<p><b>If no funding was received, what technical or other assistance from the state would help with future applications?</b></p>	<p><b>Other Notes</b></p>
<p><b>Transportation Alternatives Program</b> Lewis Street Connection (Helen Titter Park to Ben Cardin Recreational Trail)</p>	<p>SHA</p>	<p>\$216,728</p>		<p>Unfunded. They wanted to fund, but cannot until Town completes the Bohemia Trail project.</p>
<p><b>Community Parks &amp; Playgrounds</b> Lights installed on Field Np. 2 at Chesapeake City Community Park (CC Little League Complex). Restrooms, parking, &amp; lighting improvements at Helen Titter Park (Plan included as Attachment No. 8) and improvements at Union Street Park (Plan included as Attachment No. 9) .</p>	<p>DNR</p>	<p>\$325,245</p>		<p>\$108,000 lights on ballfield – completed. \$101,250 for Helen Titter Park improvements – in final design. \$115,995 for Union Street Park improvements – in final design.</p>

## Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

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

- Stormwater management projects throughout the Town (we have a prioritized list). Note, the Town recently began working with staff from the University of Maryland Sea Grant Program and Cecil County, but funding will be needed to implement projects.
- Underground water & sewer infrastructure projects (line replacements or installation of sleeves/liners). Many of the water and sewer lines in Town have well exceeded their life (50-80 years old) resulting in an increase in main breaks causing disruptions in service, plus infiltration and inflow (I&I) from cracks in the sewer lines results in the treatment of stormwater through the WWTPs, which costs more money and puts more stress on the aging systems plus it is not beneficial to the environment. Ideally, stormwater should be managed in a way that ensures ground water recharge. The Town has applied to MDE for funding for I&I for the past 3 years, but the applications have not scored high enough to date to receive funding.
- Economic development staffing and planning/project assistance. The Town's Director of Economic Development & Tourism position (part-time) has been vacant for 18 months due to a lack of funding and the lack of a strategic plan. Funding as well as technical assistance for strategic planning would be a huge help.
- Façade improvements for residences and businesses.

# Sustainable Community Action Plan

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Chesapeake City

**Submitted by Town of Chesapeake City**

**2/20/2018**

# 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)

<u>Strengths</u>	<u>Weaknesses</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New WWTP in design phase, construction to start later this year and completion expected in 2020.</li> <li>• 5 improved parks within Town. Town has actively sought and successfully received grant funding for park improvements and to increase connectivity.</li> <li>• The Town has been the top municipal recycler in the Cecil County 7 years running and is poised to make it 8 years in a row when 2017 totals are announced.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nonexistent or insufficient stormwater management in some areas, aging stormwater management infrastructure everywhere else, and a historic lack of maintenance of the stormwater management system (approach to issues has been reactive vs. proactive).</li> <li>• Lack of access to local fresh foods</li> <li>• The Town has lost a number of mature trees dues to disease and storm damage. Some of the removed trees have been re-replaced and there have been lots of new tree plantings throughout town, but sadly it takes decades to truly replace a mature tree.</li> </ul>

<u>Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures</u>	<u>Strategies and Action Items</u>	<u>Implementation Partners</u>
<p>Based on the strengths and weaknesses identify the strengths on which you would like to build and the challenges you would like to address.            What outcomes are you trying to achieve?            Where/ in what area do you want those changes to happen? →</p> <p>Progress Measure: Identify how you will know that you have achieved your outcome.</p>	<p>Identify strategies that will help your community to achieve each identified outcome to the left. If applicable, break down each strategy into specific action items that outline different steps of the strategy.            Specify how you are planning to achieve the desired outcomes. →</p>	<p>Which community stakeholders need to be involved to realize each action step and strategy?            Name specific public and/or private sector partners.</p>
<p>Outcome 1: Establish a farmers market in a location that is easily accessible to residents by walking and bicycling.</p> <p>Progress Measures: Farmers Market established.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Contact other municipalities in the region that have a successful farmers market (i.e. Chestertown) for suggestions - get advice on do's &amp; don'ts, what's worked, what hasn't, vendor lists, etc.            Strategy B: Contact Cecil County Economic Dev., Tourism, and Community Services, Health Dept., MD Dept. of Agriculture for technical assistance, grants, etc.            Strategy C: Explore ways to incentivize to ensure the market is successful</p>	<p>Local Farmers/Growers; Local Businesses, Cecil County Gov't, State</p>

<p>Outcome 2: Improved water quality resulting from new stormwater management installations, projects, and upgrades to the current stormwater system, and plantings.</p> <p>Progress Measures: Amount of grant/project funding awarded in support of stormwater projects; number of linear feet of new storm drains/ditches installed; number of linear feet of old storm drain piped replaced or lined with a sleeve; an annual report of maintenance completed.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Secure technical assistance and funding from partners Strategy B: Fix (repair, replace, install) stormwater system in accordance with prioritized plan Strategy C: Establish a schedule for maintenance of swales, storm drains, etc. Strategy D: Use rain gardens and other plantings to address stormwater management issues when and where possible and encourage property owners to do the same when proposing improvements to their property.</p>	<p>Cecil County Stormwater Division, MDE, Univ. of MD (Sea Grant Extension); USDA</p>
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# Economy

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

<u>Strengths</u>	<u>Weaknesses</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location – 1 hr. from Baltimore and Philadelphia, 2 hrs. from D.C., and 2 ½ hrs. from NYC.</li> <li>• Location – on the C&amp;D Canal and the Back Creek Mooring Basin.</li> <li>• Three established, successful restaurants that serve as anchors to the Town’s economy.</li> <li>• Ben Cardin Recreational Trail (Canal Trail) – this draws lots of people (i.e. bicycle group) from around the region.</li> <li>• Private ferry service established in 2017 for the boating season</li> <li>• There is a Chesapeake City Chamber of Commerce, which many of the Town’s business are members of.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only industry in the Town is Tourism</li> <li>• Most residents work outside of Town, commuting to Elkton, Newark, Baltimore, Wilmington, and Philadelphia</li> <li>• Existing shops don’t maintain consistent hours and don’t stay open during special events</li> <li>• Not enough shops in Town</li> <li>• Ferry doesn’t run all days and has limited hours, but this can change based on demand</li> <li>• Lack of adequate overnight lodging in Town</li> <li>• The Chesapeake City Chamber of Commerce is not staffed so its ability to advance sustainability and economic growth is limited</li> </ul>

<b>Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures</b> →	<b>Strategies and Action Items</b> →	<b>Implementation Partners</b>
<p>Outcome 1: Establish 5 new net businesses &amp; retain existing businesses</p> <p>Progress Measures: Total tally of new and existing businesses.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Hire an Economic Development &amp; Tourism Director/Coordinator</p> <p>Strategy B: Build relationships with shop owners and encourage consistent and expanded hours.</p> <p>Strategy C: Solicit new businesses to locate in Town, such as a bike rental/repair shop, art gallery, and other specialty shops</p>	<p>Chesapeake City Chamber of Commerce, Cecil County Gov’t (Econ. Dev., Tourism); Small Business Administration</p>
<p>Outcome 2: Additional lodging in Town.</p> <p>Progress Measures: Number of rooms added.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Conduct community visioning/charrette on where lodging should be located</p> <p>Strategy B: Explore annexing land if necessary to provide additional lodging</p>	<p>Chesapeake City Chamber of Commerce, Cecil County Gov’t (Econ. Dev., Tourism)</p>

# Transportation

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

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Located within 15 minutes of the I-95 corridor</li> <li>• Ferry service established in 2017 connecting the north and south sides of town – can accommodate bicycles</li> <li>• Town has docks for transient boaters – Back Creek Mooring Basin was recently dredged so boaters will have access greater access to our docks this year (boater access to the Basin the past two years was very limited)</li> <li>• Ben Cardin Recreational Trail (Canal Trail)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town is split by the C&amp;D Canal</li> <li>• Lack of public transit</li> <li>• Ferry only runs mid-April through mid-October, doesn't run every day in season, and doesn't run after dark (days, hours, etc. are expected to increase as demand increases)</li> <li>• Lack of adequate parking on both sides of Town during the busy (tourist) season and during special events</li> <li>• No rail service in Elkton</li> <li>• Lack if sidewalks along some Town streets and State roads within Town</li> </ul>

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures →	Strategies and Action Items →	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: Provide public transportation options for residents.</p> <p>Progress Measures: Routine public transportation established. Report from Cecil Transit on number of users.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Encourage Cecil Transit to provide weekly transportation services for residents</p> <p>Strategy B: Town to consider providing partial funding of the service charge for residents to use the public transit</p>	<p>Cecil County Community Services - Cecil Transit, Cecil Co. Dept. of Aging</p>
<p>Outcome 2: Install sidewalks where needed &amp; replace non ADA compliant sidewalks</p> <p>Progress Measures: Total number of linear feet of new sidewalk installed and total number of linear feet of replaced sidewalk.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Secure funding to install sidewalks where none currently exist along Town Streets.</p> <p>Strategy B: Continue to put pressure on SHA to install sidewalks where needed along Lock &amp; Hemphill Streets, and to retrofit sidewalks on George St. to make ADA compliant.</p>	<p>SHA, DHCD</p>



# Housing

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

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Owner occupancy rate seems to be increasing</li> <li>• Homes are finally selling, but only after considerable price drops</li> <li>• Residential vacancies have decreased</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing affordability (purchase &amp; rental)</li> <li>• Many homes in need of exterior maintenance</li> <li>• Numerous zoning violations throughout Town</li> </ul>

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures →	Strategies and Action Items →	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: Properties better maintained.</p> <p>Progress Measures: Number of façades improved; Code Enforcement Officer hired &amp; annual reports on total violation notices sent and end result (compliance, court, etc.)</p>	<p>Strategy A: Hire Code Enforcement Officer.</p> <p>Strategy B: Explore adoption of a maintenance code ordinance</p> <p>Strategy C: Secure funding to provide grants to residents for façade improvements.</p> <p>Strategy D: Explore providing a tax incentive or other financial measures to encourage/assist residents to improve their homes.</p>	<p>DHCD</p>
<p>Outcome 2: More housing options, particularly more affordable housing options for workforce and seniors.</p> <p>Progress Measures: Number of new lots created and new homes built and type of homes/units (single-family, semi-detached, townhouse, apartments).</p>	<p>Strategy A: Work with developers to provide a mix of housing stock to meet all needs.</p> <p>Strategy B: Consider annexing land once the new waste water treatment plant is constructed creating the capacity to support a development. Plan for it now.</p>	<p>Developers, Cecil County Gov't, MDP</p>

# 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Events have increased in Town (i.e. Winterfest, Shakespeare in the Park)</li> <li>• Median household income has risen</li> <li>• Low crime rate (respondents to 2015 survey indicated they felt the town very/moderately safe)</li> <li>• Strong sense of community pride</li> <li>• Five churches within Town</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most events and attractions are on the south side of town (Historic District) so not is walking distance for north side residents (new ferry service does help some, but it costs money)</li> <li>• Noise complaints from residents and some B&amp;Bs primarily during the summer</li> <li>• Lack of access to cultural arts</li> </ul>

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures →	Strategies and Action Items →	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: Increased access to events for north side residents.</p> <p>Progress Measures: New events established.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Build s stage at Helen Titter Park or at another location on the north side of town that would support music events and other special events</p> <p>Strategy B: Work with Chesapeake City Water Tours to increase ferry service hours</p> <p>Strategy C: Consider providing partial funding of the ferry service fee (\$3 each way) for residents (i.e. each resident gets 3 round trip vouchers per year)</p>	<p>Northside Neighborhood Association, Chesapeake City Civic Association,</p>
<p>Outcome 2: Increased access to cultural arts</p> <p>Progress Measures: Increase in number of art galleries, report on survey results, bus trip program created.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Re-institute bus trips to NYC and to other places.</p> <p>Strategy B: Survey residents to determine what they want access to.</p> <p>Strategy C: Seek to get artists to move to Town &amp; open galleries in Town, explore incentives in support of this effort.</p>	<p>Cecil County Arts Council, MSAC</p>

# Local Planning and Land Use

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

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Architectural Design Standards revised in 2017 and codified into the Town's Comprehensive Development Ordinance.</li> <li>Knowledgeable and active Planning Commission members</li> <li>Large parcels adjacent to the Town, particularly on the north side of town, that are suitable for annexation and development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Town's restrictive codes result in increased costs for developers and for homeowners for property maintenance</li> <li>Lack of Code Enforcement Officer</li> <li>Lack of developable land within Town limits</li> <li>2012 Comprehensive Development Ordinance is not user friendly and lacks some needed provisions and detail.</li> </ul>

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures →	Strategies and Action Items →	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: Hire Code Enforcement Officer.</p> <p>Progress Measures: Code Enforcement Officer hired!</p>	<p>Strategy A: Town Council to budget for the position and then fill it.</p> <p>Strategy B:</p> <p>Strategy C:</p>	<p>MML for training</p>
<p>Outcome 2: 2012 Comprehensive Development Ordinance (Zoning Ordinance) revised.</p> <p>Progress Measures: Completed amendments to the Comprehensive Development Ordinance.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Planning Commission to continue to review the Comprehensive Development Ordinance and make recommendations for amendments to Town Council.</p>	<p>MDP</p>
<p>Outcome 3: Annexation of land.</p> <p>Progress Measures: Number of acres annexed.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Planning Commission to develop a plan for annexing land consistent with the Town's Comprehensive Plan.</p> <p>Strategy B: Town Council to explore annexing land to address and meet the needs of residents, the larger community, and to maintain the Town's fiscal viability.</p>	<p>Cecil County Gov't, MDP</p>