



HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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Maryland General Assembly Bond Bill Request

8125 Main Street Reconstruction and Renovations - Howard County 18-21

Amount Request: \$500,000 with prior year match of \$500,000

The Department of Public Works appreciates the opportunity to speak with you to request support in the restoration of 8125 Main Street, Ellicott City, MD 21043 – known as *Caplan's Department Store*. This iconic building, located along Historic Main Street, was originally constructed in 1926. In 2016 and 2018, the building experienced tremendous damage after being subjected to high depth, high velocity flash flood waters. Howard County acquired the building after the 2018 flash flood, and since that time has been working to stabilize the remaining structure, including removal of a portion of the building that was in danger of collapse.

This funding request would support the reconstruction of the façade with resilient materials – engineered in a manner to withstand the effects of flood waters- yet preserving and respecting the character-defining elements unique to the 1926 façade. This includes reinforced storefront windows, specialty doors and frames, and structural reinforcement of the façade. These components constitute dry floodproofing – a series of measures being undertaken to ensure flood waters do not breach the building. Additionally, funds would support interior renovations to the structure for a future public use.

To develop the dry floodproofing approach and funding request, the County self-funded a design study, undertaken by Architects and Engineers with expertise in historic preservation. The design team consulted with experts in hydraulics and hydrology to understand the forces of flood waters. The study included engagement and consultation with the County's Historic Preservation Commission. A constructability review was performed by the County's on-call Construction Manager.

Support of this project will facilitate the preservation of this iconic fixture along Main Street, and ensure that it is preserved for the enjoyment of future generations. Preservation of this, and other structures along Main Street in a manner that improves their resilience is critical to the long-term recovery and success of Ellicott City.

The Howard County Department of Public Works sincerely appreciates your support of this request. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions on this request.

Sincerely,

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