# PlanHoward 2030

## 2016 Short-Term Monitoring Report
### Howard County, Maryland

# *PlanHoward 2030*: Short-Term Monitoring Report

**Date Issued:**
December 2016

**Reporting Period:**
2014 – 2016

**Prepared By:**
Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ)
Division of Comprehensive and Community Planning (DCCP)

**Contributing Howard County Agencies:**

| | |
|---|---|
| DCRS | Department of Community Resources and Services |
| DF | Department of Finance |
| DFRS | Department of Fire and Rescue Services |
| DHCD | Department of Housing and Community Development |
| DILP | Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits |
| DPW | Department of Public Works |
| DPZ | Department of Planning and Zoning |
| DRP | Department of Recreation and Parks |
| HC | Housing Commission |
| HCAC | Howard County Arts Council |
| HCC | Howard Community College |
| HCEDA | Howard County Economic Development Agency |
| HCGH | Howard County General Hospital |
| HCHD | Howard County Health Department |
| HCLS | Howard County Library System |
| HCPD | Howard County Police Department |
| HCPSS | Howard County Public School System |
| HSCD | Howard Soil Conservation District |
| OB | Office of Budget |
| OCS | Office of Community Sustainability |
| OF | Office of Finance |
| OT | Office of Transportation |

**County Executive:**
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# Contents

# *Executive Summary*

*PlanHoward 2030* was adopted in 2012 as Howard County's General Plan update. It provides long-range policy guidance for public services and the general land use, economic development and conservation practices to be followed through the year 2030. The Plan was prepared by the Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ) and includes over 360 Policies and Actions requiring regular County agency reporting on implementation progress. As set forth under Policy 2.1, c., the *2014 Initial Review* was prepared for the County Council as a baseline for documenting agency implementation efforts. The *2016 Short-Term PlanHoward 2030 Monitoring Report*, as set forth under Policy 2.1, b., provides the Planning Board and County Council with agency progress on implementing *PlanHoward 2030* policies and actions within three years of the Plan's adoption and initial review.

Like the *2014 Initial Review*, the *2016 Short-Term PlanHoward 2030 Monitoring Report* is formatted as a supplement to the Policies and Implementation Actions Summary Matrix in Appendix A of the Plan. The matrix identifies a recommended timeframe (short-, mid-, long-term and/or ongoing) for completing each Implementing Action. The *2016 Short-Term PlanHoward 2030 Monitoring Report* identifies the agencies working on implementing each Policy and a summary statement of their progress on each Action. Given the Plan's many policies and actions, agency progress statements are crafted to be as concise, as well as complete as possible.

This monitoring report includes the engagement module required under Policy 2.1, b. which calls for stakeholders with whom agencies coordinate or interact with to provide feedback on Plan implementation. The perspectives of residents, business owners and nonprofits are valuable to understanding the challenges and successes that define the County's growth.

**SECTION I – INTRODUCTION**

**Chapter 1 –** *Quality of Life & Sustainability* (no policies and actions)

**Chapter 2 –** *Public Participation*

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| **Policy 2.1    Promote dialog throughout development and implementation of *PlanHoward 2030* with a broad range of community participants including those groups who are underrepresented or are part of a special population.** |
| **a.   Involvement. Engage the full spectrum of the County's population in planning and implementing actions. (DPZ)** |
| The following initiatives were undertaken by DPZ during the reporting period:<br><br>• DPZ collaborated with stakeholders to obtain various State program designations. Ellicott City was approved as a Sustainable Community in 2012 and Main Street in 2014. North Laurel-Savage was approved as a Sustainable Community in 2014 and Long Reach in 2016. These designated areas are eligible for State funding to revitalize and attract growth and development.<br><br>• DPZ partnered with the Columbia Association (CA) on the 2014 Columbia Market Study and the Oakland Mills Market Feasibility Study (underway).<br><br>• The County developed several web apps to enhance access to planning information. These include an Interactive Mapping App, a Search Development Plans and Public Meetings App and a Community Registration App. These applications provide information on plans that are either in-process or approved, allow community organizations to register with the County, and provide County mapping data. Notification of pre-submission community meetings is also available through the registration app.<br><br>• DPZ launched the Citizen Planning Institute in FY17 as part of public education and outreach. This program will help residents better understand how to navigate the County's development review procedures and to more fully participate in that process.<br><br>• In 2014, 2015 and 2016, DPZ partnered with Leadership Howard County for information on growth and development.<br><br>• DPZ served on the Ellicott City Horizon Council, which engaged HCPSS students, school counselors, and community advocates on community topics and efforts. |
| **b.   Monitoring. Engage diverse stakeholder groups in the monitoring process with the first monitoring report due three years after plan adoption and the second monitoring report due five years after the first report. (DPZ)** |
| County agencies sought stakeholder feedback for the short-term monitoring cycle. Stakeholders with whom agencies coordinate or interact provided feedback on Plan implementation. |

> **c. Initial Review. Prepare and present to the County Council an initial review of *PlanHoward 2030* by September 1, 2014. (DPZ)**

Initial Review was completed in 2014 and no further action is needed.

**SECTION II – ENVIRONMENT**

**Chapter 3** – *Environmental Protection*

**Policy 3.1   Ensure the adequacy of wastewater treatment capacity.**

> **a. Plant Expansion and Upgrade. Accommodate flows from projected growth in the Planned Service Area at the upgraded Little Patuxent Water Reclamation Plant. (DPW)**

The Little Patuxent Reclamation Plant currently has a major customer for effluent reuse, which allows a viable program to reduce nitrogen discharge. An eighth plant addition to upgrade and replace solid handling systems is pending regulatory state requirements for bio-solids management.

> **b. Flows and Nutrient Loads. Require that properties added to the current Planned Service Area (PSA), large redevelopment sites within the PSA, and large sites with zoning intensification within the PSA minimize increases in flow and the nutrient concentration in flow sent to the wastewater treatment plants. (DPW)**

Pre-treatment systems will be considered to reduce nutrient concentrations, with an ongoing evaluation of reuse opportunities.

> **c. Wastewater Reuse and Nutrient Trading. Encourage the State to expand options for wastewater reuse and nutrient trading to reduce nutrient flows and help maintain the nutrient cap at the Little Patuxent Water Reclamation Plant and the Patapsco Waste Water Treatment Plant. (DPW)**

Regulations have been finalized and the County is waiting for refined guidelines on nutrient trading from the State.

**Policy 3.2  Reduce pollution loads to surface and groundwater.**

**a.  Stormwater Utility. Institute a dedicated fund to ensure increased and sustained funding for stormwater and watershed management programs. (DPW, OCS DRP)**

The County Council adopted CB8-2013 for a dedicated Watershed Protection and Restoration Fund for stormwater and watershed management. Subsequently, Council adopted CB20-2016 authorizing additional credits towards the fund. An accompanying *Financial Insurance Plan* was approved in FY15 to fund 75 percent of projected program costs.

Complete reporting for this item is anticipated after conclusion of the mid-term period.

**b.  State Grant Funds. Conduct public outreach and education to encourage use of State grant funds for septic system upgrades to nitrogen-reducing systems when the funds are available on a statewide basis. (DPW, OCS, HCHD)**

The Howard County Health Department's (HCHD) Well and Septic Program developed a website with information on the state's Bay Restoration Fund. The website provides links to fact sheets and to the MDE Bay Restoration website. When a septic system needs to be repaired or public sewer connections for failing systems are available, HCHD inspectors discuss the program and recommend installing Best Available Technology (BAT) using Bay Restoration Fund grants with homeowners.

DPW used available state grants to reduce pollution loads for surface and ground water.

**c.  Financial Incentives. Provide financial incentives such as tax credits, low-interest loans, and grants to promote the use of nitrogen-reducing treatment for new and upgraded septic systems. (DPW, OCS)**

Reporting for this item is anticipated after conclusion of the mid-term period.

**d.   Inspections and Maintenance. Establish and maintain a long-term septic system inspection and maintenance infrastructure for nitrogen-reducing systems. (DPW, OCS)**

Reporting for this item is anticipated after conclusion of the mid-term period.

**e.   Nutrient Trading. Explore the potential for cross-sector nutrient trading to utilize the most cost-effective nutrient reduction strategies. (DPW, OCS)**

Reporting for this item is anticipated after conclusion of the long-term period.

**Policy 3.3   Use watershed management plans to guide the protection and restoration of water resources.**

**a.   Watershed Management Plans. Prepare comprehensive watershed management plans for all watersheds, to set priorities and guide efforts to protect, restore, and improve the County's water resources. Complete and update all watershed management plans on a regular cycle. (DPW, OCS, DPZ, DRP)**

DPW annually assessed all County watersheds. A County-Wide Implementation Strategy was completed. Annual MS4 permitting reports were also completed.

**b.   Forest Cover and Riparian Forest Buffers. Establish and achieve measurable goals for forest cover and riparian forest buffers in all County watersheds. (DPW, OCS, DPZ, DRP)**

Since the mid-1990's, DRP has actively recruited volunteers and tracked efforts to remove trash and debris from Howard County's waterways.

In 2014, 78 volunteers spent 232 hours collecting 1,201 pounds of trash and an additional 1,675 pounds of bottles, cans, tires, and scrap metal, which were recycled. Since 1996, 2,376 people have spent 5,161 hours cleaning County waterways.

The following 2014 figures reflect DRP's participation in the Baltimore regional stream and watershed clean-up effort, "Project Clean Stream" and the world wide "International Coastal Cleanup." Since 2000, 37.39 miles of streams/rivers and 102.2 acres of lakes and pond area have been cleaned. Trash collected since 2000 totals 28,932 pounds with an additional 12,326 pounds being recycled.

Ongoing forest cover and riparian forest buffer activities include:

- Stream Releaf (# of plants): 2014 (2,281); 2015 (611)
- Tree Canopy (# of trees): 2014 (548); 2015 (729)
- Students Branching Out Grant 1 (# of trees): 2014: (1,295); 2015: (320)
- Students Branching Out Grant 2 (# of trees): 2014: (5,754); 2015: (200)
- Reforestation (# of trees planted, acres and stream miles):
  - 2014: (2,570 trees,  17 acres,  0.63 miles of stream buffers)

- o   2015: (2,713 trees, 16 acres, 0.37 miles of stream buffers)
- Acres of forest conservation easements recorded (based on digitized easements):
  - o   2014: (more than 169 acres countywide)
  - o   2015: more than 180 acres countywide
- Number of Trees Planted Due to Enforcement: 2014: (79); 2015: (550)

During the reporting period, approximately 1,577 native trees and shrubs were planted at the Robinson Nature Center - 2013: 233 native trees/shrubs from 16 species and 200 perennials; 2014: 545 native trees/shrubs and over 300 perennials; 2015: 799 native trees/shrubs and 1,044 perennials from over 25 species.

DPW completed Watershed Management Plans to identify opportunities to plant forested stream buffers and new forests.

**c.   Resident Participation. Encourage active participation of individuals, businesses, and local community and environmental organizations in restoration activities. (DPW, OCS, DPZ, DRP)**

OCS encouraged individuals, businesses, and environmental organizations to participate in restoration activities by promoting the following:

- CleanScapes Incentive Program on CleanwaterHoward.org website
- PACE and LEED building incentives on LiveGreenHoward.org website
-  Legacy Leadership Environmental Institute
- Watershed Stewards Academy
- Master Gardeners
- University of MD Sea Grant Extension pilot programs

OCS presented the benefits of stormwater management and the County's CleanScapes program to the public over 60 times during this monitoring period.

The READY Program initiated a fee-for-maintenance program that is subsidized by a state grant, which allows READY to maintain BMPs for costs that are more acceptable to private landowners. READY teaches landowners to maintain stormwater structures, enabling them to engage in restoration practices on their own. This connects individuals to the environment and increases the likelihood of performing their own routine maintenance.

OCS collaborated with Owen Brown's Greenleaf HOA and the READY Program to address localized flooding and icing issues by installing a suite of stormwater BMPs. READY was able to secure BGE grant money for design and also partnered with HCSCD, giving the project a public and private support base. A presentation was given to approximately 30 Greenleaf HOA members, educating the group on how the stormwater improvements could

be a financial benefit by protecting infrastructure and enhancing neighborhood safety.

Over 230 nonprofit organizations have joined the County's Watershed Protection Nonprofit Partnership Program. The program encourages and assists nonprofit property owners with installing stormwater treatment facilities in exchange for a Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee credit.

DRP coordinated with individual volunteers and residential communities through the Stream Releaf (a stream buffer planting program) and Tree Canopy planting programs.

DRP volunteers, including students from Howard Community College, Atholton High School Eco-club, Virginia Tech. Alumni, Howard County Leadership Group, Enclave Group, Humanim of Columbia, and the Mom's group of Columbia, have all helped plant, remove invasive species, and clear spaces for planting. The following is a summary:

- 2014: 1,311 total hours. Groups included Atholton High School Student Government, Whole Foods, Virginia Tech Alumni, Scouts, Howard Community College Environmental Club, Atholton High School, Humanim Group, Community Action Council, Atholton High School Eco Club, Sandy Spring Friends School, Girl Scout Troop 10342 and various family groups.

- 2015: 889 total hours. Groups included Summer Youth Group, Girl Scouts, Virginia Tech Alumni, Project Clean Stream, Oseh Shalom, Chesapeake Potomac Regional Chapter, Atholton High School, Humanim Group, Leadership Howard County and various family groups.

- Volunteer participation in the following programs:
  - Tree Canopy Program (# of residents participated): 2014: (77); 2015: (42)
  - Stream Releaf (# of residents participated): 2014: (55); 2015: (23)
  - Students Branching Out 1 (# of student volunteers): 2014: (264); 2015: (487)
  - Students Branching Out 2 (# of student volunteers): 2014: (687); 2015: (658)
  - Volunteer Tree Plantings (# of residents participated): 2014: (89 total, 24 for Earth Day and 65 for Family Volunteer Day); 2015: (70 total, 50 for Earth Day and 20 for Family Volunteer Day)
  - Forest Conservation Easement Compliance Inspections: 2014: (110); 2015: (107)
  - Landscaping Compliance Inspections: 2014: (186); 2015: (199)
  - Natural Resource Enforcement Actions: 2014: (92); 2015: (82)
  - Forest Conservation Easement Enforcement Actions: 2014: (29); 2015: (18)

During 2014-2015, DRP partnered with the Middle Patuxent Environmental Foundation on a grant-funded pilot program to conduct community engagement and outreach and field assessments in a residential neighborhood adjacent to the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area. The field assessments identified specific opportunities to implement best management practices for stormwater control and resulted in concept plans for the pilot neighborhood.

In 2015, DRP collaborated with the Middle Patuxent Environmental Foundation on a grant-funded pilot program to address invasive species impacting

the Middle Patuxent River Watershed through community partnerships and volunteer education and restoration efforts.

DPW partnered with non-profits to performed restoration projects and public outreach using Watershed Enhancement grants.

OCS presented to homeowner associations on how stormwater improvements could be a financial benefit by protecting infrastructure and enhancing neighborhood safety.

**d. Wetlands. Develop a wetlands program to inventory, map, protect, and enhance wetland resources. (DPW, OCS, DPZ, DRP)**

DPW conducted annual wetland assessments. .

DPZ produced a series of maps and tables for the Tiber Branch watershed in 2016. The map series included: an illustration of the watershed with contour lines (topography), a terrain view including flood plain delineation, and land use. Data tables and charts were added to the land use map denoting land use acreage and existing and undeveloped residential unit capacity in the Tiber Branch watershed.

**e. Dedicated Funding. Institute a dedicated fund (often referred to as a stormwater utility) to ensure increased and sustained funding for the watershed management program. (DPW, OCS, DPZ, DRP)**

The County Council adopted CB8-2013 for a dedicated Watershed Protection and Restoration Fund for stormwater and watershed management. Subsequently, the Council adopted CB20-2016 authorizing additional credits towards the fund. An accompanying *Financial Insurance Plan* was approved in FY15 to fund 75 percent of projected program costs.

DRP dedicated funding to the following initiatives:

- Forest Conservation Fund: FY14: ($448,025); FY15: ($465,565)
- Stream Releaf Program: 2014: ($27,800); 2015: ($27,800)
- Forest Conservation Easement Noncompliance Penalty Spending: 2014: ($2,303); 2015: ($14,068)
- Defaulted Forest Conservation Performance Surety Spending: 2014: ($4,125); 2015: ($0)

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| **f.  Grant and Cost-Share Opportunities. Pursue Federal and State grant and cost-share opportunities to secure additional resources for restoration efforts. Apply jointly with community and environmental organizations, and with neighboring jurisdictions, as appropriate. (DPW, OCS, DPZ, DRP)** | |

DPW pursued grants as part of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater permit compliance to fund watershed restoration projects. DRP grant and cost-sharing opportunities include:

- Students Branching Out Grant I. 2014: ($173,164); 2015: ($89,252)
- Students Branching Out Grant II. 2014: ($249,480); 2015: (194,098)

DRP collaborated with the Middle Patuxent Environmental Foundation on a $38,052 grant, awarded through the CBT-EPA Watershed Assistance Grant Program. This funded a stormwater best management practices pilot program adjacent to the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area.

DRP partnered with the Middle Patuxent Environmental Foundation on a $13,878 grant awarded through the CBT Outreach and Restoration Grant Program. This funded invasive species control in the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area, including a pilot Eco-Goats project and expanding the Weed Warriors Program.

Two Maryland Urban and Community Forest Committee (MUCFC)/Forestry Board grants were awarded to DRP's Middle Patuxent Environmental Area to support restoration planting. This was completed in conjunction with invasive species control work and included a spring 2015 grant for $2,600 and a fall 2016 grant for $2,000.

**Policy 3.4   Coordinate regional protection of water resources.**

**a.  Patuxent and Patapsco Rivers. Coordinate and cooperate with other local, regional, and State agencies and organizations on joint watershed planning and management for the Patuxent and the Patapsco Rivers. (DPZ)**

Howard County remained an active member of the interjurisdictional Patuxent River Commission, the Patuxent Reservoirs Watershed Protection Group, and the Patapsco Heritage Greenway. In 2014, the County Council adopted the 2015 Update to the Patuxent River Policy Plan, which was subsequently adopted by the Maryland General Assembly during the 2016 legislative session.

**b.  Patapsco Heritage Greenway. Coordinate with Baltimore County to accomplish certification of the Patapsco Heritage Greenway. (DPZ)**

In 2015, the County Council adopted CB18-2015, amending *PlanHoward 2030* to include the *Patapsco Heritage Greenway Management Plan*. This furthered opportunities for environmental conservation, and in 2015 the Greenway was successfully recognized as one of Maryland's thirteen certified Heritage Areas. The designation required unanimous approval of the *Patapsco Valley Heritage Area (PVHA) Management Plan* by the Baltimore and Howard County Councils. DPZ continues to participate in regular Greenway meetings.

**Policy 3.5   Promote individual environmental stewardship.**

**a.  Stewardship. Conduct public outreach and education to encourage individuals and businesses both to be good stewards of their own property and participants in community environmental enhancement efforts. (OCS, DPW, DRP, HCEDA, HSCD)**

The following stewardship initiatives were undertaken by OCS during the reporting period:

- Led the outreach portion of "Students Branching Out," a student project to plant trees and learn about the benefits of reforestation. From 2012 to 2015, 2,671 volunteers participated, including 2,440 students.

- Created and implemented the 20 Minute Cleanup and, from 2012 to 2015, over 6,500 volunteers have participated in this litter removal project.

- Provided education to non-profit groups that encourage hands-on environmental projects including the Legacy Leadership Environmental Institute and the Watershed Stewards Academy (WSA). OCS advised the WSABoard and provided a $10,000 grant to enhance their capstone projects. OCS reached out to homeowner's associations through a partnership on the WSA Chesapeake Bay Trust-funded HOA project.

- Created a storm drain stencil that includes the messages "Only Rain Down the Drain" and "Drains to Patapsco River" or "Drains to Patuxent River." As of 2016, there are over 245 stenciled County storm drains.

- Spread water quality awareness by releasing and promoting the Stream Mapper smart phone app, which had 270 users and 159 reports.

- Cooperated with the Howard County Conservancy and Watershed Steward's Academy to educate Howard County Public School students on the Watershed Report Card program.

- Participated in the following environmental events: Howard Community College Sustainability Day, Robinson Nature Center events, Howard Community College Middle School Stream Restoration Day, Columbia Families in Nature, Earth Forum, WomenFest, several school STEM/GT events, Howard County Association of Student Councils, Leadership U, Howard County Housing Fair, Howard County Wellness Day, Bike to Work Day, and several other public speaking engagements with groups such as the Ellicott City Rotary Club.

- Coordinated the Environmental Sustainability Board, which is a volunteer group that advises the County Executive and County Council on sustainability.

- Co-chaired GreenFest, an annual event attended by up to 2,500 people. GreenFest educates the public and encourages actions to improve the environment. Themes have been: "Saving the Environment One Yard at a Time" (2012), "Green Communities: Get Up, Get Out, Get Green" (2013), "Water Quality Begins at Home" (2014), and "Living With Wildlife" (2015).

- Produced a more user-accessible version of the Green Map to help Howard County residents connect with environmental opportunities.

- Collaborated with DRP to engage approximately 80 stream cleanup volunteers each year through Project Clean Stream, International Coastal Cleanup, and other local projects.

- Created the Watershed Improvement Network (WIN) to educate and inform the public about watershed issues. The group also promotes networking and collaboration between watershed groups. WIN has approximately 70 active members and a Steering Committee.

- In 2015, created the "Yards and Fields" event, attended by 75 people, to advocate water quality improvement for residential and farm properties. OCS also hosted a rain garden information session with 60 attendees at the East Columbia 50+ Center.

- OCS encourages active participation by listing local environmental events on an Events Calendar on LiveGreenHoward webpage. OCS used the LiveGreenHoward email list, with approximately 4,000 members, to notify residents about action opportunities.

DPR completed demonstration initiatives in the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area (MPEA) to promote environmental stewardship by example. Park users can enjoy these areas recreationally, while implementing similar efforts at home.  The demonstration projects include the following:

- Planted grassed at Clegg's Meadow: Eight acres of native warm-season grasses were planted in 2001, and are now well established. A nearby area of approximately 3 acres was similarly planted as a native warm-season grass meadow. Both serve as nocturnal roosting fields for breeding woodcock and are part of the *Woodcock Management Plan* for the MPEA. They contain a variety of forbs that serve as both nectar and larval host plants for a variety of pollinators.

- Established an official Monarch Butterfly Waystation:  MPEA provides monarch habitat and recovers tags along migration routes.

- Performed community outreach at Robinson Nature Center: The Center's Community Liaison performs community outreach promoting environmental stewardship at various special events, programs, and other facilities. Since 2014, 45,000 patrons have been reached.

**b. Best Management Practices. Expand current outreach and education efforts to promote and assist private property owners with the implementation of best management practices, including installing rain gardens and rain barrels, planting stream buffers, replacing lawn with native plants, increasing tree canopy, and limiting use of lawn chemicals. (OCS, DPW, DRP)**

The following outreach and education initiatives were undertaken by OCS during the reporting period:

- Contributed to the Watershed Stewards Academy (WSA) residential stormwater assessments, which help residents identify property runoff sources and solutions.

- Distributed the residential stormwater Best Management Practice financial incentive program (CleanScapes) to qualifying stakeholders. From December 2013 to May 2016, 159 participating residents have treated 2.7 acres of impervious surfaces for a cost of $82,282.

- Simplified residential Best Management Practice (BMP) implementation by working with the University of Maryland Extension and three Howard County stores to create the Green Registry. The Registry lists materials and even aisle numbers for participating stores that carry supplies to implement BMPs.

- Developed an Eco-Friendly Gardening Cheat Sheet, available online, which references resources that residents may need to install a BMP, or hire a firm to install.

DRP outreach and education initiatives included the following community programs: Stream Releaf (# of participants): 2014: (55); 2015: (23); Tree Canopy Program (# of participants): 2014: (77); 2015: (42); Students Branching Out I (# of student volunteers): 2014: (264); and Students Branching Out II (# of student volunteers): 2014: (687).

DRP partnered with the Middle Patuxent Environmental Foundation on a grant-funded Residential Stormwater Management Assessment pilot project in the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area. The project engaged the community before, during, and after field assessments. It also shared concept plans for implementable best management practices, including rain gardens, rain barrels, and planting trees.

**c. Agriculture. Encourage the agricultural community to work with local, State, and Federal agencies and programs to expand the use of best management practices on local farms. (OCS, DPW, DRP, HCEDA)**

HCEDA's agriculture representative promotes best management practices on land stewardship and environmental protection.

**Policy 3.6    Safeguard the environmental integrity of the region's reservoir systems.**

**a. Funding and Support. Continue funding and support for implementation of the Baltimore Reservoirs Action Strategy and the Patuxent Reservoirs Priority Resource Protection Program. (DPW, DPZ)**

In 2016, the County provided funding to expand the Monitoring Plan for the Baltimore Reservoirs Watershed.

Reporting for this item is anticipated after conclusion of the mid-term period.

**Policy 3.7    Safeguard the environmental integrity of the region's reservoir systems.**

**a. Streams, Wetlands, and Floodplains. Evaluate the effectiveness of current regulations in protecting streams, wetlands, and floodplains. (DPZ)**

The *Subdivision and Land Development Regulations* are applied to new developments to protect environmental resources. Section 16.115(b) was added, which encourages dedicating the 100-year floodplain to Howard County as permanent open space.

**b.  Environmentally Sensitive Development. Encourage more environmentally sensitive design in residential zoning districts other than the R-ED District. Promote the use of the neighborhood preservation parcel option, as well as the use of smaller, tightly clustered lots to limit site disturbance and maximize open space for natural resource protection. (DPZ)**

DPZ implemented the voluntary Green Neighborhood Program for new development and redevelopment, which incentivizes environmentally sensitive design. The *Subdivision and Land Development and Zoning Regulations* require environmentally sensitive design for residential development and promote smaller, clustered lots to limit site disturbance and maximize open space.

During the reporting period, the following regulations were enforced  by DPZ:

- Section 16.121 of the *Subdivision and Land Development Regulations* allows cluster development in the R-20 and R-12 zoning districts where lot sizes can be reduced by increasing open space to limit site disturbance and maximize natural resource protection.

- Section 16.117 of the *Subdivision and Land Development Regulations* requires development to be designed so that it responds to existing topography and minimizes clearing, storm water runoff, and soil erosion.

- Section 16.127 of the *Subdivision and Land Development Regulations* requires the design of residential infill development to be compatible with existing neighborhoods and promotes the use of the neighborhood preservation parcel density sending program to limit impacts on existing neighborhoods.

- Sections 104.0 and 105.0 of the *Zoning Regulations* address rural cluster lot development and the creation of permanent preservation parcel easements to protect environmental features, buffers and historic and agricultural land preservation in the RC and RR zoning districts.

- Section 104.0.D.3 of the *Zoning Regulations* requires the subdivision of parcels 20 acres or larger to be in accordance with the cluster provisions.

- Sections 104.0.G.2 and 105.0.G.2 of the *Zoning Regulations* provide design standards for the design of cluster subdivisions to minimize environmental impacts.

**c.  Higher Intensity Development. Institute development requirements and/or incentives for better resource protection in higher density residential projects and commercial, office, and manufacturing areas. (DPZ)**

Reporting for this item is anticipated after conclusion of the long-term period.

**Policy 3.8   Improve stormwater management practices throughout the County to help restore and protect water resources.**

    a.   **Redevelopment. Ensure redevelopment is designed and implemented to reduce storm water runoff rate, volume, and pollution to the maximum extent practicable. (DPZ)**

In 2010, DPZ implemented the MDE *Environmental Concept Plan* process, which requires the design of redevelopment projects to address the volume and quality of storm water runoff to the maximum extent practicable. The 2009 MDE Stormwater Code increased the treatment of stormwater for qualified redevelopment sites from 20 percent to 50 percent of the disturbed area.

    b.   **Incentives for Enhancements. Create incentives for new development and redevelopment to provide on-site or off-site water quality enhancements that exceed minimum regulatory requirements. (DPZ)**

Reporting for this item is anticipated after conclusion of the mid-term period.

**Policy 3.9   Increase collaboration between residents, businesses, nonprofit groups, and the County on implementing state-of-the art sustainability practices and techniques.**

    a.   **Sustainability Center. Consider developing an online center, associated with Green Central Station, which provides information about reducing the community's carbon footprint and about cost-effective green practices and products. (OCS)**

Green Central Station was remodeled into the LiveGreenHoward website, which includes information on energy efficiency, a new Green Map about local environmental organizations and events, as well as countless green living tips. The Watershed Protection and Restoration (WPR) Fund launched the website CleanWaterHoward.com webpage, which provides many resources for residential and commercial stormwater practices.

The LiveGreenHoward.com webpage receives an average of 2,500 visits per month. OCS included calendar events that often dealt with reducing the community's carbon footprint and adopting cost-effective green practices and products. Countless resources for citizens and commercial entities, including information about County programs such as stormwater management and energy saving incentives, are included on the website.

**b.  Green Directory. Work with the local business and nonprofit communities to instill sustainability principles in their products and services, and help them by promoting them in the Green Business Directory. (OCS)**

OCS partnered with over 200 nonprofits through the Watershed Protection and Restoration Partnership Program, as well as local businesses looking to improve their stormwater treatment through the WPR Fee credit program. OCS promoted local farms through the Roving Radish and Farmers' Markets.

**c.  Expanding Green Network. Establish criteria for joining the Green Business Directory and Green Business Council; create incentives for joining. Promote membership and use of the Directory on Green Central Station. (OCS)**

OCS coordinated with HCEDA and the Maryland Center for Entrepreneurship to combine the Green Business Council and Green Business Directory to create the Conscious Venture Lab (CVLab). This is a business accelerator program that encourages companies to consider their impact on society. The CVLab runs an immersion program that provides incentives to entrepreneurs to cultivate environmentally conscious practices in business development. The program provides start-up investment in exchange for five to ten percent equity participation.

OCS supported the Maryland Green Registry and encouraged organizations to become more robust and sustainable by developing Green Business Action Plans that are described on the LiveGreenHoward.com website.

**d.  Education and Incentives. Work with the financial and real estate communities to promote green buildings and neighborhoods, through education on environmental and financial benefits and incentives for residents implementing sustainable practices. Incorporate benefits of green technologies and ecosystem services into building and property values. (OCS)**

The County Council passed Resolution 116- 2007 Green Neighborhood requirements in 2007. The intent of the Green Neighborhood Program is to promote the development of more environmentally sustainable neighborhoods in Howard County by providing housing allocations as an incentive. Under Section 16.1102(b)(7) of the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance, up to 100 housing unit allocation are set aside annually for projects that meet Green Neighborhood requirements.

DPZ approved the County's second Green Neighborhood (GN), Oxford Square. Using the GN program incentivizes, Oxford Square is approved for compact, sustainable development with green spaces. The master developer committed to the following sustainability goals for the neighborhood:

- Comply with Howard County Green Neighborhood for Site and Homes requirements
- Focus development on previously developed and mass graded land and minimize the disturbance to sensitive environmental features.
- Integrate storm water management with site design
- Create a compact, pedestrian-scaled community to promote walking between land uses and amenities
- Improve access to regional transit to reduce VMT (vehicle miles traveled)

- Promote the use of environmentally friendly, recycled and locally produced materials
- Develop a construction waste management program

The *Subdivision and Land Development and Zoning Regulations* provide guidance on environmentally sensitive design for residential development and promote smaller, clustered lots to limit site disturbance and maximize open space.

**Chapter 4** – Resource Conservation

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| **Policy 4.1   Promote additional agricultural preservation opportunities.** |
| **a.  Future Application Cycles. Facilitate additional Agricultural Land Preservation Program application cycles and recruit owners of uncommitted land to preserve their farms. (DPZ)** |
| An enhanced Agricultural Land Preservation Program (ALPP) application cycle was launched in Spring 2013. As of May 2016, ALPP had acquired easements on 11 properties totaling 657 acres. A 168 acre easement is in process.<br><br>Reporting for this item is anticipated after conclusion of the long-term period. |
| **b.  Other Preservation Options. Promote other preservation options such as the dedication of easements to the County through the subdivision process, the purchase of easements by the MALPF program, and the donation of easements to nonprofit land trusts. (DPZ)** |
| The first Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) easement in almost ten years was acquired in March 2015 for a 71-acre property. DPZ provided property owners with educational assistance explaining the differences between County and State programs. |
| **Policy 4.2   Enhance and expand the partnership between the ALPP, the HCEDA, the University of Maryland, and the farming community to assist farmers as agriculture continues to evolve and diversify.** |
| **a.  Agricultural Working Group. Establish a working group consisting of the ALPP, the** HCEDA**, the University of Maryland, and agricultural community representatives to advise DPZ on farming issues, such as expanded uses to enhance the farm economy. (DPZ, HCEDA)** |
| HCEDA's Agricultural Advisory Board conducted bi-annual meetings with farming representatives, including the ALPP Program Administrator. |

**b.  Assistance to Farmers. Consider joint ALPP/HCEDA projects to educate new farmers about innovative products or practices and to encourage new farming ventures via technical assistance, agribusiness innovation grants, or other incentives. (DPZ, HCEDA)**

HCEDA participated in educational efforts, such as Annie's Project training protocol, the annual Women in Ag Conference, the annual Farm-City Celebration, and other activities. Since 2012, the jointly administered Ag Innovation Grant of $100,000 has funded 19 projects.

Complete reporting for this item is anticipated after conclusion of the mid-term period.

**c.  Marketing of Local Products. Expand marketing efforts like the Farm-City Celebration, farmers markets, community supported agriculture, and other projects that focus on the benefits of local products and business opportunities. (DPZ, HCEDA)**

HCEDA expanded marketing efforts for the Farm-City Celebration, farmers markets, community supported agriculture, "farm to glass" and other projects that focus on local products and business opportunities. HCEDA also launched Harvest-Howard County magazine to expand agriculture marketing and continues outreach programs to schools and leadership organizations.

**d.  Monitoring and Stewardship of Easements. Use the easement monitoring and inspection visits to identify issues of concern and offer assistance to easement holders. (DPZ, HCEDA)**

DPZ easement monitoring and inspection visits were initiated in summer 2014 and have continued in the summers of 2015 and 2016.

**e.  Training for Real Estate Professionals. Educate real estate agents, appraisers, and others on the retained rights and market value implications of easement-restricted land. (DPZ, HCEDA)**

DPZ provided education on County and state ag easements to property owners, appraisers, and real estate agents.

**f.   Agricultural Services Center. Consider consolidating offices, services, and educational resources for the farming community in a single location. (DPZ, HCEDA)**

Reporting for this item is anticipated after conclusion of the mid-term period.

**Policy 4.3   Educate rural residents about the County's Right-to-Farm Law.**

  **a.   Right-to-Farm Update. Evaluate the clarity and effectiveness of current Right-to-Farm provisions with input from the farm community. (DPZ)**

The County Council sought input from farmers when adopting CB10-2013, which revised Right-to-Farm provisions.

  **b.   Educational Materials. Produce and distribute educational materials that bridge the gap between farm and nonfarm neighbors. (DPZ)**

The ALPP Administrator participated in the County Executive's "Farm Academy" where residential neighbors are invited to nearby farms to learn about the opportunities and challenges affecting agriculture.

**Policy 4.4   Require more robust separation between cluster lots and adjoining agricultural properties.**

  **a.   Better Buffers. Amend the Subdivision Regulations to require fencing, a landscape buffer, or a nonbuildable preservation parcel buffer between cluster lots and adjoining agricultural properties. (DPZ)**

Subdivision and Land Development, and Zoning regulations include design standards that address buffers to minimize development impacts on farms, including the following:

- Section 16.126 of the *Subdivision and Land Development Regulations* address landscaped buffers between cluster lots and adjoining agricultural preservation parcels. Buffers include fencing, berming, preservation of hedgerows and existing forest stands, non-buildable preservation parcel strips, and enhanced landscaping to provide additional separation between cluster lots and adjoining farms.
- Sections 104.0.G.2 and 105.0.G.2 of the *Zoning Regulations* require cluster subdivisions that adjoin agricultural land to avoid removing intervening boundary hedge rows or trees. It further states that cluster subdivision lots be located and arranged so that preservation parcels and roads provide a suitable buffer with an adjoining farm.

**Policy 4.5   Refine the Rural Conservation (RC) and the Rural Residential (RR) zoning regulations to provide greater flexibility for the agricultural community, as well as appropriate protections for rural residents.**

**a.   Review of Permitted Uses. Examine and amend where appropriate the list of accessory and conditional uses in the RC and RR districts, and refine uses and standards for approval. (DPZ)**

The County's 2013 Comprehensive Zoning re-evaluated all conditional uses and criteria for the Rural Conservation (RC) and Rural Residential (RR) districts. The process expanded the definition of farming and added new accessory uses to Sections104.0 and 105.0.  Section 106.1 was added to address permitted, accessory, and conditional uses for properties with preservation easements.

**b.   Use Designations. Review use designations (permitted by right, by permit, and conditional) in each Rural West zoning district, and determine whether amendments are needed to make some uses less or more restrictive. (DPZ)**

As part of 2013 Comprehensive Zoning the following use designations were adopted:

- Farm permits were expanded to include Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), Food Hubs, and other agricultural uses.
- Permitted and accessory uses for zoning districts in the rural west were evaluated and adjusted.
- A new district, Business Rural Crossroads (BRX), was created to allow expanded commercial uses near certain rural crossroads. Based on community concerns, in 2016, DPZ conducted workshops in Highland, Lisbon, Glenwood, and Dayton to get citizen input on the BRX district. DPZ has analyzed this information and recommended to the County Council that it be eliminated due to potential development impacts.

In 2014, the County Council appointed a special task force to study and develop recommendations for mulching, composting, and wood processing. When that failed to generate consensus, DPZ facilitated a smaller task force that was charged with making recommended changes to zoning regulations.

**Policy 4.6   Formalize a Green Infrastructure Network Plan in Howard County**

**a.   Green Infrastructure Network. Define, protect, and enhance a Green Infrastructure Network that includes and links the most ecologically significant natural areas in Howard County. (DPZ, DRP)**

DPZ completed the *Green Infrastructure Network Plan* in December 2012. Information about the network, including an interactive map, is available on the LiveGreenHoward.com website.

**b.  Protection and Enhancement Strategy. Develop a Green Infrastructure Protection and Enhancement Strategy that identifies property owner education, land management, preservation incentives, acquisition, and regulatory tools and also includes implementation priorities. (DPZ, DRP)**

The *Green Infrastructure Network Plan* identifies protection and enhancement tools, along with implementation priorities.

DPZ hired a consultant in 2014 to develop property owner education and land management tools. The consultant delivered habitat management plans and corridor assessments.

**c.  Land Preservation, Recreation and Parks Plan. Incorporate the Green Infrastructure Network into the Department of Recreation and Park's *Land Preservation, Recreation and Parks Plan*. (DPZ, DRP)**

The County Council adopted CR135-2012, the *Land Preservation, Recreation and Parks Plan*, which incorporates the Green Infrastructure Network. The Plan is scheduled to be updated in 2017.

**Policy 4.7   Continue to protect, restore, and expand forested lands.**

**a.  Forest Integrity. Prioritize retention and reforestation areas, guide efforts to minimize forest fragmentation, and increase forest interior habitat. (DPZ, DRP)**

The following forest conservation initiatives were undertaken by DRP at Robinson Nature Center during the reporting period:

- Reforested areas of ecological importance including the Skunk Cabbage Creek riparian buffer zone, the Lookout Loop hilltop, where many hazard trees were removed during trail construction, the Middle Patuxent River flood plains, and hillsides and wet meadows leading to the Robinson Homestead and former Simpsonville Mill Ruins. These areas, especially the Skunk Cabbage Creek buffer zone and flood plains, are important to establish due to invasive species, which threaten to degrade biodiversity and alter habitats. Because they act to slow and mitigate storm runoff from surrounding areas, these zones are important to maintain diversity.

- Expanded planting near park spaces along trails. These included the hillside behind the front entrance wall and sidewalks bordering forest edges. Along the universally accessible sidewalk, from the Mezzanine Patio leading to the Sycamore Stroll Trail entrance, witch hazel, winterberry, American hazelnut, serviceberry, and black chokeberry were planted. These understory natives provide cover for wildlife, teaching tools for educators, and examples for visitors looking to create more natural environments at home. The hillside leading into the floodplain near the Simpsonville Mill Ruins was planted in October 2015 by Eagle Scout, Sylvan Scott and approximately 15 other volunteers. The reforestation project included 11 native perennials totaling 132 plants with an additional 20 trees and shrubs. These helped increase habitat for butterflies including the Hackberry Emperor, Monarch, Spicebush Swallowtail, and other wildlife.

- Constructed a patio and added plantings. The rear of the Nature Center was reforested with 25 inkberries once the patio was completed in 2015. Subsequent understory plantings included Summersweet, American Hazelnut, Gray and Silky Dogwood, Pines and other woodland species. This increased biodiversity and animal forage in the forest buffer zone, located between the building and Skunk Cabbage Creek.

The following forest conservation initiatives were completed by DRP:

- Managed approximately 180 forest conservation sites throughout the County totaling over 350 acres. Sites are planted with trees native to the region, which include tulip poplar, black locust, eastern red bud and serviceberry. These serve as nectar sources for a variety of pollinators while other tree species such as oaks, black cherry and hackberry benefit certain caterpillars as larval hosts.

- Implemented the *Forest Conservation Manual and Forest Conservation Regulations* under Subtitle 12 to advance environmental goals to minimize forest clearing, fragmentation, and increase forest interior habitats by establishing priority locations for forest retention and reforestation/afforestation for subdivision and development projects. DPZ reviewed development plans based on the following hierarchy of priority locations: 1. Floodplain and stream buffers, 2. Wetland and wetlands buffers, 3. Critical habitats and buffers to create forest corridors for wildlife movement, 4. Steep slope areas, 5. Areas adjacent to existing forest stands, 6. Infill between small forest and tree stands, and 7. Property line or right-of-way buffers.

**b.   Native and Invasive Exotic Plants. Expand on current endorsements regarding the use of native plants and continue to discourage and prohibit the use of invasive exotic plants for landscape planting in new projects. (DPZ, DRP)**

Regulations, manuals, and plan review practices restrict invasive plant species such as Bradford Pears, Norway Maples, and diseased or pest affected trees; such as Ash and Austrian Pine. In addition, the Forest Conservation Program and required perimeter landscaping best management practices recommend using only native species.

The following native planting and invasive mitigation initiatives were undertaken by DRP at Robinson Nature Center during the reporting period:

- Annie's Garden, a commemorative garden was planted with 89 trees and shrubs from 12 species in the spring of 2014 and over 240 individual native perennials from 20 species in the fall of 2014.

- The Homestead Garden was designed and planted in the spring of 2015 and volunteers assisted staff by weeding, planting, and mulching native plants.

- Over 300 pounds of invasive plants were annually removed from the property by DRP, volunteers, one day volunteer groups, and high school students participating in the Battlefield Earth field trip.

- Meadows are maintained seasonally. To increase flowering species, in 2015 surplus plants were transplanted to meadow areas and in the spring of 2016 invasive species were sprayed.

- Spring ephemerals such as Blood Root, Mayapple, Foamflower, and Wild Ginger, were planted in open forest areas as supplemental plantings and expanded into areas that may have been browsed by wildlife.

- Gardens have been mulched to inhibit weed and invasive species growth in the front gardens, Annie's Garden and the Homestead Garden.

- Seeds were collected annually on-site by staff and volunteers have propagated native plants.

- Initiated an all species plant list in 2014, which is important for reforestation, biodiversity studies, staff assessments, and overall public education.

- Removed nearly 10,000 square feet of invasive plants in 2015 at the Gateway and Thomas Dorsey buildings in Columbia, the Font Hill Drive area in Ellicott City, and Elkridge community gardens.

**c.   Deer Management. Continue to expand a comprehensive deer management program. (DPZ, DRP)**

DRP expanded the deer management program to include the following statistics:

- Deer Sharpshooting (# of deer harvested): 2014 (124); 2015 (136)
- Managed Hunt (# of deer harvested): 2014 (201); 2015 (166)
- Crop damage permits (# of deer harvested): 2014 (16); 2015 (16)

The Deer Management Program reports annually on the status of deer populations and the impacts of management on County parklands and open spaces.

**Policy 4.8   Expand our protection of rare, threatened, and endangered species.**

**a.   Habitat Information. Work with the DNR to update information on rare, threatened, and endangered species habitat currently present within the County. (DPZ, DRP)**

The *Maryland Amphibian & Reptile Atlas* was completed in 2014. The Atlas is a statewide reptile/amphibian (herps) survey co-sponsored by the Maryland Natural History Society and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The Atlas mapped the distribution of herp species across the state based on ten square mile grids. Each grid was labeled an individual "map block."  Howard County surveyed 29 map blocks and documented a minimum ten species per map block.

Nearly 800 volunteers participated in the collections of data, contributing over 2,500 hours. The County documented 53 herp species with seven of those being non-native. Of the seven non-native species, two were confirmed breeding - the False Map Turtle and the Red-eared Slider. The survey also documented the only Northern Scarletsnake in the State in a Howard County Park. Lizard populations overall were low, attributed to preying by domestic and feral cats. The study will be published in 2017and its data has been published by DNR.

Complete reporting for this item is anticipated after conclusion of the mid-term period.

**b.  Development Regulations. Evaluate the effectiveness of current regulations on forest conservation, wetlands, stream buffers, and steep slopes and on criteria for open space acquisitions to enhance habitat protection. Refine the development regulations, where appropriate, to ensure habitat is included in protective easements or open space. (DPZ, DRP)**

DPZ and DRP evaluated projects using the *Subdivision and Land Development Regulations* and *Forest Conservation Manual,* which include requirements addressing forest conservations easements and locating wetlands, streams, buffers, steep slopes, and forest conservation areas within protective easements and recorded open space. The following sections and chapter address development regulations:

- Section 16.117 of the *Subdivision and Land Development Regulations* requires development to preserve natural cover by conforming to existing topography and minimizing clearing of existing vegetation and forests.
- Section 16.116 of the *Subdivision and Land Development Regulations* requires locating wetlands, streams and buffers within open space areas of residential subdivisions.
- Chapter IV of the *Forest Conservation Manual* addresses critical wildlife habitat protection and requires the permanent protection of forest retention, reforestation or afforestation areas through a recorded conservation easement, as non-developable open space.

**Policy 4.9  Balance the potential for mineral extraction with other land uses.**

**a.  Development Regulations. Review current regulations to address mineral extraction operations and site reclamation. (DPZ)**

Reporting for this item is anticipated after conclusion of the long-term period.

**Policy 4.10 Expand on existing programs to enhance historic preservation and create an historic preservation plan.**

**a.  Historic Tax Credits. Promote greater use of County historic tax credits for properties in local historic districts or listed on the Historic Sites Inventory. (DPZ)**

Howard County collaborated with historic preservation advocates, State Senator Kasemeyer, and State Delegate Lafferty to increase  the 10percent historic tax credit to 25percent. The Maryland General Assembly and Howard County Council approved the tax credit increase.

DPZ promoted the historic tax credit program and issued $125,864.59 in tax credits in 2015.

DPZ presented to the Savage Community Association and Greater Elkridge Community Association in 2015 to promote the use of historic tax credits on historic buildings.

**b. Programs and Laws. Strengthen historic preservation programs and laws both to prevent demolition and incentivize restoration and adaptive reuse. (DPZ)**

DPZ collaborated with historic preservation advocated to initiate Historic Preservation Plan.

The County Council adopted CR27-2014, the Historic Preservation Plan, which renamed the Historic District Commission to the Historic Preservation Commission, created Single Site Historic Districts, and approved other amendments to the Historic Preservation Plan.

**c. Historic Sites Inventory. Continue to update the Historic Sites Inventory. (DPZ)**

DPZ has updated several of the historic buildings in Ellicott City that are on the inventory but had lacked detail or accuracy of information.

DPZ evaluated additional sites to include in the Inventory and anticipates County Council approval of these sites following the short-term reporting period.

**d. Grants. Apply for Maryland Historical Trust grants for documentation of archeological resources, museum collections, and oral histories. (DPZ)**

Howard County's Oral History Program granted the Howard County Antique Farm Machinery Club, Inc. to collect and chronicle the oral histories from farmers and farm service providers that resulted in more than 30 farmers interviewed with hundreds of hours recorded and a final 60 minute oral history video. This grant was completed in FY16.

 Complete reporting for this item is anticipated after conclusion of the mid-term period.

**e. Potential New Districts. Work with property owners regarding the merits of establishing new historic districts, where owners have expressed interest. (DPZ)**

DPZ presented historic district opportunities to the Savage and Elkridge communities. Outreach to individuals has also informed County residents of their ability to become Single Site Historic Districts. Neither community seeks any form of a local historic district at this time.

 Complete reporting for this item is anticipated after conclusion of the long-term period.

**f.   Main Street Program. Explore establishing a Main Street program for Ellicott City. (DPZ)**

Ellicott City was designated as a Maryland Main Street in 2014 through the collaboration of DPZ and the Ellicott City Partnership (ECP).

DPZ supported the ECP through funding and staff resources.

DPZ served on ECP subcommittees to support Main Street efforts and encourage clear communication with projects, efforts and financial incentives for the community.

**g.   Historic Preservation Strategic Plan. Work with historic preservation advocates and other stakeholder groups and create an historic preservation plan to broaden awareness of our heritage and encourage renovation and re-use of historic resources. (DPZ)**

The County Council adopted CR27-2014, the Historic Preservation Plan, of which implementation will be reported in the mid-term period.

DPZ collaborated with historic preservation advocates and stakeholders to accomplish goals set from the *Historic Preservation Plan* and they include the following:

- Established the Single Site Historic District Designation
- Updated  the Historic Cemetery Condition Inventory in collaboration with the Howard County Genealogical Society
- Increased the Historic Property Tax Credit from 10percent to 25percent
- Expanded Tax Credit eligibility to include outbuildings and contracted professionals

**h.   Public Awareness. Increase public awareness of historic preservation by expanding and promoting educational opportunities for residents to learn about the County's history and historic sites. (DPZ)**

DPZ  increased public awareness by speaking to several Howard County communities and events including the following

- attended Hands on History day at the Howard County Fair to give outreach on historic cemeteries and preservation
- Spoke at Leadership Legacy Institute about DPZ and Resource Conservation
- Promoted education through Ellicott City workshops and public County meetings

Complete reporting for this item is anticipated after conclusion of the mid-term period.

**i.    Cemeteries. Undertake outreach to historic cemetery owners regarding best practices for maintenance, restoration, and historic tax credit. (DPZ)**

DPZ supported the Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board (CPAB) to provide outreach and updates to the County's Cemetery Inventory. Meetings increased from quarterly to bi-monthly. CPAB, in collaboration with the Howard County Genealogical Society, completed 80 of the 204 Historic Cemetery Condition Inventories.

DPZ provided its first grant for the preservation of historic cemeteries.

**j.    Historic Ellicott City. Promote, plan, and protect safe pedestrian access in the retail section of Historic Ellicott City. (DPZ)**

In 2015, a new crosswalk at the top of Court Avenue was installed to provide connectivity to the courthouse. In 2016, DPW installed a new crosswalk in Historic Ellicott City on Main Street near Court Avenue to promote pedestrian safety. In response to the July 2016 Main Street Flood, DPZ will lead a master planning effort to guide long-term redevelopment. Pedestrian access will be one of many issues evaluated through this process.

**Policy 4.11 Review current conditions and regulations related to the County's designated scenic roads.**

**a.    Survey Update. Conduct a survey of the roads currently on the scenic roads inventory to evaluate whether the roads still qualify for scenic road status. (DPZ)**

Reporting for this item is anticipated after conclusion of the long-term period.

**b.    Regulations Update. Determine if amendments to the County Code and/or Design Manual could further enhance protections for scenic roads. (DPZ)**

The *Subdivision and Land Development Regulations* contain both guidelines and requirements to protect the character of scenic roads during the subdivision and development process.

Complete reporting for this item is anticipated after conclusion of the long-term period.

**Policy 4.12 Develop an energy plan that prepares for different future energy scenarios, examines options for various kinds of future energy sustainability, promotes conservation and renewable resources, and sets targets to reduce greenhouse gases.**

a.  **Education and Outreach. Establish County policies and outreach efforts that educate communities about the potential for a changing relationship with energy resources. (OCS)**

Reporting for this item is anticipated after conclusion of the long-term period.

b.  **Regulations Review. Review County development regulations that promote more compact, complete communities through design for comparison with the "What if?" scenarios in this section. (OCS)**
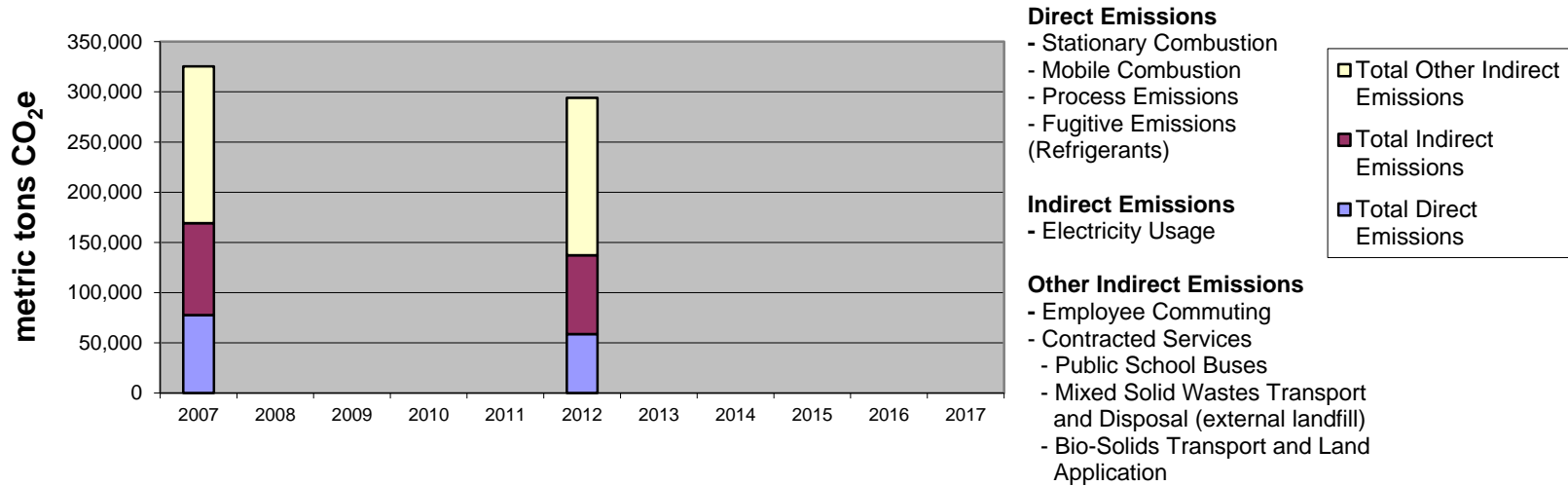
Reporting for this item is anticipated after conclusion of the mid-term period.

c.  **Scenario Study. Investigate development regulations and infrastructure policies related to future energy options, such as implementing localized community-based power generation and alternative energy sources. (OS)**

OCS facilitated the Energy Task Force, which is tasked with making recommendations on renewable energy and residential and commercial energy efficiency. The Task Force report was drafted in 2016.

**d. Climate Action Plan. Implement the County's 2010 Climate Action Plan (referenced in Chapters 1, 3, and 12), which relates to future energy technology, such as wind, solar, geothermal, and other renewable sources. (OCS)**

OCS updated the *Climate Action Plan*, comparing estimated greenhouse gas emissions from 2007 to 2012. The Plan contains recommendations for County infrastructure, including fleet optimization and solar energy project development.



**Direct Emissions**
- Stationary Combustion
- Mobile Combustion
- Process Emissions
- Fugitive Emissions (Refrigerants)

**Indirect Emissions**
- Electricity Usage

**Other Indirect Emissions**
- Employee Commuting
- Contracted Services
  - Public School Buses
  - Mixed Solid Wastes Transport and Disposal (external landfill)
  - Bio-Solids Transport and Land Application

□ Total Other Indirect Emissions

■ Total Indirect Emissions

□ Total Direct Emissions

**e. Business Partnering. Work closely with businesses and nonprofits to address their energy supply planning and potential infrastructure needs. (OCS)**

Reporting for this item is anticipated after conclusion of the long-term period.

**f. Extensive Greening. Continue to enhance the County's facilities and fleet energy portfolio based on various energy sources and availability scenarios. (OCS, DPW)**

The County researched electric fleet vehicle options, as well as energy efficiency opportunities in County facilities. The second phase of the Energy Performance Contract (EPC) is nearing completion, and other projects, such as streetlight LED retrofits, are being considered. The County expanded its renewable energy portfolio with a solar energy project at the Water Reclamation Plant.

> **g. Market Demand. Explore evolving energy markets, plus options for enabling "smart grid" technologies, which reveal new opportunities to create, store, consume, and invest in energy commodities and related assets. (OCS)**

> Reporting for this item is anticipated after conclusion of the long-term period.

**SECTION III – ECONOMY**

**Chapter 5** – Economic Development

> **Policy 5.1    Identify, develop, implement and refine a comprehensive program to foster a diversified economy and encourage innovation and entrepreneurship.**

> **a. Fort Meade Economic and Job Growth. Focus on the anticipated growth due to BRAC, Cyber Command, NSA, and other planned expansions to capture new growth. (HCEDA)**

> HCEDA supported the Fort Meade Regional Growth Management Commission/BRAC Office through its phase out in March 2016. HCEDAidentified local and regional opportunities for agencies on base. During this period, HCEDA appointed a cyber business development specialist.

> In 2016, DPZ participated in a master plan charrette at Fort Meade that focused on developing a vision for the future. DPZ attended all the visioning workshops.

> OT provided regional transportation comments to the Department of Defense on an east campus expansion at Fort Meade.

> **b. Branding. Develop and implement a comprehensive branding effort for Howard County to establish a distinct and readily identifiable research and technology brand in the global marketplace as a "top global tech center." (HCEDA)**

> The following multi-pronged initiatives were undertaken by HCEDA :
>
> - Renamed the NEO-TECH incubator to the Maryland Center for Entrepreneurship (MCE).
> - Established the Howard County Technology Council (HCTC) as the Center for innovation within the central Maryland region, which grew from several companies to over 300 since 2011.
> - Launched the branding campaign "Howard County Cyber Central" to promote the strength of the County's cyber industry.

**c.  Entrepreneurship. Develop a comprehensive strategy to enable entrepreneurs to be creative, grow their businesses, and access capital. (HCEDA)**

MCE implements this strategy.

**d.  Downtown Columbia Revitalization. Implement the *Downtown Columbia Plan* to create a vibrant, mixed-use urban center for Howard County. This walkable, livable, revitalized Downtown will create a needed urban anchor that will attract and retain the creative class, and will advance the rebranding of Howard County for the 21st century. (HCEDA)**

The following developments have been undertaken since adoption of the 2010 Downtown Columbia Plan:

- Completion of Metropolitan I: 400 residential units, 15,000 sf retail
- Completion of The Columbia Mall Expansion: 75,000 sf retail
- Completion of the Whole Foods Building: 15,000 sf retail, 20,000 sf office
- Construction of Metropolitan Phase II: 440 residential units, 30,000 sf retail
- Construction of Little Patuxent Square: 160 residential units, 130,000 sf retail, 10,000 sf retail
- Construction of Crescent Area 1: 320,000 sf office, 25,000 sf
- Construction of Merriweather Post Pavilion Renovation: Phase I complete, Phase II is under construction

**e.  Renewed Approach to Route 1 and Existing Business Parks. Address the demand for business growth in the Baltimore-Washington Corridor, despite the declining availability of greenfield development sites, through new redevelopment strategies. (HCEDA)**

Since 2013, HCEDA attracted 1 million additional square feet of commercial space in the Route I corridor, creating 2,000 jobs.

**f.  Funding for Transportation. Expand multimodal transportation options and connectivity to ensure an adequate workforce for Howard County employers and to maintain quality of life. (HCEDA)**

HCEDA coordinated with the Office of Transportation (OT) on priorities to establish transportation options for Howard County residents and prioritized highway construction projects critical to economic growth.

**g.  Workforce Development Strategy. Ensure an adequate, trained workforce is available to meet the need for service, entry level, and highly skilled workers through the provision of P-20 education, lifelong learning, diverse housing, commuting and transportation, health care, and benefits costs. (HCEDA)**

HCEDA established a multi-agency "Business Resource Partners" group to address the employment training needs of County businesses. The group coordinated on projects and with employers needing services through the local workforce investment board, which includes employee recruitment, training, and outplacement services. HCEDA used State match investment funds for training grants to companies.

Complete reporting for this item is anticipated after conclusion of the long-term period.

**h.  Existing Businesses. Continue to support and address the needs of existing businesses. (HCEDA)**

Since 2014, HCEDA expanded its business development services for existing businesses through a continuous call program with the Maryland Department of Commerce. Over 300 companies are visited annually to assess challenges and opportunities for growth. A small business loan program was also developed, which has provided over $3.2 million to local small business.

Howard County established a real property tax credit to encourage reinvestment in properties on Route 1. HCEDA collaborated with DPZ and Department of Finance (DF) to review Route 1 tax credit applications. The tax credit supports renovations and upgrades of existing commercial and industrial properties that front Route 1,

**Policy 5.2   Establish Howard County as a leader in 21st century entrepreneurship, information technology, and cyber security.**

**a.  Marketing. Create a development and marketing program to attract prime information technology and cyber businesses, as well as the critical skilled workforce. (HCEDA)**

The following initiatives were undertaken by HCEDA as a multi-pronged branding strategy for Howard County:

- Established "Howard County Cyber Central" to promote the strength of the County's cyber industry and attractiveness.
- Engaged in a national public radio advertising campaign, "Where talent drives motivation," to raise the visibility of Howard County.
- Contracted a branding firm to implement a comprehensive marketing strategy for FY17-19.

**b.  Infrastructure Capacity. Define broadband, mobile communications, and utility infrastructure requirements, and ensure that service capacity and quality are available. (HCEDA)**

HCEDA coordinated with the County's IT Department to promote the County's ICBN as an incentive to locate and grow businesses dependent on broadband infrastructure.

**c.  Innovation. Develop programs and facilities to promote a new culture of entrepreneurship and innovation. Encourage the creation of technology-driven entrepreneurial businesses. (HCEDA)**

The Maryland Center for Entrepreneurship (MCE) expanded programs to foster technology innovation, which include the Small Business Development Network and Service Core CORPS of Retired Executives. Both programs operated in conjunction with the small business program to grow technology driven business systems. Since 2012, monthly MCE traffic has increased from 250 to nearly 1,000 visitors per month.

**d.  Education. Work with local businesses to identify the need for leading programs in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) in the public schools, Howard Community College, and branch campuses of leading Maryland Universities. Increase participation by minorities, women, and individuals with disabilities. (HCEDA)**

HCEDA's Howard Technology Council and the MCE established a memorandum of understanding with the Howard County Public School System's (HCPSS) Advanced Research Lab to connect student internships and programs with local businesses. The HCEDA also connects companies and educational institutions through referrals and input on curricula.

**Policy 5.3   Promote future energy and green industries.**

**a.  Differentiation. Integrate forward-thinking energy and resource use into the County's economic development agenda, particularly considering green infrastructure and transportation solutions that differentiate the County from neighboring jurisdictions. (HCEDA, OCS)**

OCS facilitated the Energy Task Force, which is tasked with making recommendations on renewable energies. The Task Force report is anticipated in FY17. OCS coordinated with the Columbia Association and Howard Community College to build electric vehicle charging stations and plans to install 11 additional stations.

The HCEDA advocated for legislation allowing commercial properties to finance green energy solutions. As an incentive, the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program allows100percent financing of improvements to be applied to property taxes.

**b. Management. Explore evolving energy markets, plus options for enabling developing technologies, which reveal new opportunities to create, store, consume, and invest in energy commodities and related assets. (HCEDA)**

Since 2012, HCEDA explored growing energy markets for both residential and commercial properties with the solar industry. HCEDA recruited green energy business to the County.

Complete reporting for this item is anticipated after conclusion of the mid-term period.

**c. Commercial Opportunities. Identify and promote green technologies and associated business opportunities. (HCEDA, OCS)**

OCS participated in establishing the Green Building Council, which was restructured as the Conscious Venture Lab (CVL), a business accelerator program to develop sustainable business management practices.

OCS, the Department of Finance, and HCEDA work closely with one another to support the County's growing green initiatives.

**d. Incentivizing Sustainability. Create incentives to attract new businesses demonstrating sustainable practices or developing sustainable technologies, materials, and products. (HCEDA. OCS)**

The County's second Green Neighborhood (GN), Oxford Square, is under development.  The GN program incentivizes green development actions, which encourage compact development and green spaces to achieve both environmental and quality of life benefits. Oxford Square is a Transit Oriented Development (TOD) which connects residents with public transit and walkable amenities.

See Policy 5.3, a.

**Policy 5.4    Enhance the Route 1 Corridor revitalization strategy to recognize the distinct character and market potential of diverse corridor segments, and the potential at various intersections, crossings, and nodes for additional retail, restaurant, and employment development as identified in the 2011 Route 1 Market Analysis.**

**a. Opportunities. Focus planning efforts to maximize development potential in four types of land-use opportunity areas: redevelopment of high-visibility employment areas; greenfield development of high-visibility employment areas; major industrial park development; and mixed-use opportunity sites. (DPZ)**

In 2016, DPZ conducted a comprehensive review of the TOD Zoning District. DPZ recommended amendments to clarify and/or eliminate regulations that were not addressing market demand and could potentially impede mixed-use development within TOD Zoning Districts along the Route 1 Corridor.

**b. Zoning Review. Evaluate the efficacy of existing Route 1 zoning districts (CE, CAC, TOD); consider more flexibility, especially regarding commercial uses. Reduce strip commercial development along Route 1 frontage by directing retail uses to retail centers and mixed-use developments and by directing truck-oriented uses, uses that require outdoor storage, and most auto-oriented retail uses such as gasoline service stations, automobile repair facilities and similar uses to parts of the corridor not fronting on Route 1 and not near residential areas. Revise zoning as needed to ensure the County vision is achieved. (DPZ)**

In 2015, DPZ recommended approval of Zoning Regulations Amendment (ZRA) 156, which proposed commercial use flexibility in the form of a fee-in-lieu of providing commercial space for developments with more than 800 dwelling units. In 2016, DPZ recommended approval of ZRA 166, which proposed to eliminate amenity space from the list of items that cannot exceed 50percent of the developable acreage in a TOD Zoning District.

See Policy 5.4, a.

**c. Residential Expansion and Preservation of Land for Employment and Industrial Use. Accommodate residential development in key nodes in the Route 1 Corridor so that it does not erode opportunities to preserve or redevelop employment and industrial areas. (DPZ)**

In 2016, DPZ recommended approval of ZRA 163, which proposed to eliminate a limitation on the amount of single family attached dwellings that can be constructed in a development 50 acres or larger within the TOD District.

**d. Refine the Vision. Clarify residential and nonresidential land use goals as a framework for evaluating future proposals. (DPZ)**

An updated Route 1 Corridor study is anticipated in 2017. Current and projected economic, land use and transportation conditions will be evaluated to identify market-based development and redevelopment concepts that align priorities in County policies with the corridor's conditions.

**e. Transportation. Develop transit and road improvement solutions including bicycle and pedestrian accessibility to promote connectivity and support revitalization of the Route 1 Corridor. (DPZ, OT)**

In 2016, OT completed a bus rapid transit (BRT) feasibility study for various corridors, including MD 32, MD 216, US 29, Route 1, and Broken Land Parkway. The study evaluated potential optimal guideway conditions and service plans, and based upon a BRT system for US 29, found Broken Land Parkway, Route 1, and related local/feeder bus service would generate significant travel market and demand for high quality BRT.

In 2016, a complete streets implementation group was created and tasked with developing a complete streets manual and updating the Howard County design manual. Recommendations are anticipated in 2017.

| Policy 5.5 | Proactively consider innovative tools to enhance the Route 1 Corridor's competitiveness, attract and retain businesses, and maximize redevelopment opportunities. |
|---|---|
| **a.** | **Economic Growth. Focus incentives on opportunity sites within the Route 1 Corridor and on key industry market sectors with strong growth potential in Howard County. (DPZ, HCEDA)** |
| | Reporting for this item is anticipated after conclusion of the mid-term period. |
| **b.** | **Beneficial Projects. Adopt a tiered incentive program that provides benefits commensurate with the proposed project's potential benefit to the County. (DPZ, HCEDA)** |
| | Reporting for this item is anticipated after conclusion of the mid-term period. |
| **c.** | **Nodes. Develop plans for key opportunity areas that allow for significant future intensification, while maximizing current and intermediate development potential and protecting industrially zoned land. (DPZ, HCEDA)** |
| | Reporting for this item is anticipated after conclusion of the mid-term period. |
| **d.** | **Land Assembly. Encourage land assembly to prevent piecemeal redevelopment and facilitate projects that are integral to the County's long-term development strategy. (DPZ, HCEDA)** |
| | Reporting for this item is anticipated after conclusion of the mid-term period. |
| **e.** | **Partnering. Evaluate specific scenarios where the County might benefit from engaging in public/private development partnerships, including opportunities for nonprofits. (DPZ, HCEDA)** |
| | Reporting for this item is anticipated after conclusion of the mid-term period. |

**f.   Transportation. Promote, plan, and protect bicycle, pedestrian, and transit access in the Corridor. (OT)**

The County Council adopted CR35-2016, *BikeHoward*, the County's bicycle master plan.

OT drafted an update to the pedestrian master plan update (*WalkHoward*) in 2016. The County Council legislation is anticipated in 2017.

See Policy 5.4, e.

**Policy 5.6   Plan for Class A office, industrial, and mixed-use redevelopment of commercial properties within the Snowden River Parkway area and of commercial and industrial properties in the Snowden-GE area where appropriate**

**a.   Plan for Coordinated Redevelopment. Work with Snowden River Parkway and east Columbia Village Center property owners, as well as other community stakeholders to evaluate market conditions and redevelopment options to determine how to best position redevelopment of different parts of the Snowden River Parkway Area in relation to redevelopment of the Village Centers. (DPZ, HCEDA)**

Reporting for this item is anticipated after conclusion of the mid-term period.

**b.   Partner on Implementation. Consider establishing a partnership or special servicing district to promote and manage redevelopment. (DPZ, HCEDA)**

Reporting for this item is anticipated after conclusion of the mid-term period.

**c.   Differentiate when Planning. Distinguish among the sections along Snowden River Parkway that exhibit different characteristics and merit different treatment. (DPZ, OT)**

This item will be evaluated as part of any future study of the Snowden River-GE area.

**Policy 5.7** **Plan for future transportation services and facilities that connect Downtown Columbia, the Snowden River Parkway area, Gateway, and Route 1 to regional connections to Baltimore, Washington, and Fort Meade.**

> a. **Connect Development Nodes. Study the feasibility of regional Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), as well as enhanced local bus service between major business and residential nodes from Downtown Columbia through the Snowden River Parkway area, Gateway Business Park, and the Route 1 Corridor to Fort Meade and Odenton in Anne Arundel County. If viable, take action to secure existing CSX rail spur ROW. (DPZ, OT)**

Reporting for this item is anticipated after conclusion of the mid-term period.

See Policy 5.4, e.

> b. **Make More Connections. Study the feasibility and cost-benefits of a new roadway connection crossing I-95 between Route 1 and Gateway Business Park. (DPW, OT)**

This item will be evaluated as part of any future study of the Snowden River-GE area.

> c. **Alternative Modes of Transportation. Study the feasibility of alternative modes of transportation, including facilities for bicyclists and pedestrians, to connect Downtown Columbia, the Snowden River Parkway Area, Gateway, Route 1, and other major business and residential nodes in and near the County. (OT)**

See Policies 5.4, e and 5.5, f.

> d. **Transportation Management Associations. Evaluate the utility and benefit of developing transportation management associations. (OT)**

A pilot reverse commute program was initiated by Howard County and Baltimore City. The program was found to be ineffective, and funding was discontinued in 2015. OT and the Downtown Columbia Partnership drafted a *Transportation Demand Management Plan* (TDMP) for Downtown Columbia. The TDMP is anticipated to be completed in 2017.

**Policy 5.8   Continue to enhance the vitality and redevelopment of Columbia's Village Centers.**

**a.   Strengthen Village Centers. Encourage Village Center property owners, Village Boards, and residents to develop and implement plans for enhancing or redeveloping older Village Centers to maintain them as attractive focal points for the villages. (DPZ)**

Since 2013, Wilde Lake Village Center has undergone redevelopment, which includes new residential, retail and office uses. Since adoption of CB29-2009, eight Village Boards have submitted Village Center Community Plans to DPZ.  In 2015, DPZ initiated the ReImagine Long Reach Village Center planning process, which included community engagement meetings to develop a village center plan. A draft plan was completed in 2016 and a request for proposals (RFP) to redevelop the center was released. In 2016, DPZ was also awarded a Sustainable Community designation by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development for the Long Reach Village Center Area, which provides access to additional State resources for community development and revitalization.

**b.   Market Analysis. Collaborate with the Columbia Association (CA) to undertake market assessments to assist in repositioning older centers in relation to each other, Downtown Columbia, and other competing commercial centers. (DPZ, HCEDA)**

DPZ partnered with CA on the 2014 Columbia Market Study, and again in 2016 on a more detailed market study of Oakland Mills Village Center area. The Oakland Mills Village Center Area Redevelopment Feasibility Study builds upon earlier market findings and evaluates the market potential of land uses in both the larger village area and more targeted village center. The study is anticipated to be completed in 2017.

**c.   Connect Commercial Centers. Plan for future transportation connections, including bicycle, pedestrian, and transit, among and between Village Centers and other commercial centers. (OT)**

The County Council adopted CR169-2015, the *Clarksville Pike Streetscape Plan* and *Design Guidelines*, which established a unified vision for the Clarksville Pike corridor through streetscape and site design standards.

See Policies 5.4, e and 5.5, f.

**Policy 5.9   Continue to enhance the vitality of the Route 40 Corridor.**

    a.   **Enhance Route 40. Encourage commercial renovation and, where appropriate mixed-use redevelopment by promoting collaboration between owners and neighbors to create attractive focal points that serve the community. (DPZ)**

The Design Advisory Panel (DAP) reviewed all development and redevelopment projects involving new building construction, building additions, and façade renovations along the Route 40 corridor. DAP evaluated for compliance with the *Route 40 Design Manual* and reviewed the following elements: building location, signs, landscaping, lighting, onsite pedestrian circulation, open space/amenity areas, parking areas (location and screening), trash enclosures (location and screening), utilities and stormwater management, and vehicular access.

DPZ completed streetscape planting plans for remaining sections of the Route 40 median in the Chatham Road area. Intersection improvements at Route 40 and Rogers Avenue, including pedestrian access, were completed in 2016.

**Policy 5.10 Expand programs to support and enhance agribusiness.**

    a.   **Training. Promote County and regional training programs for existing and new farmers to enhance critical business skills. (DPZ, HCEDA)**

HCEDA established new business training programs, including "Food for Profit" and the "New and Beginning Farmer." HCEDA opened the AgTech Center to support startup companies applying technology, food safety, water quality, and soil health to agriculture. The Center also provides training and opportunities for farmers to partner with technology companies to develop farming programs and new businesses.

    b.   **Diversification. Use Agricultural Land Preservation Program funds to offer matching grants for farms to diversify their agriculture operations through agribusiness innovations. (DPZ, HCEDA)**

The Ag Innovation Grant has been awarded to 19 projects for a cost just under $100,000.

    c.   **Mentoring. Create a mentoring program that will connect the younger generation of farmers with experienced farmers and also with farmers who may have property but no one to farm it. (DPZ, HCEDA)**

This policy continues to be evaluated for implementation and will be reported on in subsequent reporting periods.

> **d. New Leaders. Establish an agricultural leadership program for middle / high school students to teach a broad range of skills both specific to agriculture and also general skills such as team building and public speaking. Work with the Howard County public schools to introduce elements of agricultural education back into the public school curriculum.**

HCEDA and HCPSS collaborated to develop a high school ag education program and worked on developing teaching opportunities for elementary and middle school students.

## Chapter 6 – *Growth*

> **Policy 6.1   Limited Planned Service Area Expansion. Zoning requirements for approved PSA expansions should include a development proposal that is consistent with the General Plan and establishes a transition that is compatible with and enhances surrounding communities and provides an environmental benefit.**

> **a. Limited Planned Service Area Expansion. Zoning requirements for approved PSA expansions should include a development proposal that is consistent with the General Plan and establishes a transition that is compatible with and enhances surrounding communities and provides an environmental benefit. (DPW)**

DPW drafted the *Master Plan for Water and Sewerage*. The County Council adopted CR36-2016, the *Master Plan for Water and Sewerage*. The comprehensive update revised the Planned Service Area to include the four areas adjoining Alpha Ridge, Ellicott City, Clarksville, and Maple Lawn, as identified in PlanHoward 2030.

> **b. Place Types and Tiers. Obtain State concurrence on *PlanHoward 2030* place designations and tiers in accordance with *PlanMaryland*'s final criteria and procedures and the Sustainable Growth and Agricultural Preservation Act, on or before December 31, 2012. (DPZ)**

The County Council adopted CB-1-2013, the Growth Tiers. Maryland Department of Planning confirmed the County's adopted tiers satisfied the Sustainable Growth and Agricultural Preservation Act (SB 236). In 2016, DPZ supported a revision to the Growth Tiers. Proposed by the County Executive, the revision expanded the Tier III designation to properties currently designated as Tier IV with further major subdivision potential. The proposal, General Plan Amendment (GPA) 2016-1, was evaluated by the Planning Board and awaits introduction by the County Council.

**c.  Revise APF Regulations. Amend the current Adequate Public Facilities (APFO) regulations to reduce allocation categories and reflect designated places. (DPZ)**

The revised APFO system is operational for four allocation years (2015 through 2018). The fifth cycle, for the 2019 allocation year, was adopted in July 2016. The County Executive convened an APFO Task Force, which met from June 2015 through March 2016, and provided recommendations on regulatory changes to APFO, some of which may impact the way allocations are handled within the designated places. Changes to APFO based on the Task Force recommendations are likely to be proposed in 2017.

**d.  APF Housing Allocations. Incorporate the *PlanHoward 2030* housing forecasts into the Adequate Public Facilities Housing Allocation Chart. (DPZ)**

*PlanHoward 2030* housing unit forecasts have been incorporated into the adopted Housing Allocation charts.

**e.  Zoning. Reduce competition for land resources by promoting more compact development in appropriate growth and revitalization areas. (DPZ)**

DPZ recommended approval of two Community Enhancement Floating (CEF) rezonings – ZB1104-M and ZB1105-M – in 2014, and one rezoning – ZB1106-M – in 2016. In 2016, DPZ recommended approval of ZB1107-M, which proposed rezoning two acres of RR zoned land in the Targeted Growth and Revitalization area to B-1 to allow future job growth in an area transitioning to commercial development. These zoning amendments provided for compact infill developments that are compatible with and enhance the communities in which they are located. In 2016, DPZ recommended approval of ZRA 158, which encouraged the transfer of density from established communities to growth areas.

**f.  Density Exchange Option. Review and, as appropriate, amend the density exchange provisions of the DEO zoning district during the Comprehensive Zoning process to help mitigate subdivision restrictions due to Growth Tiers. (DPZ)**

At this time there have been no changes made to the Density Exchange Option (DEO) zoning provisions.

**g.  Targeted Funding. Optimize the use of State and County infrastructure funding and program resources targeted to County-designated place types, with particular emphasis on targeted growth and revitalization areas. (DPZ)**

Reporting for this item is anticipated after conclusion of the mid-term period.

**h. Schools. Make efficient use of existing school capacity avoiding unnecessary capital outlays. (HCPSS)**

Since 2013, HCPSS redistricted twice, once effective for the 2013/14 school year when Ducketts Lane Elementary School opened and once effective for the 2014/15 school year when Thomas Viaduct Middle School opened. The next redistricting is scheduled to be effective for the 2018/19 school year when a new elementary school opens in Oxford Square.

**Policy 6.2   Ensure that the County's needs for land for government facilities and land preservation are met in light of competing needs for housing and economic development.**

**a. Infrastructure Concurrency. Determine the amount and location of land needed for future schools and other facilities, including park and green infrastructure preservation priorities. (HCPSS)**

Howard County government collaborated with HCPSS on future land acquisition, including joint use options. In May 2016, Howard County entered into an agreement to purchase 70 acres off Route 1, just south of Mission Road in Jessup to be used for the County's 13th high school. The site is large enough to accommodate a second school when needed, as well as ballfields and a water storage facility.

**b. Capital Improvements Master Plan (CIMP). Implement land acquisition priorities and funding via the ten-year *Capital Improvement Master Plan*. (DPW, OB)**

DPW worked with OB to determine land needs and funding priorities for the capital budget.

**c. Connectivity. Ensure that planning for government and public school facilities should incorporate consideration of transportation connectivity and access for pedestrians, bicyclists, and individuals with disabilities. (OT)**

OT initiated transportation plan updates, which will be used for the planning of public facilities.

See Policies 5.4, e and 5.5, f.

**Policy 6.3   Use PlanHoward 2030 job and housing forecasts to guide County, regional, and State agency decision making regarding infrastructure and services.**

a.   **Baltimore Metropolitan Council. Incorporate *PlanHoward 2030* housing, population, and job forecasts into the Baltimore Metropolitan Council's official regional forecasts. (DPZ)**

DPZ provided housing, population and job forecasts on an annual basis as part of the Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) Cooperative Forecasting process. DPZ conducted a new baseline employment estimate for 2015 which will serve as the new baseline for future forecasts.

b.   **Monitoring. Monitor the amount, type, and location of actual housing, population, and job growth for comparison with *PlanHoward 2030* forecasts. (DPZ)**

DPZ researched, compiled and published this information in the annual Development Monitoring System (DMS) report. DPZ provided additional information required by the Maryland State Smart, Green and Growing legislation and included land use density, regulatory activity, newly constructed infrastructure and any restrictions resulting from the County's Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO).

**Policy 6.4   Ensure that the County continues to capture future job and business growth opportunities.**

a.   **Economic Development. Partner with the Economic Development Authority to develop County policies and programs to implement the County's Strategic Plan for Economic Development. (HCEDA, DPZ)**

HCEDA, DPZ, DPW and the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits (DILP) conducted regular meetings to coordinate economic development initiatives within targeted areas, including the Route 1 Corridor and Downtown Columbia. In 2016, HCEDA initiated an update of its 2011 Strategic Plan, scheduled for completion in 2017.

b.   **Zoning Regulations. Update zoning and other regulations to address the evolving commercial and industrial markets and development trends. (DPZ)**

In 2015, DPZ recommended revisions to ZRA 159, which reflected market trends in vehicle fueling stations. In 2016, DPZ recommended approval of ZRA 164, which allowed solar facilities on Agricultural Preservation parcels. The amendment provides opportunities to expand the alternative energy/solar market in the Rural West.

See Policy 5.4, b.

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| **c. Commercially and Industrially Zoned Properties. Establish policies to protect and promote commercially and industrially zoned land for future job and business growth opportunities. (DPZ)** |
| See Policies 5.4, a and 5.4, d. |

**Policy 6.5   Plan well designed and complete communities through the Comprehensive Zoning process.**

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| **a. Zoning Regulations. Revise the Zoning Regulations to better promote compact redevelopment and appropriate infill including consideration of connectivity and safe routes to school. (DPZ)** |
| In 2015, DPZ assisted in the drafting of CB15-2016, which amended the *Subdivision and Land Development Regulations* to address residential infill development compatibility, stormwater management, landscaping, interconnectivity and privacy. |
| **b. Development Opportunities. Designate appropriate additional areas within the County's Priority Funding Area for well-designed, compact development in order to accommodate future job and housing growth. (DPZ)** |
| See Policy 6.1, e. |
| **c. Planned Unit Development. Consider Planned Unit Development (PUD) zoning to allow increased flexibility for unique, well-designed, site-specific developments, which provide benefits and protections to surrounding communities. (DPZ)** |
| See Policy 6.1, e. |
| **d. Compact Development. Encourage compact development with adequate green spaces and connectivity within and between developments which provide residents with a high quality of life and allows residents to take advantage of the benefits of the compact development. (OCS, DPZ)** |
| See Policies 5.4, b and 6.1, e. |

**Chapter 7** – *Transportation*

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| **Policy 7.1   Increase public awareness of the relationship between personal vehicle miles traveled and highway congestion, air quality, greenhouse gases, and energy independence, as well as how more compact growth patterns and alternate modes of travel can help achieve a sustainable and more environmentally and personally healthy balance.** |
| **a.  Green Website. Update the County's website that is devoted to providing information to consumers designed to help make Howard County greener, healthier, and sustainable, to address transportation's role in achieving a healthy community. Include emissions calculators and other tools residents can use to measure greenhouse gas savings, map walking or biking distances, organize ridesharing, and access car sharing. (OCS, OT)** |
| Green Central Station was remodeled into the website LiveGreenHoward.com, which includes information on local and regional transportation services and promotes alternative travel choices. |
| **b.  Awareness. Expand resident and business awareness and use of alternative transportation modes, including transit, carpooling, walking, and cycling. (OT)** |
| The Regional Transportation Agency of Central Maryland's (RTA) provides a comprehensive resource for transit. Integrated social media platforms expand access to information and allow administrators to quickly update riders of changing conditions. <br><br> The following collaborations with community organizations were undertaken by OT to promote transportation choice: <br><br> • Coordinated with the Office of Workforce Development in 2016 to provide information on carpooling, transit and Guaranteed Ride Home programs. <br><br> • Collaborated with the Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) annually on Bike to Work Day. In 2016, over 1,800 participants registered regionally and nearly 400 in Howard County compared to 1,550 and 330 respectfully in 2015. <br><br> • Coordinated with the Downtown Columbia Partnership (DCP) in 2016 to develop a *Transportation Demand Management Plan* (TDMP) for Downtown Columbia. <br><br> • Completed an overhaul of the Howard Commuter Solutions website in 2016. |

> **c.  Safe Routes. Expand, support and promote programs, such as the Safe Routes to School Program that will enable communities to make walking and bicycling to school a safe and routine activity. Safe routes to school should also be part of the capital and development planning process. (OT)**

OT evaluated development projects for accessibility and connections and made recommendations to enhance access to and from schools for walking and biking.

Bike and walk to school events are organized on a school-by-school basis by parents and educators, and many schools track participation through the National Center for Safe Routes to School. The following schools participated in Walk to School Day activities in 2015-16:

- Clemens Crossing Elementary School (2015), Longfellow Elementary School (2015), Swansfield Elementary School (2015), Rockburn Elementary School (2015), Bellows Spring Elementary School (2015), Centennial High School (2015), Folly Quarter Middle School (2015), Hollifield Station Elementary School (2015), Northfield Elementary School (2015, 2016), Bellows Spring Elementary School (2016), and Centennial Lane Elementary School (2016).

The following schools participated in Bike to School Day activities:

- Cradlerock Elementary School (2016), Stevens Forest Elementary School (2016), Swansfield Elementary School (2015, 2016), Thunder Hill Elementary School (2015), Bellows Spring Elementary School (2015), Dunloggin Middle School (2015), and Northfield Elementary School (2015).

HCPSS invested in connection projects to reduce busing demand. The following initiatives were completed by HCPSS:

- Installed a pedestrian pathway from East Market Place to the rear of Reservoir High School and Lime Kiln Middle School (Maple Lawn)

- Installed a traffic signal and crosswalk on Centennial Lane, south of Waterford Drive (Centennial Estates) to safely walk or bike to Centennial High School and Burleigh Manor Middle School

- Installed traffic signals and crosswalks at Stephens Road and Gorman Road near Forest Ridge Elementary School (Robinsons Promise).

**Policy 7.2   Coordinate State, regional, and local planning and implementation for critical improvements and new transportation facilities based on evaluation of options using a wide range of performance, health, environmental, and financial criteria.**

> **a.   Key Projects. Refine transportation plans and fund the County's share of projects as identified in: Key Transportation Improvements Anticipated by 2025 (Map 7-1); Key Transportation Improvements Anticipated by 2035 (Map 7-2); Road, Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements (Figure 7-3); and Transit Priorities (Figure 7-4). (OT)**

OT, DPZ, DPW and County Administration coordinated an annually priority letter to refine and prioritize projects The letter is sent to the Maryland Department of Transportation for its Consolidated Transportation Plan. The FY17 priority letter included endorsements from the State Delegation and the County Council. Many of the General Plan's key transportation improvements anticipated by 2025 and 2035 are still in the planning phase, while others have progressed into construction. Prioritized projects include:

- R-102: MD32 and Linden Church Road
- R-106: US1 and Montevideo Road
- R-108: US29 Middle Patuxent River to MD 175
- B-101: Some bike projects were completed/or in progress (See Policy 8.5)
- P-101/T-106: Some bus stops completed/or in progress (See Policy 8.5)
- P-102: Some pedestrian projects completed/or in progress (See Policy 8.5)
- T-101: Transit Operations Facility completed

See Policy 5.5, f.

> **b.   Regional Cooperation. Engage in State and regional discussions to develop solutions to transportation funding shortfalls. (OT)**

RTA completed its first 18 months of service. Partner jurisdictions will need to address contractor maintenance deficits, and are in the process of developing a fare policy for common rates system wide.

The Maryland Department of Transportation funded road and transit projects in Howard County and included a  significant funding increase for a project expanding MD 32 capacity (see Policy 7.2, a). State funding for local transit service continues but has not increased, and is not forecasted to increase to meet the County's current, or future, transit demand.

The County Council adopted CR105-2016, Downtown Columbia Tax Increment Financing, which will fund road and parking capacity improvements.

**Policy 7.3** **Prioritize and pursue cost-effective, long-term capacity improvements to the road and highway network to support future growth in accordance with place type designations.**

**a.** **Capital Planning. Use Howard County's Capital Improvement Master Plan (CIMP) to provide predictable funding for the County's highest priority road projects. (OT)**

OT incorporated priority road project funding into the County's Capital Budget process, which lays out capital expenditures for each fiscal year, as well as the projected ten-year CIMP.

**b.** **Adequate Public Facilities Regulations. Evaluate adequate public facilities (APF) regulations to determine the merit of adding alternative modes of travel as well as whether the APF road excise tax amount is appropriate and whether a portion of it should be used for safety, transit, bicycle, or pedestrian improvements.**

Reporting for this item is anticipated after conclusion of the mid-term period.

**c.** **Targeted, Strategic Investments. Evaluate new and innovative approaches to maximize the use of highway investments such as High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes and/or express toll lanes, focus road improvements to support existing communities and future growth areas, and limit rural road improvements to safety, rather than capacity improvements. (OT)**

OT and DPW coordinated the development of bicycle facilities with annual repaving schedules to advance the implementation of *BikeHoward* projects and reduce costs. Between 2013 and 2015, a total of 13.07 miles of bicycle lanes were constructed, either as part of a structured *BikeHoward* project or a road resurfacing project.

OT initiated discussions with Montgomery County to cooperatively plan and engineer a bus rapid transit project from Columbia to Silver Spring. The project will include specific branding, new buses, coordinated service plans and on shoulder high occupancy vehicle lanes.

Road capacity improvements are developed through the Capital Budget to address local impacts from development projects and forecasted growth on existing communities and growth areas.

**Policy 7.4   Enhance the accessibility and quality of existing and future transit services.**

> **a.   Transit Operations Facility. Develop a transit operations facility to reduce costs by centralizing fleet maintenance and opening competitive bidding to additional transit service operators. (OT)**

A state-of-the art, $15 million Regional Transit Operations Facility in Savage opened in November 2014, and is now used by RTA's contractor.

> **b.   Howard Transit. Maximize efficiency of Howard Transit and HT Ride operations via route alignment and paratransit taxi services, paying particular attention to improving access to government facilities and health and human service locations. (OT)**

RTA implemented route adjustments to maximize route efficiency. In 2016, the Maryland Transit Administration approved funding for an FY17 Transit Development Plan, which will be used to further rationalize routes, maximize efficiency and increase access to government facilities and health and human service locations.

> **c.   Regional Transit. Expand and maximize the efficiency, investment and connectivity of mid-corridor regional transit with Anne Arundel County, Baltimore County, Montgomery County, Prince George's County, the City of Laurel, and Fort Meade, as well as connectivity with Baltimore and Washington regional transit service.**

In 2016, the Maryland Transit Administration approved funding for an FY17 *Transit Development Plan*. The Plan will be prepared jointly by Howard and Anne Arundel Counties with input from Prince George's County, the City of Laurel and the City of Annapolis.

OT coordinated with the Maryland Transit Administration and Anne Arundel County to develop a new pilot route between the Savage and Odenton MARC Stations, serving Fort Meade and the National Business Park area, with connections to the National Security Agency campus. The two-year pilot is expected to begin in January 2017 and will be funded in full by the Maryland Transit Administration.

See Policies 5.4, e and 7.3, c.

> **d.   Multijurisdictional Agencies. Evaluate potential and, if advantageous, establish a new multijurisdictional agency for the administration and operation of public transportation services that would improve the efficiency and effectiveness of regional transit services, improving connectivity and coordination among public and private providers and maximizing the use of federal, state and local funding. (OT)**

RTA was established in 2014. See Policy 7.2, b.

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| **e.   Service Frequency. Enhance Howard Transit by implementing half-hour service frequencies, increasing connectivity to other Baltimore-Washington regional transportation facilities (MARC, park-and-ride, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and Transportation Demand Management initiatives), and instituting other service improvements identified in the *Transit Development Plan*. (OT)** |
| In 2015, half hour headways were established on the 406 route. Funding limitations have precluded additional service enhancements detailed in the *2009 Transit Development Plan*.<br><br>See Policies 5.7, d and 7.4, b, c. |
| **f.   Land Use Decisions. Establish and enhance policies and regulations that integrate land use decisions with connectivity and transportation accessibility. (OT)** |
| OT participated in the subdivision and land development review process.<br><br>See Policies 5.4, e and 5.5, f. |
| **Policy 7.5   Utilize regional studies to develop an effective plan for significantly expanded regional transit service.** |
| **a.   Corridor Evaluation. Evaluate existing and potential transit corridors for future ridership, transit mode options, and cost-effectiveness in order to prioritize public investment within transit corridors. (OT)** |
| See Policy 5.4, e. |
| **b.   Rights-of-Way. Preserve transit rights-of-way within existing and potential transit corridors. (OT)** |
| OT identified future generalized transit rights-of-way in their Bus Rapid Transit studies. Reservations are requested, as needed, during the subdivision and land development review process for future routes and/or bus stops. |

**c. Transit Nodes. Identify locations within the Growth and Revitalization areas for more detailed planning for the development of transit-supportive densities and land uses, as well as pedestrian and bicycle connectivity. (OT)**

OT identified the following areas in *BikeHoward* that need additional planning and development of pedestrian and bicycle connections: Dobbin Road Commercial Area, Gateway Commerce Center, Route 40 Corridor in Ellicott City, MD 216 Corridor, Maple Lawn, Various segments of the Route 1 Corridor, Clarksville (River Hill), Historic Ellicott City

See Policy 5.4, d, e.

**d. Compact Development. Adopt land use policies and regulations to promote compact development patterns that support transit demand through sufficient densities and interconnected street and pedestrian networks. (OT)**

Reporting for this item is anticipated after conclusion of the mid-term period.

**e. Downtown Columbia. Work with the Downtown Columbia Partnership to develop the Downtown Columbia Transportation Demand Management Plan, multimodal transit facility and circulator. (OT)**

In 2016, OT coordinated with the Downtown Columbia Partnership (DCP) to develop a *Transportation Demand Management Plan* (TDMP) for Downtown Columbia, to be completed in 2017. OT also anticipates the location of Downtown's multimodal transit facility to be identified in 2017 commensurate with its CEPPA requirement. A circulator component for Downtown's transportation system will be coordinated with transit facility assessments.

**f. Baltimore Metropolitan Council. Cooperate with the Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) to develop a new regional transit study. (OT)**

In 2016, BMC approved funding to supplement development of a *Transit Development Plan*.

See Policy 7.4, b.

**Policy 7.6  Reduce highway congestion, energy consumption, and greenhouse gases by increasing the number of residents using alternate modes of transportation.**

**a.  Bicycle Master Plan. Develop a Bicycle Master Plan that defines priority projects and identifies those that can be integrated with pedestrian improvements and transit facilities. Establish an implementation schedule and identify funding. (OT)**

See Policy 5.5, f.

**b.  Pedestrian Master Plan. Assess progress and refine priorities of the existing Pedestrian Master Plan. (OT)**

See Policy 5.5, f.

**c.  Bus Stops. Expand the study of bus stop infrastructure needs to identify gaps in bicycle and pedestrian connections between bus stops and surrounding destinations. (OT)**

OT conducted field surveys of existing bus stop infrastructure to determine needs and identify gaps in bicycle and pedestrian connections between bus stops and surrounding destinations for facility master planning. A total of 500 bus stops, over 250 miles of sidewalk and over 750 intersections were surveyed.

The following stops are scheduled for improvement pending available funding.

| Location | Improvement | Est. Schedule |
|---|---|---|
| 6333 Macaw Ct | removed and replaced plexi-glass | 2014 |
| 6333 Macaw Ct | repair concrete at sidewalk | 2014 |
| 7178 Columbia Gateway Drive | shelter removal | 2014 |
| Dobbin Center | bus shelter installed in lieu of traffic improvements at Dobbin Rd/Dobbin Center Way | 2014 |
| EB LPP @ Harpers Farm Road | bench and door | 2014 |
| EB LPP @ Swift Stream Place, Shelter 128 | bench and door | 2014 |
| EB Phelps Luck Road @ High Tor Hill | landing pad | 2014 |
| George Howard Building/Brightwell Drive | shelter removal | 2014 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| NB Center Park Dr @ Old Annapolis Road, Shelter 104 | bench and door | 2014 |
| NB Court House Dr @ Martha Bush Drive, Shelter 117 | bench and door | 2014 |
| NB Freetown Road @ Cedar Lane, Shelter 103 | bench and door | 2014 |
| NB North Ridge Rd @ Executive Center Dr, Shelter 137 | bench and door | 2014 |
| NB Oakland Mills Road @ Carter Lane, Shelter 158 | bench and door | 2014 |
| NB Tamar Drive @ LPP, Shelter 146 | bench and door | 2014 |
| NB Twin Rivers Road @ Harpers Farm Road | bench and door | 2014 |
| NB Washington Blvd @ Brewers Ct, Shelter 142 | bench only | 2014 |
| SB Center Park Dr @ Old Annapolis Road, Shelter 105 | bench and door | 2014 |
| SB Court House Dr @ Martha Bush Drive, Shelter 111 | bench and door | 2014 |
| SB Freetown Road @ Hawkeye Run, Shelter 100 | bench and door | 2014 |
| SB HCC @ Campus Drive, Shelter 157 | bench and door | 2014 |
| SB North Chatham Road, Shelter 134 | bench and door | 2014 |
| SB Oakland Mills Road @ Carter Lane, Shelter 102 | bench and door | 2014 |
| SB Tamar Drive @ LPP, Shelter 147 | bench and door | 2014 |
| SB Washington Blvd @ Brewers Ct, Shelter 141 | bench only | 2014 |
| WB Hickory Ridge Road @ Cordage Walk, Shelter 122 | bench and door | 2014 |
| WB LPP @ Harpers Farm Road | bench and door | 2014 |
| WB Phelps Luck Road @ High Tor Hill | landing pad | 2014 |
| WB Red Branch Rd @ Old Annapolis Road, Shelter 155 | bench and door | 2014 |
| WB Red Branch Rd @ Rumsey Road, Shelter 156 | bench and door | 2014 |
| Westbound LPP @ Harpers Farm Road, | bench and door | 2014 |
| Columbia Mall | 2 shelters removed and four installed as well as pedestrian/promenade improvements | 2014 |
| Oakland Mills Village Center | bus shelter, sidewalk, pedestrian promenade-installed by community planning, DPZ. | 2012 |

| US 1/MD 103 | pads, sidewalk, signalized pedestrian crossing installed by SHA/ Howard County. | 2015 |
| White Acre @ Basket Ring | install shelter, sidewalk, curb ramps | 2014 |
| Snowden River Parkway @ Minstrel Way | replacement of bus stop plus new transit pad | 2015 |
| Wilde Lake Village Center | shelters | 2016 |

**d. Evaluate Alternative Mobility Options. Evaluate the options to meet the needs of seniors and people with disabilities. (OT)**

OT included all County senior and 50+ locations in their field survey of pedestrian and bike infrastructure.

DPW incorporated ADA upgrades to sidewalks and ramps in coordination with road resurfacing projects.

**e. Complete Streets. Promote complete streets by amending the Design Manual for road improvements to address bus stops and transit shelters, as well as pedestrian pathways, crossings, and bicycle improvements. (OT)**

See Policy 5.4, e.

**f. Capital Projects. Establish an interdepartmental team including the Howard County Office of Transportation, Department of Planning and Zoning, Department of Public Works, and Department of Recreation and Parks to prioritize and coordinate implementation of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plans through both capital projects and review of private sector development plans. (OT)**

Pedestrian and bike master plan projects have been incorporated into the Capital Budget. Establishment of a formal review group is being evaluated.

**g. Public Outreach. Develop strategies to promote public awareness and use of alternative travel modes for work, errands, and recreation. (OT)**

Reporting for this item is anticipated after conclusion of the mid-term period.

**Policy 7.7  Reduce highway congestion, energy consumption, and greenhouse gases.**

**a.  Ride Sharing. Promote car share and bike share systems, HOV programs, and expanded park and ride lots. (OT)**

The Howard Commuter Solutions website was overhauled to expand beyond carpooling, vanpooling and the Guaranteed Ride Home program to include other aspects of transportation demand management (e.g., telework, multimodal commuting) as well as new ridehailing technologies (e.g., Uber and Metropolitan Washington Council of Government's real time rideshare app when launched). Ride share initiatives for Downtown Columbia will be implemented through its Transportation Demand Management Plan, anticipated to be completed in 2017.

**b.  TDM Program. Study and develop the Downtown Columbia Transportation Demand Management Plan as well as additional TDM programs as mechanisms to mitigate traffic/congestion impacts and expand transit services. (OT)**

See Policy 5.7, d.

Reporting for this item is anticipated after conclusion of the mid-term period.

**c.  Data Sharing. Investigate sharing of bus location data generated by Howard Transit for potential use by independent software developers to promote transit and transit alternatives. (OT)**

In 2015, General Transit Feed Specification, an open data format for public transportation schedules and associated geographic information was made available on the County's open data portal.

**d.  Innovative Technologies. Leverage the County's investment in the intra-County broadband network to develop a Howard County traffic control center to monitor traffic conditions and coordinate with Maryland State Highway Administration traffic control. (OT)**

Reporting for this item is anticipated after conclusion of the mid-term period.

**e.  Alternative Modes of Transportation. Make pedestrian, bicycle, and transit modes of transportation attractive and viable options. (OT)**

See Policies 5.4, e, 5.5, f, and 7.3, c.

**SECTION IV – COMMUNITY**

**Chapter 8** – *Public Facilities and Services*

| Policy 8.1 Refine the Capital Improvement Master Plan process by further strengthening the project evaluation criteria, the prioritization process, and the project implementation phasing schedule. |
| --- |
| **a. Agency Master Plans. Direct County agencies to regularly update facility master plans that include maintenance and systemic renovations, as well as new or expanded facilities.** |
| County agencies undertook the following initiatives to update facility master plans: <br><br> • HCPSS, HC, and HCLS adopted long-range facility plans, which are implemented through the County's Capital Budget. <br><br> • The *Capital Improvement Master Plan* implemented facility plans for DFRS and HCDP <br><br> • DRP performed a facility assessment through the drafting of the update of the *Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan*. A five year update of the 2012 Plan was initiated in 2016, and is expected to be completed in 2017. <br><br> • DCRS completed a facility assessment as a component of the *2015 Planning for the Growth of the Older Adult Population Master Plan*. |
| **b. Capital Budget Review Committee. Continue to strengthen the interagency review committee's assessments to assist in setting capital project priorities, phasing, and funding strategies. (OB)** |
| A Capital Budget Review Committee pilot was initiated at the time of the *2014 Initial Review*. |
| **c. State Funds. Explore how under *PlanMaryland*, State agency funds and programs can be targeted to priority projects within designated Growth and Revitalization areas and Existing Communities. (DPZ)** |
| The Maryland Sustainable Communities program provides financing and tax credit incentives to eligible places throughout the state. During the reporting period, DPZ worked with community stakeholders on two successful designations: North Laurel-Savage (2014) and Long Reach Village Center area (2016). Ellicott City was approved as a Sustainable Community in 2012. County agencies and qualified groups collaborate to pursue state funds for community revitalization and projects. |

**d. Innovative Funding. Identify new or creative funding sources and methods such as public-private partnerships. (DPZ, OT)**

The County Council adopted CR105-206, Downtown Columbia Tax Increment Financing which will fund road and parking capacity improvements.

OT investigated potential additional private-sector and community involvement in transit from direct advertising on buses and bus shelters to Adopt-a-Shelter programs.

**e. Transportation Planning. When evaluating new facilities and capital projects, consider transportation infrastructure, including availability of public transit, and opportunities for bicycle and pedestrian access. (OT)**

As part of the subdivision and land development review process, OT evaluated private and public development and encouraged transit, pedestrian and cycling connections and access. The Complete Streets implementation team is expected to make its recommendations in 2017.

See Policy 7.6.

**Policy 8.2   Continue to lead by example in further reducing Howard County Government's environmental impacts and incorporating green building practices into new and renovated public facilities.**

**a. Enhance Sustainability. Expand the use of cost-effective, resource-conserving green technologies in new and renovated County facilities. (OT, OCS, DPW)**

The County has an arrangement through the Baltimore Regional Cooperative Purchasing Agreement (BRCPC) with surrounding jurisdictions to reduce energy consumption, and more importantly, reduce its demand charges through energy monitoring, load shedding, and co-generation. The Regional Transit Operations Facility, which opened in 2014, includes green technology components: water use efficiency, energy optimization, recycled building materials, and above average indoor environmental quality.

The following initiatives were undertaken by County agencies during this monitoring period:

- OCS teamed with Facilities to train personnel regarding the operation and maintenance of LEED buildings. OCS is evaluating four County LEED buildings for LEED Existing Building Operation and Maintenance certification.
- In November 2015, the Office of Law created Work Permit and Right of Entry agreements with the READY program which will allow READY to perform maintenance on an array of DPW and DRP environmental enhancement efforts including forest mitigation sites, forest conservation areas, stream restoration projects, and others.
- The Howard County Library System (HCLS) utilized resource-conserving green technologies with the redevelopment of the Savage Library, including numerous stormwater treatment facilities with educational signage.

- DPW was awarded its second Energy Savings Performance Contract Purchasing Agreement to renovate and improve 68 County facilities to reduce energy usage. The 17-year return on investment is estimated to be $14 million.
- DPW standardized lighting (LED) for both interior space and exterior parking lots to further reduce the County's energy footprint.

**b. Monitoring. Monitor County buildings and vehicles to document environment, health, and safety benefits, as well as cost-effectiveness. (DPW)**

The following initiatives were undertaken by the County during the reporting period:

- The County contracted with EnergyCAP for the tracking of utility data, including electricity, natural gas, water, and fuel oil. To date, there are at least three years of data for approximately one thousand accounts covering all aspects of County operations.
- DPW purchased automated vehicle locating systems to track and monitor vehicle usage and ensure efficient route planning for maintenance activities throughout the County.
- DPW installed building automation systems and real time energy monitoring in order to react to peak demand and monitor ongoing energy usage.
- DPW engaged an energy consultant (Eneroc) to review past bill data to identify outliers and trends in energy usage for evaluating system efficiencies and making energy usage corrections as needed.

**c. Public Outreach and Education. Communicate the monitoring data and results of demonstration projects to the public. (OS/OCS)**

Monitors were added to the George Howard Building and at the Miller Library which provide information about environmental features of the buildings. In addition, the greenhouse gas emissions reductions from the solar project at the Little Patuxent Water Reclamation Plant are posted online.

**d. Multimodal Transportation Strategies. Promote and implement strategies to enable access to government facilities via bicycle, pedestrian and transit. (OT)**

OT worked directly with agencies responsible for design and construction of government buildings (e.g., Elkridge library and schools) and new parks to address access issues early in the development review process.

DAP reviewed the Elkridge Library and new elementary school in Oxford Square for consistency with the *Route 1 Design Manual* and with the TOD zoning requirements. DAP commented on pedestrian circulation, sidewalks, bus shelters, and crosswalks.

See Policies 5.5, f and 7.4, b.

**Policy 8.3   Use the operating budget process to optimize public services and use of funds.**

  a.  **Ongoing Management. Continue to provide high-quality services to the County's residents and businesses while maintaining fiscally-prudent budget assumptions. (OB)**

The Office of Budget (OB) monitored the service level of departments and performed annual Spending Affordability processes using a committee and public and private officials to ensure the County remains within affordability levels.

  b.  **Regular Review. Direct County agencies to continue their annual review of services and service delivery to address evolving needs and changing demographics. (OB)**

OB worked with agencies to update operating budgets on an ongoing basis. Facility and service master plans (see Policy 8.1, a) are used to assess operating needs.  The following OB initiatives were undertaken during the monitoring period:

- Developed a strategic plan and management system to set priorities, goals and strategies and allow the tracking and analysis of performance measures in order to improve government services and enhance transparency and accountability.
- Introduced the TRACKHoward system for use in the FY18 budget cycle.

**Policy 8.4   Ensure the adequacy of water and sewer services.**

  a.  **Wastewater Treatment Plant Capacity. Monitor flows to the Little Patuxent Water Reclamation Plant to ensure sufficient capacity for projected growth in the Planned Service Area. (DPW)**

Flow capacity remains the same since the seventh edition plant improvements.

  b.  **Master Plan for Water and Sewerage. Identify capital project priorities for capacity expansion and systemic renovations, as well as innovative approaches to reduce water consumption and recycle treated waste water. (DPW)**

DPW evaluated annual capital project priorities. The County's tri-annual comprehensive update of the *Master Plan for Water and Sewerage* was completed in 2016. The update evaluated capacity to the year 2040.

| **Policy 8.5    Continue to invest in multimodal transportation infrastructure to enhance mobility and access to diverse transportation options.** |
|---|
| **a.   Road Improvements. Continue to use APF-generated excise tax revenues to leverage State and Federal funding for highway capacity improvements. Consider legislation to allow use for other transportation modes. (OT)** |
| In 2015, County Administration established an Adequate Public Facilities (APF) Task Force to examine the current regulations in relationship to the County's growth patterns and make recommendations on adequate guidelines for the development of school, road and transportation capacity. The APF Report was completed in 2016. Regulation changes for consideration by the Planning Board and County Council are anticipated in 2017. |
| **b.   Transit Development Program. Update the County's Transit Development Program every five years to evaluate and prioritize Howard Transit improvements, as well as connections to regional transit. (OT)** |
| OT initiated a five-year update of the *Transit Development Plan* (TDP) in 2016. The plan serves as a guide for transit services in the Central Maryland region and will provide a roadmap for implementing service and organizational improvements, including potential service expansion, during the next five years. The plan is expected to be completed in 2017. Reporting for this item is anticipated after conclusion of the mid-term period. |
| **c.   Innovative Transit Funding. Explore additional public and private funding sources to expand and improve the quality of fixed-route and paratransit service. (OT)** |
| OT obtained Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) grants in FY15 to fund the purchase of seven buses and sedans. Additional funding was secured in FY17 for the purchase of eight paratransit buses. Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) funding was secured for the purchase and design of three electric buses. Project delivery and introduction to the transit system is estimated for 2017. |
| **d.   Pedestrian and Bicycle Connections. Implement priority pedestrian and bicycle improvement projects and, whenever possible, include as part of road construction or maintenance projects. (OT)** |
| OT collaborated with DPW and the State to implement and advanced bicycle and pedestrian projects. Between January 2013 and January 2016, 13.07 miles of bike lanes were installed, either as part of a specific bicycle or a road-resurfacing project. ADA ramp improvements are also done in coordination with repaving. Some of these projects are: <ul><li>Bike lanes on Gorman Road from Route 1 to I 95. (2015)</li><li>Bike lanes on portions of North Chatham north of US 40 (2015)</li><li>Bike lanes on Brightfield Road (2015)</li></ul> |

- Bike lanes on Stevens Forest Road south from Broken Land Parkway (2015)

- Pedestrian Improvements at - MD175 @ Thunderhill Road

- Sidewalks on Broken Land Pkwy from Cradlerock to Snowden River Pkwy

- Sidewalks Crescent – from MacAlpine to Northfield

- Sharrows and signage were installed in Historic Ellicott City on Main Street (2016)

OT received grants to:

- Advance structured project No., 5 and 6 to preliminary design

- Advance the Cedar Lane Pathway project from Little Patuxent Parkway to Harpers Farm Road to 90percent design

- Advance structured project No. 8: Surface upgrades to the Patuxent Branch Trail

- Develop a bike parking program

- Develop preliminary designs for a shared use pathway on Dobbin Road

OT initiated the following sidewalk projects developed from *Pedestrian Master Plan* and/or other initiatives:

- Location 18 – US1 from MD103 to MD175 (J4241 MD175 to Montevideo Rd)

- Location 19 – Port Capital Drive (J4168 Port Cap. Roundabout)

- Location 20 – Montevideo Rd from US1 to AA County Line (J4148 and J4206)

- Location 21 – Dorsey Run Rd. MD175 to MD103 (J4148)

- Location 22 – Dorsey Run Rd. MD175 to Guilford Road (J4110 and J4182)

- Location 27 - US1 SB from Crestmount to Cedar (Cooperative project with SHA - see also Location 60).

- Location 35 – Guilford Rd from Pine Road to US1 (K5040)

- Location 36 – Guilford Rd from Vollmerhausen to Carroll Heights (J4214)

- Location 42 – Guilford Road from Dorsey Run Road to US1 (J4181)

- Location 45 - Howard Sreet (short section of sidewalk from convenience store to apartment complex)

- Location 48 – Stephens Road from Whiskey Bottom Road to Gorman Road (J4202)

- Location 51 - US1 SB from Whiskey Bottom Rd heading south to the County Line (Bike lane and sidewalk). Cooperative Project with SHA.

- Location 52 - Whiskey Bottom Rd from US1 to Stephens Road (Multiple Parts)

- Location 55 - All Saints Road short section of sidewalk from the end of the existing sidewalk by the shopping center heading southwest to the intersection

- Location 60 - north side of Assateague from US1 to Potomac Avenue (See also location 27)

- Includes US1 at Assateague Pedestrian Crossing by SHA

- Location 61 – US1 at Kit Kat Road

- Location 105 – Rogers Avenue US40 to Courthouse Drive (J4170)

- Location 110 – MD103 from Old Columbia Road to Long Gate Pkwy (SHA Project)

- Location 135 - Dobbin Road from Oakland Mills Road to Dobbin Center and up McGaw

- Location 149 – Oakland Mills Rd from Carters La to Guilford Road (J4207)

- Location 160 - Guilford Road from Blue Sea to Sassafras Court

- Location 204 – Marriottsville Road from MD144 to MD99 (J4205 and J4215)

- Location 207 - US40 EB from Chatham to St. Johns including the St. Johns intersection

- Location 214 - north side of Twin Rivers from the intersection of Twin Rivers and Gov. Warfield Pkwy. to Green Mountain Circle

- Locations 217, 223 and 225 – Cedar Lane from Little Patuxent Pkwy to Harpers Farm Road

- Location 226 – US29 Pedestrian Bridge

OT implemented a bike-parking program. The grant-funded project focuses on marketing and outreach to install racks at employment centers, shopping centers, transit hubs, park and ride lots, schools, libraries, parks and other cycling destinations. The goal of the project is to install 100 racks a year over the two-year grant period for a total of 200 racks. The program includes:

- Expanding an existing inventory of bike parking in the County

- Developing a website/interactive mapping products to track installation and locations

- Developing bike rack installation guidelines

- Drafting outreach materials to solicit requests for bike rack locations

- Arranging permits or agreements for bike rack installations when necessary

- Purchasing bike racks and mounting hardware

- Contracting the installation of bike racks

**Policy 8.6   Provide for environmentally sound and cost-effective solid waste management.**

    **a.   Promote Solid Waste Reduction. Continue to expand programs for solid waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting. Expand recycling programs to include additional materials as technologies and markets become available, including the possibility of recovery of items from the landfill. (DPW)**

In FY16, DPW updated the *Solid Waste Master Plan.* The Plan is required by state regulation and provides guidance for the County's solid waste management system through the year 2024.

DPW expanded recycling programs to include new materials such as electronics, styrofoam, mattresses, and carpets. The food scrap composting program was expanded for residents at the curb side and County schools. Council Bill 2-2014 increased residential access to recycling for apartments and condos. Zero waste activities have been implemented.

    **b.   Plan for Future Capacity. Ensure that the County has reliable options for solid waste processing and disposal that allow sufficient lead time for planning and construction of a new cell at the Alpha Ridge Landfill or other new facilities, or for instituting new programs. (DPW)**

DPW maintained long-term waste export contracts that allow sufficient lead time to design/construct or implement new export agreements.

**Policy 8.7   Identify and fund the most cost-effective strategies for Watershed Implementation Plan execution.**

    **a.   Funding. Evaluate options and adopt a dedicated funding mechanism.**

See Policy 3.2, a.

    **b.   Best Management Practices. Monitor and evaluate the cost-effectiveness of diverse best management practices to maximize nutrient reduction from the funds expended. (OCS)**

OCS reviewed and incorporated findings from the Chesapeake Bay Program Expert Research Panels and the Chesapeake Stormwater Network on best management practices. OCS utilized and explored innovative strategies for awarding work, including design, build and maintenance contracts based on amount of stormwater treated, as well as public private partnerships. DPW prioritized individual watershed projects based on their effectiveness and cost-per-pound of nutrient removed.

**Policy 8.8   Optimize planning and use of available funds to ensure school facilities continue to support high-quality school programs.**

    **a.   Accuracy of Enrollment Projections. Continue to collaborate with the Public School System to improve enrollment projections by refining the methodology for assessing the varying impacts of growth and neighborhood population cycles on individual schools. (HCPSS)**

DPZ and HCPSS collaborated yearly to update the projection model. Enrollment projection accuracy is reported annually.  In the most recent projection year, 82 percent of schools were within 5 percent accuracy or better. Detail accuracy reports are available on BoardDocs.

    **b.   Maximize Use of Existing School Facilities. Balance enrollment between under- and over-capacity schools by redistricting or alternative strategies to encourage full use of schools that have additional capacity. (HCPSS)**

HCPSS approved alternative strategies to encourage full use of schools that have additional capacity.

    **c.   Minimize New School Construction. Accommodate the projected enrollments by using modular classrooms and additions whenever possible. (HCPSS)**

HCPSS utilized modular classrooms where new capital projects are not possible.  Additionally, HCPSS added approximately 400 seats at all school levels in the last three years through renovations. Detail reports are available on BoardDocs.

    **d.   Land Bank. Acquire additional sites inside the PFA to hold in reserve if needed for future school construction. Consider more urban school prototypes to reduce land acquisition requirements. (HCPSS)**

HCPSS reviewed opportunities to purchase land for future school construction.

    **e.   Fund Maintenance, Renovation, and Program Initiatives. Provide sufficient funding to maintain and renovate school facilities and to allow program initiatives that will sustain and enhance the quality of the Public School System. (HCPSS)**

HCPSS annually included maintenance and systemic renovations in the capital budget.  Detail accuracy reports are available on BoardDocs.

**Policy 8.9   Continue to support Howard Community College's expanding ability to provide higher education for County residents and workers.**

     **a.   Expansion of Howard Community College. Continue the County's commitment to fund expansion to accommodate enrollment and program growth. Support HCC in obtaining funds from the State or other sources. (HCC, HCEDA)**

HCC continues to receive County and state funds for capital projects. The new science, engineering, and technology building is under construction and is scheduled to open in the spring of 2017.

     **b.   Workforce Training. Continue to work with the Economic Development Authority, the private sector, and other institutions of higher education to meet workforce development and retraining needs, especially in science and technology-related fields. (HCC, HCEDA)**

HCC partnered with HCEDA and other entities to establish opportunities that meet workforce development and training needs.

     **c.   Community Cultural Enrichment. Continue to expand noncredit course offerings and cultural programs that promote lifelong learning and enhance community life. (HCC)**

HCC expanded non-credit offerings and cultural enrichment programs.

**Policy 8.10 Enhance residents' access to high quality library resources.**

     **a.   Master Plan. Evaluate the need for additional library capacity to serve planned population and program growth, considering the impact of the Internet and other digital access to information. Provide necessary expansion via additions or new facilities within the Planned Service Area. (HCLS)**

In 2015, HCLS completed the five-year *Strategic Plan* update. The *2004 Facilities Assessment and Master Plan* guide the system's capital improvement program. The Plan's assessment is based on projected population growth through the year 2030 and guides the system's capital improvement program.

Complete reporting for this item is anticipated after conclusion of the mid-term period.

**b. Libraries as Educational and Community Focal Points. Enhance the design of existing and any future libraries to both optimize the delivery of service at each library branch and help create a civic focal point. Where feasible, integrate libraries with other complementary public or private facilities.**

The following initiatives were undertaken by HCLS during the reporting period:

- Completed renovation of the Savage Branch and STEM Education Center in 2014.
- Completed renovation of the Administrative Branch (former Miller Library) in 2015
- Initiated renovation of Columbia's Central Branch.
- Initiated construction of a new Elkridge Branch and Senior Center with completion anticipated by the end of 2017.

**Policy 8.11 Ensure County residents and visitors have access to a wide variety of arts and cultural programs; cultivate artists; and develop creative workforce.**

**a. Arts Council. Continue to support the operations and programs of the Arts Council through financial and in-kind resources and services. (HCAC)**

Howard County Arts Council (HCAC) operates the Howard County Center for the Arts, a 27,000 square foot multi-purpose facility owned by the County, which is open to the public seven days a week. The Center features two professional galleries, a community black box theatre, dance studio, large conference/workshop room, three classrooms; 14 visual artist studios, and four offices for arts organizations. On average, 37,700 visitors, 3,170 artists and 3,100 children participated in programs and activities at the Center for the Arts each year of the monitoring period.

**b. Community Service Partnership. Continue to utilize the Community Service Partnership with the Howard County Arts Council to distribute public funds to local and regional arts organizations through competitive grant programs and to manage art facilities. (HCAC)**

HCAC received County and state funds during the reporting period to support grants to local and regional arts organizations which amounted to the following:

- Awarded 70 grants totaling $585,672 that served 313,344 residents and visitors in FY14.
- Awarded 71 grants totaling $677,919 that served 301,839 residents and visitors in FY15.

**c. Business Partnerships. Encourage partnerships between the arts community and the Howard County Economic Development Authority, Howard County Tourism, and private and business sectors to increase awareness of the value of the arts and provide creative funding to support programs and facilities. (HCAC)**

HCAC partnered with nearly 200 local businesses each year of this monitoring period to fund and advance the arts.

**d. Arts and Entertainment Districts. Explore options to create one or more "Arts and Entertainment" districts in Howard County. (HCAC)**

HCAC testified in support of CR22-2014 and developed a case statement for a multi-purpose art center at Long Reach. In FY15, HCAC partnered with Orchard Development and the Housing Commission on a concept for a mixed-use affordable housing and art center in Downtown Columbia.

**e. Support for Artists. Increase opportunities for artists to live, work, learn, and present work in Howard County. (HCAC)**

The following initiatives were undertaken by HCAC during the reporting period:

- Provided opportunities for an average of 5,800 artists through grants.
- Provided exhibit and performance opportunities for an average of 3,200 artists per year at the Center for the Arts.
- Provided affordable studio space for 14 visual artists, office space for three arts organizations, and workshop space for eight arts advancement groups per year at the Center for the Arts.
- Provided affordable rehearsal, performance, dance studio, classroom, and meeting space for 42 arts groups per year at the Center for the Arts.

**f. Development. Include art or arts spaces in new public construction when appropriate. (HCAC)**

HCAC placed 12 temporary ARTsites sculptures (at public and private sites) in FY14 and 13 sculptures in FY15.

**Policy 8.12 Expand the County park system and recreational facilities.**

a.  **Land Acquisition. Establish acquisition goals for environmental conservation and active recreation in the 2012 update to the *Howard County Land Preservation and Recreation Plan* (LPRP). Accelerate land acquisition to meet long-term recreation needs while suitable sites are still available, particularly inside the Planned Service Area where population is greatest. (DRP)**

Parkland management is accomplished through an Adaptive Management Approach to conservation practices. Adaptive Management Approach is a management process whereby implemented procedures are regularly monitored and changes in procedure are adapted as the results warrant.

DRP utilized current Best Management Practices (BMPs), which are applied in conjunction with other Federal and State conservation programs and initiatives.

*County Parkland Rules and Regulations* emphasize natural resource protection through "post-development" environmental protection regulations. DRP emphasizes compliance through education, rather than enforcement, to protect our environment/parkland.

b.  **Recreation Planning. Update the LPRP regularly to establish countywide goals and priorities for development of facilities and recreation programs.**

DRP initiated the update to the *Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan*. The 2017 Plan will include:

- Analysis of recreation and leisure trends: To determine how those trends impact existing and projected user populations.

- Needs assessment: To identify existing and projected gaps in service and determine land, facility and service priorities. Needs assessments can use a variety of methods to obtain input from the community, including focus groups, advisory boards, forums and surveys.

- Community inventory – To inventory parkland and recreation facilities, programs and services in the service area, including those provided by the agency and those offered by schools and other alternative public, private and non-profit providers.

- Level of service (LOS) standards – To evaluate LOS standards for the provision of land, facilities and services within the jurisdiction. LOS standards are a type of performance measure associated with equitable service provision, such as the number of facilities per 1,000 residents in a service area or facilities available within a designated travel distance or travel time, (e.g. percent of population that have a park within a ten minute walk). LOS standards can also address other dimensions of equitable access, such as connectivity, maintenance, and affordability (e.g. percent of parkland connected to the trail network).

**Policy 8.13 Enhance community recreational opportunities.**

**a. Cooperation with Howard County Public School System. Continue to collaborate on the design, development, management, and maintenance of shared recreation facilities and programs on school sites. (DRP)**

DRP worked closely with the community liaison to enhance communication regarding permitting. DRP increased communication regarding summer camp placement in coordination with building maintenance issues. The following cooperation efforts have been implemented:

- Formed a strong relationship with HCPSS regarding the permitting of the synthetic turf fields located at the area high schools with minimal, if any, customer service issues.
- Initiated discussions between the DRP and HCPSS regarding the school activity room spaces occupied by the Department. Dedicated program space is extremely limited, as it greatly affects preschool and licensed childcare programming areas.
- Enhanced communication with the representative from the School Board regarding pathway issues, especially during severe blizzards.
- Developed after-school, weekend and summer programs at Cedar Lane School for children with disabilities.
- Enhanced swim opportunities in the water therapy tank at the Cedar Lane School.

**b. Coordinate the Columbia Association, Recreation Organizations, and Private Recreation Providers. Expand partnerships with other recreation providers so that the Department of Recreation and Parks programs complement and support efforts by other providers. Provide information on opportunities available through other organizations. Encourage programming across all age groups and abilities. (DRP)**

DRP worked with community associations, advisory groups, and committees to garner ideas, support, and insight into the development of programs, facilities and parks. Examples of these groups include: Recreation and Parks Advisory Board, Elkridge Adult Athletic Association, Western County Youth Athletic Association, Sierra Club, Neighborhood park and playground committees, Ellicott City Youth Association, Horizon Foundation Neighborhood Councils, Horizon Foundation 'Connections' Youth Council, NAACP Howard County Youth Committee, Howard County Lacrosse, WHC Baseball, Various youth football organizations, Howard County Heritage Consortium, Glenwood Community Center Advisory Committee, North Laurel/Savage Community Center Advisory Committee, North Laurel Civic Association, HCPSS, CA, Howard County Office of Tourism, Local Children's Board, HCHD, HCPD, HCPL, Hershey Track and Field program, Friends of the Patapsco Female Institute Historic Park, Baltimore B & O Railroad Museum, Friends of the Ellicott City Colored School Restored, Historic Ellicott City, Friends of the Waverly Mansion, Baltimore's Child, Glenwood Lions Club, and DHCD.

**Policy 8.14 Plan for Health and Human Services.**

    **a. Comprehensive and Coordinated Health and Human Services Planning. Continue to develop data-driven, measureable plans for both Health Services and Human Services. Plans should reflect comprehensive assessment of needs, resources, proposed actions, and implementation strategies with a clear identification of priorities, partner roles, and funding mechanisms. (DCRS, HCHD)**

The following initiatives were undertaken by the Health Department (HCHD) and its partners during the reporting period:

- Completed the 2016 Howard County Health Assessment Survey (HCHAS). This biennial survey provides in-depth data about the health and health needs of Howard County residents.  The survey was completed by 2,000 residents by telephone in both English and Spanish and covered topics such as diet, exercise, access to care, health care coverage, chronic disease, behavioral health and addictions. HCHD's data from the 2016 HCHAS showed on-going needs in the areas of access to care, behavioral health, and weight and obesity. The survey found that 20 percent of Hispanics in Howard County still report not having health insurance. According to the data, the percentage of Howard County residents at a healthy weight has decreased by four percent since 2014. The 2016 data is used to identify County health needs, gaps in services, priorities, and potential interventions. This is a collaborative effort of HCHD, the Horizon Foundation, HCGH, Healthy Howard, and CA.

- Implemented the *Strategic Plan 2016 – 2021*, which identified the Department's vision, mission, goals and objectives through 2021. HCHD's vision is, "A model community in which health equity and optimal wellness are accessible for all who live, work, and visit Howard County." To achieve this vision, HCHD will focus on its mission to "Promote, preserve, and protect the health of all in Howard County." In this plan, HCHD established nine goals and 27 corresponding objectives that cover the following areas: visibility and awareness, public health leadership directing population health, human resources, and infrastructures.

- Launched initiatives including a County-wide public awareness campaign on critical health issues including opioid use and abuse, pursuing national accreditation to ensure County residents receive the highest quality standards set for a public health agency, establishing a referral system that better connects County residents to critical support, and health services that impact their health.

- Worked with Howard County's Local Health Improvement Coalition (LHIC) to address health disparities and improve health and wellness. LHIC identified three priority areas for the *2012-2014 Action Plan* and assisted with the formation of work groups for each priority area, including an Access to Care Work Group to increase access to health care for residents, a Healthy Weight Work Group to enable people of all ages to achieve and maintain a healthy weight through healthy eating and physical activity, and a Behavioral Health Work Group to expand access to behavioral health resources and reduce behavioral health emergencies

-  Updated the *2015- 2017 Local Health Improvement Action Plan* in 2015.

- Added a fourth priority area and work group, Healthy Aging, in response to data indicating a growing aging population and a strong desire among residents for initiatives to promote healthy aging. This change will also align LHIC priorities with those identified by HCGH's Community Health Needs Assessment and will integrate with the Office on Aging's *Master Plan for the Aging Population*.

The following initiatives were undertaken by DCRS and its partners:

- Developed the 20-year plan, *Creating an Age Friendly Community*, which anticipates the facility and service needs of the aging population. The Plan is being implemented under the leadership of the Age Friendly Leadership Council working in collaboration with Commission on Aging, Howard County General Hospital, Columbia Association and Department of Social Services.

- Updated the County's *Plan to End Homelessness* with two CoC planning grants (FY15 and 16) through the U.S. Department of Housing and

Urban Development (HUD). DCRS collaborated with a broad array of partners: County departments, nonprofits, homeless persons, landlords, and for-profit entities. The Plan includes a data-driven and measurable plan to eradicate and prevent homelessness in Howard County, an assessment of current and future needs, resources to meet those needs, and actions and implementation strategies to accomplish goals.

**b. Capacity Building. Continue to build positive, collaborative relationships with the Horizon Foundation, Association of Community Services, United Way, the Columbia Foundation, and other capacity-building organizations, as well as the business community, as essential resources for achieving health and human services goals. (HCHD, DCRS)**

HCHD collaborated with the Horizon Foundation, Healthy Howard Inc., United Way, FIRN, ACS, CA, PATH, and other local organizations to increase awareness, advocate for and reach underserved populations. Resources and funding opportunities continue to be explored through these partnerships. The following initiatives were undertaken during the reporting period:

- Howard County Health Assessment Survey: The HCHAS is a joint effort that combines the resources of HCHD, the Horizon Foundation, HCGH, Healthy Howard, and CA to produce and promote local health data. This important initiative would not be possible without the collaboration of these organizations. HCHD allocated funds and resources on programming that is driven by the survey's data.

- Community Care Team (CCT): HCHD collaborated with Healthy Howard and HCGH on an innovative approach to improve the health of frequently hospitalized Howard County residents. CCT enrolls Howard County residents who have been hospitalized two or more times in the past year and have two or more chronic conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, COPD, and chronic heart failure. The 90-day, home-based intervention connects patients with primary care and other healthcare providers. It provides in-home medication reconciliation and chronic disease management education. It connects patients with community services, assists with other social service needs, and teaches patients how to manage health conditions.

- Million Hearts: Since 2014, HCHD partnered with Healthy Howard to implement two Million Hearts initiatives: 1) provides increased training for home health care providers to identify diabetes, pre-diabetes and hypertension and 2) targets diabetes intervention practices for primary care givers.

- Teen Health Matters: HCHD created a one-stop shop for teens in Howard County, Maryland. TheTeenHealthMatters.org website is aimed at teens and the role they can play in their own health decisions. It brings information and resources to teens about whole health, body and mind. To implement this project, HCHD partnered with Howard County Voices 4 Change (V4C), a youth-based organization that focuses on issues impacting young people in Howard County, Maryland. The members of V4C act as an Advisory Board to the site.

- EMPOWER Initiative: HCHD and the Fetal Infant Mortality Review Board collaborated to launch EMPOWER (EliMinate Premature Outcomes With Education and Resources) in 2016to reduce premature birth disparities. This initiative focused on maternal health disparities in African American Women by addressing health inequities, discussing interventions, and improving outcomes for mothers and families.

- Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission project: Funded by the Commission, the Health Department, Horizon Foundation, Department of Social Services, Community Action Council, the Local Health Improvement Coalition, DCRS, and the Office on Aging, along with health care providers and other community based service agencies, the project seeks to improve health care outcomes for persons being discharged from the hospital and improve population health, especially for individuals with chronic conditions.

- *Plan to End Homelessness* Update: The Plan updated all of the goals of Policy 8.14, a. and generated positive and collaborative relationships with capacity-building agencies. HCHD partnered with the business community and institutions serving those who may be or become homeless to deliver health and human service needs of homeless populations.

- End of Life Planning: In 2015, the Horizon Foundation worked with HCHD, HCGH, and DCRS to increase the number of Howard County residents that have made end of life plans resulting in advanced directives. This initiative was publically launched in 2016.

**Policy 8.15 Enhance the delivery and accessibility of health and human services.**

a. **Access to Information. Enhance access to data and information technology to facilitate program coordination and strengthen health and human service delivery systems. (HCHD, DCRS)**

The following initiatives were undertaken by HCHD and DCRS during the reporting period:

- Howard County Health Assessment Survey: To ensure access to the HCHAS data, a public website and fact sheets were developed. Factsheets are created every two years to highlight the major data findings and distributed throughout the County to various health care providers, at several events and are posted to the web for full public access.

- CareClix: In summer 2014, HCHD implemented a new electronic health record system called CareClix. CareClix is a comprehensive software solution that allows HCHD to provide documentation of patient visits, billing and secure medical records.

- Data Analysis: Since 2015, HCHD expanded its data analysis team to further enhance the Health Department's ability to research, identify and analyze available data. HCHD now has the internal capabilities to generate program specific, detailed reports to support local level initiatives. The LHIC continues to collect, analyze and distribute county level health data to partners and stakeholders to identify problem areas and develop improvement plans.

- HC PIN: Launched in September 2014, the program serves as a central hub where Howard County service providers can connect, communicate and share information regarding resources in the County. The program features access to a shared calendar of events, a file cabinet for posting relevant flyers and forms and discussion forums. There are several "Resource Groups" that have been set up to address particular areas of interest identified during the HC PIN planning process.

- The Howard County Homeless Management Information System (HMIS): This software maintains high data quality for all partners and funded programs. The HMIS Administrator provided study halls, one-on-one trainings and monthly reports to ensure data is entered accurately and in a timely fashion.

- Coordinated System of Homeless Services (CSHS): Since 2015, over 3,000 outreach cards were provided through nonprofit agencies, motels, and other locations to those who may be or become homeless. This has enhanced the accessibility of information about homeless services in the County.

**b.   Partnerships for Health and Human Services Delivery. Continue to expand partnerships among government, business, and nonprofit sectors, including faith-based nonprofit organizations, to coordinate health and human services delivery. (HCHD, DCRS)**

HCHD continued its partnerships with HCGH, Howard County Department of Social Services, HCPSS,, FIRN, PATH, Horizon Foundation, Healthy Howard Inc. and other community based organizations to identify needed health services and coordinate efforts to develop a more cost effective delivery system. The following initiatives were undertaken during the reporting period:

- School-based Wellness Centers (SWBC): The SBWCs were developed through a partnership between the HCHD and HCPSS. The goal of the program is to keep kids in school, healthy and ready to learn. The SBWCs, located at Bollman Bridge Elementary and Patuxent Valley Middle, provide the following services to students:

  o   Sick care;

  o   Treatment of injuries;

  o   Health education, physicals and immunizations for children without a health care provider; and

  o   Co-management of chronic health problems such as asthma and obesity with a child's regular health provider.

- Telemedicine: In September 2014, HCHD and HCPSS launched the first school-based wellness center using telemedicine in the State. There are currently telemedicine SBWCs located at six elementary schools: Running Brook, Phelps Luck, Stevens Forest, Talbott Springs, Bryant Woods and Ducketts Lane. These programs are designed to improve access to health care for pupils, reduce absences due to medical conditions, and improve educational outcomes.

- Journey to Better Health Initiative: Journey to Better Health is a partnership between HCHD and Healthy Howard. This initiative works to build the capacity of faith-based organizations to improve the health of their congregants. This is accomplished through two strategies: Empowering congregants to manage their chronic disease and reducing hospitalizations by addressing social determinants of health. The program focuses on prevention and management of chronic diseases by building on the strengths of each individual organization. Currently, the program is focusing on faith-based organizations located in the 21044 and 21045 zip codes.

- Drug and Alcohol Prevention: The HCHD continues to partner with HC Drugfree to provide alcohol and drug prevention programming. HCDH partners with HCDP and HCGH to increase opportunities to engage patients in drug treatment services.

- Care App: In 2016, HCHD procured a web-based resource care management tool called Care App. This tool will create bi-directional tracking of patient referrals and increase residents' access to social determinants of health.

- Coordinated System of Homeless Services: This coordinated system increased the capacity of DCRS to end homelessness in Howard County. In FY16, the Department of Corrections' Re-Entry program was added to end and prevent homelessness among ex-offenders.

- The Bridges out of Poverty (Getting Ahead Program): This service was launched in FY14 to promote self-sufficiency. The service was included in the FY17 budget at the DCRS MultiService Center. Over ten community organizations and faith communities cosponsor this evidence based-program for individuals and families moving out of poverty and into self-sufficiency.

- Point in Time Effort to County Homeless Persons: The annual collaborative effort led by DCRS, as the CoC lead agency to end homelessness, provides a single day, Point- in-Time homeless count and connections to a Resource Fair. In FY15, Resource Fair agencies included HCPD, HCHD, Howard County Office of Workforce Development, Bridgeway Community Church, Regional Transit Authority, Grassroots Crisis

Intervention Center, Department of Correction's Reentry Program, volunteers from DCRS, HUD representatives, and other community partners.

- Homeless Youth (ages 18-24): In FY16, the DCRS CoCand the Office of Children's Services Local Children's Board organized a collaborative planning group to identify and serve youth between ages 18-24 experiencing homelessness. This was a first time effort that brought together the Department of Social Services, the Local Children's Board, homeless shelters, drop-in centers, court appointed special advocates, the Health Department, and Office of Workforce Development.  In FY17, funding for the Local Children's Board and the CoC will be identified to count the total number of youth in need and establish an implementation plan.

**c. Co-location of Services. Establish multiservice centers, where feasible, in prominent, transit-accessible locations. These centers should be used as focal points for the distribution of health and human services. (HCHD, DCRS)**

HCHD and Healthy Howard Inc. continue to be co-located at two sites: Ascend One Building in Columbia and the North Laurel Community Center. In July 2015, the Mental Health Authority moved to the Ascend One Building in Columbia. This move was a result of discussions between the Health Department's Bureau of Behavioral Health and the Mental Health Authority to determine how best to integrate state-funded mental health and addictions treatment services at the local level to meet the needs of the community.

The MultiService Center located in North Laurel was expanded in FY15 and 16. Approximately 955 square feet were added to the current space to provide a total of 3,950 square feet of space. The center has grown from nine to 13 providers and expanded hours to include evenings two days/week. New computer terminals for employment search opportunities and public benefits were included in the expansion.

The proposed Non Profit Human Service Center was included in the FY17 budget for the Association of Community Services to continue to plan for leased space for the approximately eleven agencies that have submitted a letter of intent to move in FY17 and 18. Occupancy is tentatively planned for mid to late FY17.

**Policy 8.16 Minimize loss of life, loss of property, and injury due to fire or medical emergencies.**

**a. Fire Stations. Construct and staff the new and replacement fire stations in the current Capital Improvement Program (Waterloo, Elkridge, and Banneker). Renovate and rehabilitate existing fire stations as appropriate to ensure the continued provision of efficient service. (DFRS)**

The following initiatives were undertaken by DFRS during the reporting period:

- Waterloo: Funding was approved in the FY17 Capital Budget to construct a new Waterloo station at Routes 1 and 175. Recent updates to the initial demographic and incident analysis conducted in FY10 reiterate the need for this station to meet the service demand generated by new development and revitalization along the Route 1 Corridor. Fire stations are inspected annually to identify necessary systemic improvements that are essential to each facility's functionality and the quality of life for assigned personnel during each respective 24 hour shift. Updates in recent years have included station alerting systems, apparatus bay doors, security systems, HVAC systems, physical fitness equipment, virtual learning systems, and kitchen amenities.

- Elkridge Fire Station: The initial timeline for construction of the new Elkridge station was delayed due to an extended design process and subsequent return of bids in 2015 that exceeded funding allocations by nearly $3 million. Working with the Elkridge Volunteer Fire Department's Building Committee, the station design was modified to include changes to flooring and exterior grading to reduce costs. Additionally, the Elkridge Volunteer Fire Department will contribute funds to offset the cost of the Community Hall in the station. The project has since been re-bid and site work is expected to begin in fall 2016 with an expected completion date of spring 2018.

- Banneker Fire Station: DFRS continues to work with the Howard Hughes Group, DHCD, DPW, DPZ, and the County Council to evaluate potential locations for the Banneker station in conjunction with planned development and revitalization association with the Downtown Columbia amendment to *PlanHoward2030.*

### b.  Underground Cisterns. Continue to construct underground cisterns to support fire suppression in the Rural West. (DFRS)

DFRS updated the internal planning map reflecting changes to the water line and new and planned development to pinpoint the most critical locations for ongoing installation of underground cisterns.

The 2008 Strategic Initiative called for water supply in every square mile of non-hydranted areas in the County. Since 2008, a total of twenty four 30,000 gallon underground cisterns dedicated solely to fire suppression have been installed. Ten additional cisterns are in the process to be installed by the end of 2016 while FY17 funding will allow for installation of up to eight additional cisterns.

The construction of the new fire station in Glenwood and the addition of these cisterns have been two key factors that contributed to an improved Public Protection Classification (PPC) Rating by the Insurance Services Office in 2014 that now closely mirrors the rating in the hydranted area of the County. This PPC rating is one of several criteria used in calculating the cost of homeowner's insurance by most insurance companies.

### c.  Fire and Rescue Vehicles. Provide funding to replace fire and rescue vehicles when needed. (DFRS)

The following initiatives were undertaken by DFRS during the reporting period:

- Maintained the replacement plan for apparatus, staff and command vehicles due to previous deferrals, budget reductions and new services that redirected allocated funding to other acquisitions.

- Organized a pilot master lease program to reduce and streamline annual expenditures to a manageable amount every year.

- Participated in a utilization and 'right-sizing' study through Central Fleet to assess opportunities to reallocate vehicles within the fleet and validate the existing replacement plan.

**Policy 8.17 Enhance Police protection.**

**a. Organizational and Facility Assessment. Evaluate the options for organizing Police functions and the need for a new central district to develop a plan for new or modified Police Department facilities. (HCPD)**

The following initiatives were undertaken by HCPD during the reporting period:

- Initiated planning for a new Central District Station: An architectural and engineering firm has been selected for the Central District project. A space needs assessment will be conducted and will recommend component placement for optimal efficiency. The location selected for the Central District Station is in the Harpers Choice area of Columbia. The Station should be completed by Fall 2019.

- Hired a firm to redesign both the Northern and Southern District Stations. Planning for the renovation of each district will begin during the construction of the Central District. Each district will be renovated consecutively following the Central District. The construction process should begin in the year 2020.

- Designed the Grempler Building. Architectural plans have been completed and construction will likely be completed in early 2017. Once completed, components of the Operations Command occupying this building will include the Youth Division, Operational Preparedness and Community Outreach.

**b. Adequate Resources. Ensure the Police Department has adequate staff and equipment based on levels of crime and demand for services. (HCPD)**

The following positions were added to HCPD during the reporting period:

- October 2014: Authorized 472 sworn positions. 14 new positions added (1 LT, 2 SGT, 2 CPL, 9 Police Officers)

- January 2015: Authorized 195 civilian positions. Two new positions added. Two Admin Support Tech II (Records)

- September 2015: Authorized 196 civilian positions. One new position added. Operations Leader I (Quartermaster)

- October 2015: Authorized 197 civilian positions. One new position added. Animal Handler (later converted to Admin Support Tech II) (Animal Control)

- January 2016: Authorized 203 civilian positions. Six new positions added. Three Admin Support Tech II (E&T, Domestic Violence and Records), Three Admin Support Tech III (Records)

- March 2016: Authorized 204 civilian positions. One new position added. Admin Analyst I (Human Resources)

The new sworn officer positions provided for additional patrol officers as well as expanded specialty units:

- Added a Commander (Lieutenant) to the New Community Outreach Division

- Staffed the Pathway Patrol Section - Sergeant, Corporal and five Officers

- Added a Fraud Detective Corporal to assist with the increasing number of fraud, identity theft and financial theft/fraud investigations.

- Added a Sergeant in Vice & Tech Support to manage asset forfeiture, human trafficking and pharmaceutical investigations.

- Added a second detective to assist in investigating human trafficking. This has allowed the Department to expand the number, scope and type of human trafficking investigations; focusing both on the traffickers and the consumers of these illegal services.

**c. Community Policing and Youth Programs. Enhance and expand focus on community policing programs that allow police officers to work in partnership with communities to solve crimes and work proactively with schools. (HCPD)**

The following initiatives were undertaken by HCPD during the reporting period:

- Expanded community outreach efforts through the creation of a Community Outreach Division (COD) in December 2013. COD combines the efforts of existing senior and multicultural liaisons, and added a liaison for the mental health community. The section absorbed the Community Resource Officers from each district to further its mission and continue recentralization of initiatives. COD was expanded to a Division in early 2015, adding a new Pathway Patrol Section of six officers and a supervisor. The existing Neighborhood Community Resource officers were transferred from the districts to COD as part of the recentralization process.

- Partnered with minority associations within Howard County, including the African American Round Table, Korean Society of Howard County, PFLAG representing LGBTQ+ population, the deaf/hard of hearing community, and other small subset populations of the County. The Community Outreach Section implemented Coffee with a Cop, a nationwide program where citizens can meet with HCPD Officers monthly at a local business. HCPD COD conducts presentations and community meetings, including 75 events in 2016 and over 130 events in 2015.

- Worked to bridge the gap between mental health services and police involvement through the efforts of the mental health liaison, the first embedded clinician in a law enforcement agency in the State. The liaison conducts follow up with high-risk or repeat mental health resource consumers to direct them towards services while coordinating the department's Crisis Intervention Team for police and dispatchers. The clinician provides analysis of the mental health calls for services and works on initiatives to improve service through the Department, mental health advocates, and providers.

- Created the Pathway Patrol Sections to provide security and patrol on the 100+ miles of pathways throughout the County. This high visibility group provides enforcement on the pathways while conducting outreach to schools, providing presentations, and embracing community policing for those they meet on the paths. They have implemented a Bike with a Cop program as well as hosted several bike rodeos in conjunction with other bike-related organizations and community partners.

- Continued to meet with, on a monthly basis, the Chief's Citizens Advisory Council. This council has operated for 25 years as a volunteer organization of community members from across Howard County who provide input on police services, facilitate a spirit of cooperation between police and community, assist in the development and perpetuation of crime prevention programs and aid in the identification of long-range departmental goals.

The following police/community protection initiatives were undertaken:

- Achieved national, meritorious re-accreditation in July 2015.

- Expanded social media outlets to include NextDoor.com website and Instagram in August 2015.

- Launched new Narcan program in July 2015.

- Implemented three permanent drug drop-off boxes (Northern, Southern, and Gary Arthur Center) and collected nearly 1,500 lbs. between May – December 2015.

- Added electric motorcycles to the Pathway Patrol program in August 2015.

- Over 140 members received Crisis Intervention Team training.

- Hosted 1st Annual "Riding with the Heroes" Motorcycle Charity Fundraiser in August 2015.

- Hosted first "Bike with a Cop" event in October 2015.

- Upgraded the entire 911 phone system. The new system will allow digital information (e.g., voice, photos, videos, text messages) to flow seamlessly from the public, through the 911 network, to emergency responders when the technology becomes available.

- Incorporated verbal de-escalation training into entry level program for new officers.

- Consolidated the Digital Forensics Unit to one location, which resulted in a 63 percent decrease in backlogged cases involving cellular phones and a decrease of 80 percent in the number of cases awaiting examination of computers/electronic devices.

- Recorded homicide closure rate at 100 percent.

- Reported auto theft is down 20 percent and burglaries are down 14 percent countywide from 2014.

- Focused on human trafficking within the County. This included the creation of a designated Human Trafficking Asset Forfeiture fund within the County by Executive Order 2015-10 to assist with the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking crimes as well as assisting with education and support services to victims of human trafficking.

- Continued heroin overdose/death investigative protocols to include tracking numbers of overdoses/deaths as well as Narcan deployment.

- Completed the first year of STEP during 2015. This program was developed as part of the Department's traffic safety effort to use traffic collision data to identify specific segments of roadway on which a disproportionately high number of collisions occur. The data focuses on location, day of week, time of day, and preventable driving behavior that contributed to the collisions. On duty patrol officers in marked patrol cars are assigned to the targeted areas to provide a visible police presence and enforce traffic violations that contribute to collisions at these locations. The first year data revealed an overall 13 percent decrease in collisions in the identified Traffic Enforcement Zones as compared to a one percent increase in collisions county-wide.

The following new initiatives were undertaken:

- Began a "Seatbelt Safety" pilot program with two County elementary schools and one head start school (Sept 2015-June 2016)

- Launched a faith based outreach initiatives, including forums, CWAC style events, and youth group participation.

- Hosted first faith-based partnership meeting in December 2015.

- Supported the implementation of state enabling massage parlor legislation to allow enforcement of local massage businesses and address human trafficking issues occurring in establishments masquerading as massage parlors. Local legislation will be introduced in January 2017.

- Developed heroin initiatives to share data and intelligence between Howard County and the DEA/other jurisdictions.

**Policy 8.18 Continue to invest judiciously to maintain and enhance County facilities.**

     **a.** **Funding Priorities. Use the Capital Improvement Program to evaluate and prioritize County investments in technology upgrades and systemic renovation for County offices and other facilities. (DPW)**

DPW continues to use the *Capital Improvement Master Plan* (CIMP) to evaluate and prioritize funding for both physical and technological infrastructure maintenance and improvements. The FY17 Capital Budget's Systemic Facility Improvements project (C0317) provides funding projections for the design and renovation of various improvements through FY2025.

     **b.** **Community Revitalization. Continue to invest in renovation of community infrastructure as well as catalytic community revitalization projects, seeking grants and public-private partnerships whenever possible.**

See Policy 8.1, c.

**Chapter 9** *– Housing*

**Policy 9.1 Increase public awareness of how combined housing and transportation costs affect housing affordability, traffic patterns, resource consumption, and pollution, to promote support for compact, mixed income, and mixed-use communities that meet the diverse housing needs.**

     **a.** **Education on Housing Costs. Utilize diverse strategies such as collaboration with the Board of Realtors, nonprofits, and business groups to educate residents, policy makers, and housing advocates on affordability/value of location efficiency. (HC, DHCD)**

The following initiatives were undertaken by HC and DHCD during the reporting period:

- Hosted monthly Homebuyer Education Certificate Workshops.

- Hosted quarterly Moderate Income Housing Unit (MIHU) Renter and Homebuyer Workshops.  Workshops were conducted in community settings (e.g., community centers, HCC, HCPSS and private business) and offered in different languages (e.g., Chinese, Spanish) upon request.

- Hosted annual Housing Fair with over 50 vendors and more than two dozen education sessions about becoming a first time homebuyer, qualifying for a mortgage, homeowners and renters insurance, housing inspections, fair housing, landlord and tenant responsibilities and rights, down payment, settlement and closing costs assistance, the MIHU Program, the importance of credit and debt ratios, green, healthy and sustainable housing, emergency preparedness, employment opportunities and housing stabilization services. Some education sessions were offered in Korean and Spanish.

- Hosted the annual Housing Matters Mini Fair with up to 12 vendors and 12 education sessions.

- Co-hosted the bi-annual Landlord-Tenant Essentials training with the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits, Office of Consumer Protection and the Office of Human Rights.

- Participated in the annual Howard County Association of Realtors Fair Housing Training.

- Hosted a Settlement Downpayment Loan Program (SDLP) and Homeownership Program training for lenders.

- Helped plan and host a regional fair housing training for government officials, property managers, and the community.

- Participated in the Office on Aging Annual 50+ Expo.

- Hosted the first Getting Ahead group, a 45-hour workshop that helps families impacted by poverty to build resources and work toward economic self-sufficiency.

- Participated in the Office of Workforce Development's, Mid-Maryland Youth Job and Resource Fair. Parents and youth attend the event to learn about affordable housing opportunities.

- Presented to the annual Leadership Howard County class and hosted a property tour.

- Maintained active membership in the Regional Fair Housing Group and the Opportunity Collaborative and helped to plan and host two inclusionary zoning property tours, and a round table discussion for government officials, industry professionals, and advocates.

- Maintained active membership in the Regional Public Housing Authority Group and helped to create a Regional Project Base Voucher Program brown bag meeting for developers, advocates, and other industry professionals.

- Participated in County events to share information about buying and renting a home.

- Hosted required meetings (e.g., Housing and Community Development Board, Housing Commission, federal grant, and development programs) that are open to the public to discuss affordable housing issues and presented at community meetings upon request.

- Used social media to disseminate information on affordable housing issues, news, and events.

**b. Location Efficient Mortgages. Expand advocacy for location-efficient mortgages to continue to increase the number of households that qualify for homeownership. (HC, DHCD)**

The following initiatives were undertaken by HC and DHCD during the reporting period:

- Presented to the Maryland Bankers Association about affordable homeownership programs.

- Continued outreach to educate lenders about the benefits of facilitating access to housing through the Housing Choice Voucher Homeownership Program and the future Lease Purchase Program for low-to-moderate income residents.

- Met with banks to discuss local families being underbanked and learn how their CRA work can align with our mission.

- Participated in the MD Department of Housing and Community Development's Mortgage Late? Don't Wait! Foreclosure Prevention Program.

- Contracted with Making Change and Guidewell Financial to provide financial counseling, education, credit repair, and debt reduction services to prepare families for homeownership.

- Implemented the RENEW Howard Mortgage Loan Program to provide purchase and renovation funds to new homebuyers in older neighborhoods and increase the rate of homeownership.

**Policy 9.2   Expand full-spectrum housing for residents at diverse income levels and life stages, and for individuals with disabilities, by encouraging high quality, mixed income, multigenerational, well designed, and sustainable communities.**

**a.   Range of Affordable Options. Continue to expand current options for full-spectrum, affordable housing through affordable housing requirements in additional zoning districts; increased regulatory flexibility to provide low and middle alternatives to moderate income housing; institution of density or other incentives; use of fee-in-lieu option; accessory apartments; establishment of public, private, and nonprofit partnerships; and promotion of business community support for workforce housing.**

The following initiatives were undertaken by HC and DHCD during the reporting period:

- Executed an intergovernmental agreement with the Regional Public Housing Authority Group to participate in the creation of a Regional Project Base Voucher Program pilot, which compliments the creation of affordable housing through avenues such as the MD Department of Housing and Community Development's Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program and assume the role of administering public housing authority.
- Worked to preserve affordable housing opportunities through a partnership with the MD Department of Housing and Community Development to create a new Housing Repair Program, which assists local homeowners with housing repairs through low interest, payment deferred loans.
- Completed acquisitions to preserve the market affordable rent structure of private communities through property acquisitions like Columbia Commons, the Verona at Oakland Mills, and Gateway Village.
- Provided pre-development planning for the Cottages at Greenwood 2 in Greenwood Village and Burgess Mill Station 2 to increase the portfolio of affordable homeownership and rental opportunities in the County.
- Partnered with developers to create affordable rental units, including Riverwatch community in Elkridge, an 84 unit mixed-income (42 market rate and 42 affordable), energy efficient, townhome community with amenities.
- Continued to provide Settlement Downpayment Loan Program funding to MIHU buyers and increased program funding to extend the benefit to qualified market rate buyers.  Affordable homeownership opportunities were expanded by using federal HOME Program grant funds to provide income eligible, first time homebuyers down payment, closing cost, and settlement assistance.
- Staffed the Columbia Downtown Board and worked with members to draft both the plan and legislation to include affordable units in Downtown Columbia.
- Explored redevelopment options for the Columbia Landing apartment community in Long Reach and Verona apartment community in Oakland Mills.
- Created affordable rental opportunities through a partnership between the HC and the Bridges Alliance to rent units to local families that are, or are at risk of, being homeless.
- Conveyed the Rental Assistance Program (partial, temporary emergency rental assistance program funded by the MD Department of Housing and Community Development) to the Community Action Council and supplemented the program with HC funds to expand the number of families

that can be assisted.

- Worked with local homeless services providers, advocates, and Volunteers of America Chesapeake to develop a single efficiency apartment community with a co-located Day Resource Center to house the chronically homeless.

- Expanded the County's Moderate Income Housing Unit (MIHU) Program statute to increase the areas of the County subject to the requirement and to include a low income housing unit (LIHU) option.

- Enforced the Fee in Lieu (alternative compliance) aspect of the MIHU Program and use the funds to create new and support existing affordable housing opportunities.

- Partnered with local disability service providers to construct or significantly rehabilitate units dedicated to house persons with disabilities.

- Worked with local service providers (e.g., The Department of Corrections and the Department of Social Services) to create stable, affordable housing options for targeted populations at high risk of housing instability.

**b. Diverse Rental Opportunities. Work with developers to provide increased full-spectrum rental choice for all incomes, ages, and abilities throughout Howard County, especially in areas designated for increased density and revitalization.**

The following initiatives were undertaken by HC and DHCD during the reporting period:

- Participated as a member of the MD Affordable Housing Coalition (MAHC), an advocacy organization with a diverse membership that advocates for resources for affordable rental housing development.  MAHC staff and membership have been successful in securing millions for the Rental Housing Works Program, which creates jobs and strengthens the Maryland economy by providing gap financing for the creation and preservation of affordable rental housing financed through the MD Department of Housing and Community Development's Multifamily Bond Program and Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program.

- Maintained A+ ratings in the financial market with rating agencies like Standard and Poor's and Dun & Bradstreet, which directly impacts the ability to access financial resources to conduct business.

- Partnered  with developers, nonprofits, service providers, and other public housing authorities to assist in the creation of affordable housing opportunities through the use of PILOT financing tools like PILOTS, converting housing choice vouchers to project base vouchers, unit acquisition and master leasing, and strategic use of federal and state grants and program funding.

- Developed banking relationships to create resources to support community initiatives that preserve and improve existing affordable housing through the Housing Repair and RENEW Howard Programs.

- Proposed legislation that expands existing affordable housing tools and expands developers' compliance options through the MIHU Program.

**c.  Redevelop Older and Affordable Housing. Expand zoning or other financial incentives to redevelop older, lower income housing into full-spectrum mixed income, sustainable communities and make the communities accessible to individuals with disabilities. (HC, DHCD)**

The following initiatives were undertaken by HC and DHCD during the reporting period:

- Worked toward the redevelopment of the existing Ellicott Terrace community into Burgess Mill Station 2, an extension of the existing Burgess Mill Station community, a mixed-income, multi-generational, green and sustainable rental community formerly known as Hilltop.
- Used existing owned land resources to create affordable, accessible and sustainable homeownership opportunities (e.g., the Cottages at Greenwood and Greenwood Village).
- Used state grant funds to stabilize communities impacted by foreclosure and expanded affordable homeownership opportunities through acquisition and rehabilitation (e.g., Neighborhood Conservation Initiative).
- Partnered with the Bridges Alliance to acquire and rehabilitate existing units into affordable rental opportunities for families that are, or are at risk of, being homeless.
- Worked with disability service providers to acquire and rehabilitate existing units into affordable rental opportunities for families with disabilities (e.g., HOME Program Community Development Organization).
- Conducted pre-development research to redevelop existing owned communities and land into mixed-income, multi-generational, green homeownership and rental communities (e.g., Columbia Landing and Verona at Oakland Mills).

**d.  Expanded Funding Sources. Pursue additional funding to enable DHCD to continue expanding supplies of affordable housing for low and moderate income households, seniors, and persons with disabilities. (HC, DHCD)**

The following initiatives were undertaken by HC and DHCD during the reporting period:

- Added alternate compliance option to existing inclusionary zoning legislation that generates income to be used to create other affordable housing opportunities.

See Policy 9.2, b.

**e.  Transportation Connections. Consider and include transportation in all planning and renovations. (HC, DHCD)**

The following initiatives were undertaken by HC and DHCD during the reporting period:

- Attended public meetings and contributed to the discussion about transportation needs in both Downtown Columbia and throughout the County.
- Participated as an active member of the Board to Promote Self-Sufficiency in the discussion and action to create affordable car ownership for

low-to-moderate income residents.

- Continued to explore a partnership with Zipcar to provide an affordable and easily accessible transportation option for low-to-moderate income families.
- Engaged the MD Transportation Administration in discussion about expanding and improving existing transportation throughout the region as a member of the Regional Fair Housing Group and the Opportunity Collaborative.

**Policy 9.3    Expand innovative programs to enable existing housing to meet full spectrum housing needs and housing needs of individuals with disabilities.**

**a.    Education and Outreach. Continue DHCD and DCRS efforts to educate home seekers on existing affordable housing programs, Fair Housing law, location efficient mortgage concepts, and mortgage and lending requirements that assist with decision making on home rental or purchase. (HC, DHCD)**

The following initiatives were undertaken by HC and DHCD during the reporting period:

- Contributed to the creation and distribution of the Fair Housing Guide for Rental and Owned Homes brochure.
- Distributed the Affordable Apartments Listing, – details the contact information for all known affordable housing communities in Howard County.
- Distributed the Landlord and Tenant Resource Guide.
- Distributed the Housing Choice Voucher Program Landlord/Owner Handbook.
- Distributed MIHU Program information (flyer, participating rental communities, and homeownership opportunities) and hosted MIHU workshops.
- Distributed of Home Repair Program flyer and pamphlet.
- Hosted Tenant-Landlord Essentials training.
- Hosted First Time Homebuyer classes.
- Hosted Housing Fairs to provide information on buying or renting a home in Howard County through one-on-one interactions with industry professionals and government officials, as well as education sessions.
- Distributed information from the MD Department of Housing and Community Development on foreclosure prevention and home buying, and the MD Insurance Administration about all forms of insurance.
- Participated in County events as a vendor to share information about buying and renting a home in the County (e.g., 50+ Expo, Money Matters Fair, etc.).

**b. Preservation of Existing Units. Evaluate legislation to create a "right of first offer" for the County when rental projects are being converted into condominiums to allow for preservation of affordable units. (HC, DHCD)**

The following initiatives were undertaken by HC and DHCD during the reporting period:

- HC received notifications for potential acquisition of for-sale multi-dwelling rental communities and affordable single-family sales.

- HC contracted with real estate firms to find affordable for-sale properties that can be converted into affordable homeownership and rental opportunities.

**c. Protection during Conversions. Expand existing protections for low income and senior renters and renters with disabilities in buildings undergoing condominium conversions. (DCRS)**

Reporting for this item is anticipated after conclusion of the mid-term period.

**d. Condominium Financing. Evaluate the effects of condominium fee delinquency on the availability of mortgages and home prices to determine an appropriate response. (DHCD)**

HC and DHCD's efforts to evaluate the impact of condominium financing on the local housing market include a history of working with County legislators and the Community Associations Institute to propose legislation to stabilize condominium communities impacted by foreclosure in order to preserve condominiums as a viable housing option and to reduce potential harm to existing homeowners, renters, and potential homebuyers. The FHA made changes to condominium policies which loosened the requirements to buy condos with government insured loans.

**e. Existing Homes. Continue to pursue programs to support use of existing, older homes as another means of addressing affordable housing needs. Facilitate the participation of nonprofits in efforts to promote full-spectrum housing. (DHCD)**

The following initiatives were undertaken by HC and DHCD during the reporting period:

- Worked with disability service providers to acquire and rehabilitate existing units into affordable rental opportunities for families with disabilities (e.g., HOME Program Community Development Organization).

- Used state grant funds to stabilize communities impacted by foreclosure and expand affordable homeownership opportunities through acquisition and rehabilitation (e.g., Neighborhood Conservation Initiative).

- Developed banking relationships to create resources to support community initiatives that preserve and improve existing affordable housing (e.g., RENEW Howard program).

- Worked to preserve affordable housing opportunities through a partnership with the MD Department of Housing and Community Development for launching the new Housing Repair Program, which assists local homeowners with housing repairs through low interest, payment deferred loans.

- Partnered with the Bridges Alliance to acquire and rehabilitate existing units into affordable rental opportunities for families that are, or are at risk of, being homeless.

**Policy 9.4   Expand housing to accommodate the County's senior population who prefer to age in place and people with special needs.**

**a.   Universal Design. Expand partnerships with public, private, and nonprofit organizations to assist senior citizens and residents with special needs by universal design renovations. (DHCD, DCRS)**

DCRS expanded the Loan Closet and the Rebuilding Together program to provide year round service in FY17 and added new resources to Universal Design efforts. These resources will assist older adults and persons with disabilities age in place

The following initiatives were undertaken by HC and DHCD during the reporting period:

- Adopted a home through Rebuilding Together, a program that provides the supplies and labor to make required livability repairs and upgrades.

- Worked to preserve affordable housing opportunities through a partnership with the MD Department of Housing and Community Development to create a new Housing Repair Program, which assists local homeowners with housing repairs through low interest, payment deferred loans.

- Developed banking relationships to create resources to support community initiatives that preserve and improve existing affordable housing through the RENEW Howard Program.

**b.   Promoting Self-Sufficiency. Enhance the development of personal service and home maintenance businesses to promote self-sufficiency for those choosing to age in place. (DCRS)**

DCRS opened an expanded Loan Closet in June 2016, which provides equipment and resources for residents choosing to age in place. This is an ongoing partnership at the Long Reach Village Center with the Way Station, Columbia Rotary Club, and Rebuilding Together of Howard County. The facility loans donated durable medical equipment and assistive devices such as stair glides, electric scooters, and wheelchairs to individuals as on a short and long term basis. Loan Closet staff provides demonstrations for clients on the safe use of equipment.

**c.   Increasing Awareness. Expand outreach to senior citizens and residents with disabilities to increase awareness of existing County, nonprofit, and business services. (DHCD, DCRS)**

HC and DHCD participated in the 50+ Expo and actively contributed to the work of the CoC the Board to Promote Self-Sufficiency (BPSS), and the Association of Community Services (ACS).

The County prioritized housing and transportation, as well as the needs of vulnerable adults in the *Creating an Age Friendly Community Plan*. The Plan provides an interagency forum for multiple agencies to focus on infrastructure issues as well as increasing the awareness of adults of services.

The County collaborated with the Village in Howard (TVIH), a grassroots organization, to enroll individuals over the age of 55 to work together to accomplish their aging in place goals. By late FY16, TVIH membership was over 100. As part of a national network, this nonprofit organization is the latest effort for individuals to work in a coordinated way to learn about what they can do, using existing resources including their own, to remain a participating member of the community as they age.

**d.   Transportation and Transit. Incorporate transportation options.**

In 2016, the Office on Aging selected 50+ Centers that provide access to free and reduced price tickets to eligible adults and began selling RTA tickets.

DCRS provided operational funding for Neighbor Ride, a Howard County nonprofit organization that provides rides through volunteers to persons over age 60. This organization is funded through the DCRS Community Service Partnership Program.  In FY17, Neighbor Ride increased its software capability to begin expanding its capacity. This action is in connection with the *Creating an Age Friendly Community Plan* priorities.

**Policy 9.5   Support the efforts of County agencies, nonprofits, and other organizations to prevent temporary and chronic homelessness.**

**a.   Partnering. Continue to partner with public, private, and nonprofit organizations on key actions to implement the *Plan to End Homelessness*. (DHCD, DCRS)**

HC and DHCD'S efforts to partner to end homelessness include active membership on the Board to Promote Self-Sufficiency, which oversees the Coordinated System of Homeless Services and its committees. Participation in committee work yielded the following:

- Housing Subcommittee: Researched the creation of a home sharing program. Program development is being explored.
- Landlord Subcommittee: Explored how to recruit landlords in order to expand housing opportunities.

The following initiatives were undertaken by HC and DHCD during the reporting period:

- Integrated a Mini Multi-Service Center into the 2015 Come Home to Howard County Housing Fair to promote available housing stability services and other community resources.

- Participated on the Reentry Coordinating Council which addresses issues such as the housing stability needs of released ex-offenders.

- Assisted in the creation of and providing inaugural operational oversight of the Homeless Subsidy Stability Program for low-income residents that are, or are at risk of, being chronically homeless.

- Acquired the property and acts as the project lead for Leola Dorsey Community Resource Center, which will create 35 small efficiency apartments and a new co-located Day Resource Center.

- Established a priority in the *Housing Choice Voucher Program Administrative Plan* to prioritize a limited number of housing choice vouchers for homeless residents (as identified by homeless service providers), when funding is available.

- Partnered with the Bridges Alliance to acquire and rehabilitate existing units into affordable rental opportunities for families that are, or are at risk of, being homeless.

- Awarded the Community Action Council (CAC) with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) federal funding to provide housing stability services to income-eligible Howard County residents.

The following initiatives were undertaken by DCRS during the reporting period:

- Awarded two planning grants in FY15 and 16 through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care competition. These funds will be used toward the update of the County's *Plan to End Homelessness*, which will include a data-driven and measurable plan to eradicate and prevent homelessness in Howard County. The process will involve a broad array of partners, including County departments, nonprofits, homeless persons, landlords, and for-profit entities.

- Worked with the Coordinated System of Homeless Services (CSHS) and their 16+ partners to coordinate efforts and resources to end homelessness in the County. The Homeless Management Information System links partners in the System, promoting coordination to serve clients effectively and informing resource allocation through data collection at each stage. The CSHS continues to work with other County departments and non-profit agencies to increase its capacity. One of the newest partners added to CSHS in FY16 is the Department of Corrections' Re-Entry program, which seeks to end and prevent homelessness among ex-offenders.

- Provided executive and managerial staff support to the Board to Promote Self-Sufficiency, which is also the CoC Board. A CoC and CSHS update is provided at each BPSS meeting to keep all members apprised of the Continuum's progress in meeting the goals of the *2010 Plan to End Homelessness*.

- Worked actively with the Department of Corrections' Reentry program in FY16 to incorporate their services into the Continuum of Care as an established entry point into CSHS. They also became a funded-partner with the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Rapid Rehousing Program. Throughout FY15 and 16, the Department of Corrections has been an active participant in CoC Steering Group meetings, workgroups, Point in Time counts, and Code Blue events during the winter time.

- As the recipient agency and collaborative applicant for the CoC, DCRS identified a new sub-recipient of the CoC funds for the Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) for Persons with Disabilities funds in FY15. Humanim, Inc. was awarded funding in FY15, and began operating in summer 2016.

- Designed and began construction on DCRS Leola Dorsey Community Resource Center which will provide 35 single efficiency apartments for chronically homeless persons in Howard County, and a new Day Resource Center on the ground floor. Volunteers of America of the Chesapeake, Inc. will operate the apartments and service delivery.

**b. Annual Review. Charge the Board to Promote Self-Sufficiency (BPSS) to annually review the *Plan to End Homelessness* and make recommendations for funding and implementation of targeted initiatives. (DHCD)**

DCRS and DHCD are active members of the BPSS and subcommittees, working to create affordable housing opportunities and landlord recruitment.

**c. Housing Needs. Partner with DHCD, DCRS, and others to address the transitional housing needs of homeless individuals and families challenged by chronic disabilities, health, mental health, and substance abuse. (DCRS, DHCD)**

The following initiatives were undertaken by HC and DHCD during the reporting period:

- Participated on the Reentry Coordinating Council, which addresses issues such as the housing stability needs of released ex-offenders and working with the Department of Corrections to create housing options.

- Worked with the Department of Social Services to create housing options for youth that age out of foster care and are at risk of homelessness.

- Assisted in creating and providing inaugural operational oversight of the Homeless Subsidy Stability Program for low-income residents that are or at risk of being chronically homeless.

- Acquired the property and acting as the project lead for Leola Dorsey Community Resource Center which will create 35 small efficiency apartments and a new co-located Day Resource Center.

- Established a priority in the *Housing Choice Voucher Program Administrative Plan* to prioritize a limited number of housing choice vouchers for homeless residents (as identified by homeless service providers), when funding is available.

- Partnered with the Bridges Alliance to acquire and rehabilitate existing units into affordable rental opportunities for families that are or at risk of being homeless.

- Awarded the Community Action Council (CAC) with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) federal funding to provide housing stability services to income-eligible Howard County residents.

- Administered subsidy programs that target at risk populations: Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) vouchers funded by Baltimore City and Non-Elderly Persons with Disability (NEPD) vouchers.

- Conveyed the Rental Assistance Program (partial, temporary emergency rental assistance program funded by the MD Department of Housing and Community Development) to the Community Action Council and supplemented the program with Howard County Housing Commission funds to expand the number of families that can be assisted.

- Awarded federal grant funds to Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center for leasing and utility expenses associated with the Day Resource Center (DRC). DRC provides critical social and support services to both sheltered and unsheltered homeless. The program anticipates serving approximately 100 individuals with this funding.

- Awarded Living in Recovery federal grant funds to acquire one property in Howard County that will house up to 8 individuals with disabilities who are struggling with addictions in a group home setting. The residents will receive peer support services with an emphasis on personal accountability.

- Awarded federal grant funds to IHomes, Inc., a Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO), to acquire two condominium units that will house four adults with severe disabilities.

- Awarded Help End Homelessness Howard County (HEH) federal grant funds for the acquisition and rehabilitation of a single family unit which will house a homeless Howard County family.

- HC administered HOPWA vouchers funded by Baltimore City and the HCHD refers families to be screened for eligibility. $228,337.00 was awarded in FY14 and $233,886 for FY15.

See Policy 9.5, a.

The County continued funding for homelessness programs in FY15 and 16. The County supported the needs of homeless individuals and families who may be chronically homeless, have a diagnosed disability, mental health diagnosis, or substance abuse needs. The following DCRS and DHCD initiatives were undertaken during the review period:

- DCRS was awarded two Planning grants from HUD to update the *Plan to End Homelessness* through the CoC program. These funds procured a contractor to assist in the update of the Plan which will identify measures and resources needed to address the housing needs of those experiencing homeless in the County.

- DCRS identified a new Subrecipient for the Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) for Persons with Disabilities funds in FY15. Humanim, Inc. was awarded the programs in FY15, and began operating in early FY16.

- DHCD provided 16 rental subsidies to eligible Howard County households through the Housing Stability Subsidy Program (HSSP),

- Began construction in fall 2016 on the Leola Dorsey Community Resource Center, which will create 35 efficiency apartments with a co-located Day Resource Center.

- Awarded CDBG funding ($47,000) to the Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center for leasing and utility expenses associated with the Day Center. The center provides critical social and support services to both sheltered and unsheltered homeless. The program will serve approximately 100 individuals with this funding

- Acquired foreclosed and older homes for use as affordable rental housing in partnership with the Bridges Alliance.

- Awarded HOME funds ($100,000.00) to Living in Recovery to acquire one property in Howard County that will house up to eight individuals with disabilities in a group home setting. Living in Recovery will use the funding to provide decent, safe affordable housing that is drug and alcohol free with peer support and personal accountability.

- Awarded $171,000.00 in HOME Program funding to IHomes, Inc., a Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO), to acquire two condo units to provide housing for four adults with severe disabilities.

- Awarded $100,000 in CDBG funds to Help End Homelessness Howard County (HEH) for acquisition and rehab of a single-family unit which will house a homeless Howard County family.

- Collaborated with the Department of Social Services to provide needed transitional housing and supportive services for young adults who have aged out of foster care and are in jeopardy of homelessness.

- Collaborated with the Department of Corrections to provide needed transitional housing and supportive services for ex-offenders in jeopardy of homelessness.

**Policy 9.6  Promote design innovation for all housing types, utilizing cost-effective sustainability principles, to meet the housing and transportation needs of the County's diverse households.**

**a.  Universal Design Options. Promote the creation of additional housing developments with universal design features by incentivizing innovative and replicable design and building practices through the use of expedited review and permitting, density bonuses, property tax credits, fee reductions, grants, revolving loans, or marketing assistance as well as the creative use of mixed income developments. (HC, DHCD)**

HC and DHCD contributed to the promotion of universal design in projects such as Monarch Mills, Ellicott Gardens, Burgess Mill Station, the Cottages of Greenwood and the Roger Carter Community Center. The Day Resource Center is projected to qualify for LEED certification.

**b.  Recognize Innovations. Continue to recognize and highlight design innovation in high quality, cost-effective, sustainable, mixed income and multigenerational housing. (HC, DHCD)**

HC and DHCD promoted design innovation in their most recent projects: Monarch Mills, Ellicott Gardens, Burgess Mill Station, the Cottages of Greenwood and the Roger Carter Community Center. In the future, the Leola Dorsey, Day Resource Center, Burgess Mill Station 2 and Cottages at Greenwood 2 are projected to qualify for LEED certification. Additionally, structural and energy efficient renovations have been performed at existing communities including Morningside Park, Orchard Crossing and a variety of scattered site properties.

**c.  Design Review. Include innovative affordable housing concepts and guidelines in the documents used by the Design Advisory Panel in its review of projects. (DPZ)**

Reporting for this item is anticipated after conclusion of the mid-term period.

**d.  Healthy Housing. Identify policies that promote affordable, safe, and healthy housing for residents. (DHCD)**

The following initiatives were undertaken by HC and DHCD during the reporting period:

- Completed smoke free survey at two communities (Ellicott Terrace and Harper's Choice) with assistance from the Health Department.
- Performed criminal background checks prior to approving rental assistance and consulted with the police as needed.
- Created mixed-income communities to guarantee the availability of affordable units, while ensuring community financial viability.
- Used permanently affordable covenants on homeownership opportunities to ensure a growing, rotating homeownership portfolio.
- Reviewed the MIHU program to in order to develop penalties for noncompliance and continued to enforce existing compliance rules.

**Chapter 10 –** *Community Design*

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| **Policy 10.1 Protect and enhance established communities through compatible infill, sustainability improvements, and strategic public infrastructure investments.** |

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| **a.   Infrastructure Maintenance. Identify and set priorities for aging infrastructure that requires maintenance or replacement. (DPW)** |

Infrastructure maintenance and replacement is monitored and planned for by DPW on an annual basis through the *Capital Improvement Master Plan* (CIMP).

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| **b.   Infrastructure Gaps. Expand existing infrastructure for older communities that were constructed under prior regulations, so these communities could benefit from additional improvements such as storm drains and sidewalks. Enhance connectivity in accordance with Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plans. (DPZ, OT)** |

The CIMP is evaluated on an annual basis to assess and prioritize community infrastructure needs. FY17 Capital Budget priorities included maintenance of infrastructure and transportation in support of agency planning including the following OT initiatives:

- The Bicycle Master Plan, *BikeHoward*: Adopted by the County Council in 2016
- The Howard County Pedestrian Master Plan, *WalkHoward*: Expected to be complete in 2017

Other transportation projects include: K5061 Pedestrian Plan Projects and K5066 Bicycle Plan Projects. Storm infrastructure improvements are included in the D1124 Drainage Improvement Program.

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| **c.   Environmental Enhancement. Expand environmental remediation to address storm water management, stream bank erosion, and buffer conservation. (OCS)** |

The READY Program has brought increased stormwater management education to schools, HOAs, and places of worship. The program has also performed routine maintenance of the Tiber-Hudson stream channel using volunteers to address stream blockages in areas where increased stream bank erosion may threaten public and private properties during larger rain events.

The Office of Law created Work Permit and Right of Entry agreements in 2015 with the READY program, which will allow READY to perform maintenance on an array of DPW and DRP environmental enhancement efforts, including forest mitigation sites, forest conservation areas, stream restoration projects, and others.

**d. Flexible Infill. Consider zoning modifications that would provide more flexibility in order to allow limited, compatible infill that enhances an existing community. (DPZ)**

County ordinances and regulations provide guidance on infill land compatibility to existing community, which include:

- *Subdivision and Land Development Regulations* Section 16.127 addresses residential infill projects to create compatibility with existing neighborhoods through design standards such as residential unit types, house sizes, enhanced landscape buffering, increased setbacks, protection of historic structures and settings, use of berms, and walls or fences to protect privacy.

- The 2013 Comprehensive Zoning process addressed residential neighborhood infill by limiting the reduction of R-20 and R-12 residential zoning district lot sizes to achieve compatibility with existing communities.

- CB36-2012 created a new Community Enhancement Floating (CEF) zoning district to allow for creative and innovative infill development that provides community benefits.

**Policy 10.2 Focus growth in Downtown Columbia, Route 1 and Route 40 Corridors, and some Columbia Village Centers, as well as some older commercial or industrial areas which have redevelopment potential.**

**a. Monitor Redevelopment. Monitor and, as needed, refine the redevelopment goals and strategies for Route 1, Route 40, Downtown, and Columbia Village Centers. (DPZ)**

Reporting for this item is anticipated after conclusion of the mid-term period.

**b. Other Opportunities. Identify other older commercial or industrial areas such as the Snowden River Parkway area that are expected to have redevelopment potential by 2030. Determine redevelopment goals and implementing actions. (DPZ)**

Reporting for this item is anticipated after conclusion of the mid-term period.

**c. Comprehensive Review of NT Zoning. Revise the NT Zoning Regulations to provide clear criteria for redevelopment of older residential, commercial, or industrial areas outside of Downtown Columbia or the Village Centers. (DPZ)**

DPZ, in collaboration with CA and HCEDA, completed the *Columbia Market Study* in 2014, which initiated a comprehensive review of Columbia's villages. In 2015, the County Council held a series of Village Board listening sessions on New Town zoning. A review of the County's *Zoning Regulations* is anticipated in 2017 and will include the New Town district.

**d. Incentives and Tools. Identify redevelopment tools that may be of assistance in Howard County, such as incentives to maintain and renovate vacant or obsolete commercial properties. (DPZ)**

The County Council adopted CB9-2014, establishing the Route 1 Commercial Property Tax Credit Program. The program is administered by DPZ, Department of Finance and HCEDA. As of 2016, three properties had applied for the program. One property was approved and two are completing the approval process.

**e. Leveraging Investment. Prioritize and leverage public and private investment to achieve revitalization goals. (DPZ)**

The County used Tax Increment Financing (TIF) to leverage public and private investment in the Annapolis Junction Town Center development. TIF also funded improvements to the Savage MARC station and parking garage. Private development includes residential, office, retail and hotel uses. Construction was initiated in 2014. The first phase of development was completed in 2015 with future phases continuing through 2017. TIF legislation was also adopted to support the Downtown Columbia revitalization.

**Policy 10.3 Enhance the County's existing high quality of life and sustainability through community-based planning and design for both Existing Communities and areas designated for Growth and Revitalization.**

**a. Community Planning. Expand the range and scope of community planning to identify facilities, services, transportation options, environmental enhancements, arts and cultural opportunities, or other amenities that would create more complete communities and reflect community diversity. (DPZ)**

Smaller, community-based planning initiatives have been completed in Long Reach and Oakland Mills Villages in Columbia, the commercial crossroads areas in conjunction with BR and BRX zoning in the West, the main street in Ellicott City, and both Laurel and Savage. A more comprehensive study of Ellicott City and the Route 1 Corridor is anticipated in 2017.

**b. Sustainable Communities Program. Utilize community plans to guide public and private investment strategies and regulatory change. Seek State designation as Sustainable Communities, if State programs would be helpful. (DPZ)**

Reporting for this item is anticipated after conclusion of the mid-term period.

**c.   Healthy Communities. Identify priority health issues that can be addressed through community design and consider health in the design and implementation of community planning efforts. (DPZ, OCS)**

Reporting for this item is anticipated after conclusion of the mid-term period.

**d.   New Tools. Develop additional zoning and finance tools to continue to promote and expand complete communities and context sensitive design solutions. (DPZ)**

Reporting for this item is anticipated after conclusion of the mid-term period.

**e.   Review Process. Review and update County development regulations to address changes in demographics and markets and to improve design quality. (DPZ)**

County Council adopted CB32-2013, which completed the Comprehensive Zoning legislative process in 2013. A review of the County's zoning code is anticipated in 2017.

**Policy 10.4 Review and update all County development regulations to respond to County General Plan development goals and changing market conditions, and to improve the efficiency of the County's review process.**

**a.   Zoning Regulation Review. Develop Zoning Regulations that better address infill and redevelopment goals and issues. (DPZ)**

DPZ assisted in the drafting CB15-2016, which amended the *Subdivision and Land Development Regulations* pertaining to residential infill developments with respect to compatibility, unit types, landscaping, interconnectivity and privacy. In 2015, DPZ recommended revisions to ZRA 159 that addressed the redevelopment of vehicle fueling stations.

**b.   Streamlining Processes. Amend development regulations and manuals to streamline the review process to the maximum extent possible. (DLD, ZAD)**

DPZ's land development plan review processes contains the following process to streamline and expedite projects:

- A "Fast Track Process" for plan review of non-residential economic development projects that includes a two week review cycle by the Subdivision Review Committee (SRC) agencies and a two week revised plan turnaround.

- An "Expedited Plan Review" process for projects that do not qualify for the fast track process. The expedited process has a three week review cycle and revised plan turnaround.

- An "Originals Only" process for approving revisions to a recorded final plat. This process allows property owners or developers to process revision plats in a few weeks from start (plan submission) to finish (plat recording in the Land Records Office).

- A "Red-Line Revision" process to allow revisions to approved site development plans, approved water and sewer construction drawings and approved road construction drawings. This process is also an expedited plan review process that can generally be accomplished within three to four weeks.

c. **Updated Conditional Use Regulations. Review and, as appropriate, amend the County's conditional use regulations to reflect updated land use policies. The regulations should reflect current best practices and policies to minimize the impact of development on the environment. For example, the regulations regarding gasoline service stations need to reflect changes in the gasoline industry in the last decade and the challenges of blight and environmental mitigation required for redevelopment of abandoned gasoline stations. (DPZ)**

DPZ supports amending conditional use regulations to reflect current land use policy. In 2015, DPZ recommended approval of ZRA 159, which incorporated various recommendations made by the Fueling Station Task Force regarding additional Conditional Use criteria related to gasoline stations. In 2016, DPZ recommended approval of ZRA 164, which proposed a requirement that the Agricultural Preservation Board review conditional use petitions for Commercial Solar Facilities on Agricultural Preservation Easements.

**Policy 10.5 Adjust County funding programs to reflect community investment needs and partnership opportunities.**

a. **Community Plans. Refine the County's capital budget process using place types, geographic planning areas, and priorities established by community-based plans. (DPZ)**

The County's Capital Budget currently identifies projects based on larger geographic areas. These include Columbia, Elkridge, Ellicott City, North Laurel, Savage and the West. Since the adoption of *PlanHoward 2030*, DPZ has initiated community-based plans for various village centers in Columbia, crossroad areas in the West, the main street core in Ellicott City and both Laurel and Savage. Smaller planning areas and their integration into the budget process will continue to be evaluated.

> **b. Sustainable Communities. Seek State support through its Sustainable Communities program by developing action plans for identified areas and convening community work groups to guide planning and implementation. (DPZ)**

DPZ partnered with County agencies, non-profits, schools, and community stakeholders on Sustainable Communities designations. Ellicott City was approved as a Sustainable Community in 2012. North Laurel-Savage was approved in 2014 and Long Reach in 2016.:The following projects were awarded grants during the reporting period:

- Ellicott City Streetscape Project: Awarded $100,000 in Community Legacy Funding (2014)
- North Laurel Connections Project: Awarded $40,000 BY Maryland Bikeways (2014)
- Ellicott City Façade Improvement Program: Awarded $50,000 in Community Legacy Funding (2015)
- Carol Baldwin Hall Electrical Project (Savage): Awarded Community Legacy Funding in (2010) and used the remaining funding for exterior electrical work

**Policy 10.6 Improve the competitiveness and design of commercial areas.**

> **a. No Extension of Commercial Strips. Reaffirm the policy of past General Plans to not extend strip commercial development into residential areas along major roads beyond their present limits or allow new areas of strip centers on these roads unless there are adjacent strip centers on both sides. (DPZ)**

DPZ has not recommended approval of any Zoning Map amendments that would extend strip commercial development into residential areas since the 2013 Comprehensive Zoning was approved.

> **b. Older Commercial Properties. Promote renovation or redevelopment of older commercial centers, particularly those showing indications of decline. Develop strategies to encourage older commercial centers to become stronger community focal points through design improvements and renovation. (DPZ)**

Reporting for this item is anticipated after conclusion of the mid-term period.

**c. Building Design. Adopt standards that require commercial structures to be in scale with adjacent residences and to enhance design by articulating facades and roof lines. Require all façades that are visible from surrounding roads or properties to be similar to the front façade. Prohibit the use of blank rear or side walls in visible locations. (DPZ)**

Reporting for this item is anticipated after conclusion of the mid-term period.

**d. Parking Design. Discourage large parking lots in locations that dominate the public image of the site along main roads. Increase the requirements for internal parking lot landscaping to visually break up large lots, provide more shade, and improve the pedestrian environment. (DPZ)**

DPZ provided appropriate parking lot design and landscaping comments during site plan review processes. In 2016, DPZ recommended a revision to the TOD District that eliminated barriers for structured parking. DAP provided a review of parking lot design and landscaping for over 30 projects during the reporting period.

**e. Pedestrian Improvements. Install sidewalks along roads that provide access to commercial centers and connect store entrances to street crossings and transit stops for increased pedestrian safety and convenience. Consider the needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities in locating transit stops to offer greater accessibility. Adopt standards that encourage provision of pedestrian-scale spaces, such as landscaped plazas and sitting areas. (DPZ)**

The County's *Subdivision and Land Development Regulations* require pedestrian connectivity and the installation of sidewalks along County and State roads in front of commercial centers. The regulations require pedestrian improvement to connect to transit stops, crosswalks, commercial areas and other destinations. Section 16.134, Sidewalks and Walkways, requires sidewalks in nonresidential subdivisions on one or both sides of the street in front of a development project to serve anticipated pedestrian traffic, to provide access to transit stops, or to make connections to surrounding land uses.

County *Zoning Regulations*, the Route 1 and Route 40 Design Manuals, and the Clarksville Pike Streetscape Plan and Design Guidelines require design consideration for pedestrian walkway and connectivity.

**f. Sign Code. Review the County Sign Code for possible revisions to commercial signs. (DPZ, DILP)**

Reporting for this item is anticipated after conclusion of the long-term period.

**g. Design Advisory Panel. Explore an expanded role for the Design Advisory Panel (DAP) to include other commercial areas of the County, which, like the Route 1 and Route 40 Corridors, exhibit the need for improved design and would benefit from the adoption of appropriate design manuals or guidelines for the DAP to utilize in its reviews. (DPZ)**

DAP review was incorporated into zoning districts established by the 2013 Comprehensive Zoning (CB32-2013). These included the R-H-ED (Residential: Historic – Environmental), R-APT (Residential: Apartments), CEF (Community Enhancement Floating) and CR (Community Redevelopment) districts. The DAP's review was expanded by adoption of CB51-2015 to include areas within the boundaries of the Clarksville Pike Streetscape and Design Guidelines. As new design guidelines are crafted for various areas, review by the DAP will be proposed for the Council's consideration as a method for policy implementation.

**Policy 10.7 Improve the functioning and design of rural commercial crossroads.**

**a. Commercial Crossroads Plans. Identify and prioritize areas in the West that would benefit from planning activities that assess business and community needs and determine strategies to support the economic function and design of rural commercial crossroads. (DPZ)**

At the request of the County Council, DPZ conducted workshops in the spring of 2016 in the crossroads communities of Highland, Lisbon, Glenwood, and Dayton to gain citizen input on the BR (Business Rural) and BRX (Business Rural Crossroads) zoning districts. DPZ analyzed all of the information provided at the meetings and during the public comment period and formulated recommendations regarding the appropriate zoning in these rural commercial crossroads. DPZ provided recommendations to the County Council for their consideration.

**SECTION V – ACTION!**

**Chapter 11** – *Implementation*

**Policy 11.1 Monitor progress in implementing PlanHoward 2030 policies and actions.**

**a. *PlanHoward 2030* Monitoring Report. Publish the reports required by Policy 2.1. Present the reports to the Planning Board and the County Council in public meetings for their recommendations and public comment. (DPZ)**

The *Short-Term Monitoring Report* was completed in 2016 and distributed to both the Planning Board and County Council as an informational update of *PlanHoward 2030*'s implementation. Public meetings with both bodies are anticipated after conclusion of the mid-term period. For the 2016 Report, DPZ engaged a broad range of community stakeholders, which included individuals which agencies coordinate or interact with through services. DPZ provided stakeholder feedback to agencies for their consideration. The monitoring process will continue to engage community stakeholders in subsequent review phases.

| b. **State-Required Indicators. Include General Plan related, State-required indicators in the annual Development Monitoring System report.** |
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| In 2009, state reporting requirements on the County's development were enacted with the passage of Smart, Green and Growing legislation. DPZ incorporated the State's reporting measures into its Development Monitoring System (DMS). The DMS is updated on an annual basis as part of the Adequate Public Facilities (APF) monitoring process. More information on reporting measures is available on the County's website. |

**Chapter 12** – *Stewardship*

| **Policy 12.1 Howard County Government will continue to lead by example as a good steward of the shared resources within the community and the region.** |
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| a. **Regional Collaboration. Monitor regional efforts to conserve or restore environmental quality (i.e. air, land, water), while expanding all efforts to protect water and air quality and natural resources. Participate in regional efforts to promote methods of transportation that preserve and protect the environment. (OCS, DPZ)** |
| OCS participated in, and coordinated with, numerous regional groups that deal with monitoring and sustainability efforts, including Baltimore Urban Waters Program, Maryland Water Monitoring Council, Baltimore Metropolitan Council, Maryland Municipal Stormwater Association, Hopkins Center for a Livable Future, University of Maryland, SeaGrant, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Chesapeake Bay Trust, Farm Bureau, Horizon Foundation, Economic Development Authority, HCC, Patapsco Heritage Greenway, Northeast Waste Disposal Authority, MWCOG, Greater Baltimore Wilderness Coalition, and others. |
| b. **Continuous Innovation. Implement new strategies for improving the efficiency and sustainability of County services provided to the community. (OCS)** |
| OCS worked to install electric vehicle charging stations at several County buildings in 2014. There are currently two charging stations at Ridge Road, two in Cooksville, four at the Howard Building, five at the Dorsey Building, one at the old Courthouse, and one at the Ascend One Building. With the exception of the stations at Ridge Road and Cooksville, the stations are publicly accessible at no charge.<br><br>The County created a new CleanWaterHoward.com website to inform the public about the Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee and how the funds are spent. |

**c.  New Opportunities. Identify additional solutions to assist County businesses and residents in implementing new, more sustainable technologies. (OCS)**

OCS collaborated with other County Departments to pilot many stormwater and energy programs and projects, and shared the data and information with businesses and residents. OCS administered credit and reimbursement programs for new stormwater facilities installed on commercial and residential properties. Informational resources and tools for residents and businesses are available on both Livegreenhoward.com and Cleanwaterhoward.com websites.

**d.  Reducing GHGs. Continue to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through an expanding focus on energy, mass transit, bicycle, and pedestrian initiatives. (OCS)**

The County updated the *Climate Action Plan* with recommendations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The second phase of the County's energy performance contract (EPC) is nearing completion, which now covers the entire portfolio of County facilities. The first phase of the EPC covered seven buildings and resulted in an approximate 15 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. It is anticipated that the second phase will represent a significant decrease in greenhouse gas emissions as well.

**e.  Enhanced Recycling. Continue to look for additional ways to increase donation, recycling, and food waste collections to expand the County's progress in these areas. (OCS)**

OCS partnered with DPW to explore and implement new recycling efforts and improve the efficiency of current efforts.

**f.  Commercial Options. Consider reexamination of business recycling as an option for business and apartments in Howard County, if found to be cost-effective and efficient. (OCS)**

Reporting for this item is anticipated after conclusion of the mid-term period.

**g.  Fiscal Responsibility. Continue to respect taxpayers' contributions by using public funds efficiently and effectively. (OCS, OF)**

OCS managed the Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee money and ensured that it was spent in the most effective manner. OCS reviewed and incorporated findings from the Chesapeake Bay Program expert research panels and the Chesapeake Stormwater Network on best management practices. OCS utilized and explored innovative strategies for awarding design, build, and maintenance contracts and public/private partnerships based on the amount of stormwater treated. OCS reported annually on Fee spending and projects to the County Council and the public on the website.

**Policy 12.2 Engage all members of the County's socially and economically diverse community and highlight stewardship goals specific to the unique situations of each audience and community group.**

**a.  Multicultural Outreach. Continue to provide targeted outreach to minority populations, as well as multilingual outreach materials and approaches. (OCS)**

The County provided translation for navigational information on the LiveGreenHoward.com website for nearly 120 languages; helping non-native English speakers navigate the website. Posters for GreenFest, the County's biggest Earth Day celebration, are provided at community centers and parks to market the event. Howard County's Roving Radish program offers prepared meal kits at a subsidized rate. The program selects drop-off locations which targets a diverse population and accommodates those with transportation limitations.

**b.  Cross-Jurisdictional Outreach. Increase partnering efforts with public, private, and nonprofit communities to expand and coordinate all messages regarding sustainability efforts with a focus on outreach to immediately adjacent, neighboring jurisdictions. (OCS, DPZ)**

OCS and DPZ coordinated with the Greater Baltimore Wilderness Coalition, a focus group within the Conservation Fund, to keep partners abreast of their progress, challenges, methods and scope of work. This group coordinates and connects management activities to build cooperative projects and synergies. DPZ provided the Coalition with Green Infrastructure Network data. Additionally, OCS and DPZ attended Coalition meetings and presentations to learn how local jurisdictions can contribute.

**c.  Expanded Programming. Expand on current offerings and programs to provide more sustainability workshops and speaker series for individuals, businesses, and nonprofits. (OCS)**

OCS supported the efforts of groups such as the Legacy Leadership Environmental Institute, the Watershed Stewards Academy, Master Gardeners, and the Restoring the Environment and Developing Youth (READY) program by providing lessons to participants in their various education programs each year. READY is a summer jobs program in which youth are paid to install rain gardens and conservation landscaping throughout the County to help control storm water runoff from impervious surfaces such as driveways, parking lots and sidewalks. The program is funded through a grant from the

Howard County government and run by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay.

OCS assisted with the County's Farm Academy program, an educational program to help promote communication and understanding between various stakeholders in the County's rural west.

OCS presented educational information to the public on the benefits of stormwater management and the County's CleanScapes program over 60 times during the review period. OCS also visited private, commercial, and nonprofit sites to consult on the practical strategies to manage multiple environmental stressors on their properties, including invasive species and stormwater control.

OCS reached out to new commercial and nonprofit groups on an annual basis prior to GreenFest to provide a different sampling of environmental education opportunities for the workshops at this event. This event provides a plethora of educational opportunities to Howard County as well as to the greater Baltimore-Washington Metropolitan Area.

> **d. Youth Leaders. Continue to create public and private opportunities for young people to engage in sustainability efforts.**

The County's READY program encourages participants to become leaders within the program by taking on additional responsibilities from year to year. The Environmental Sustainability Board (ESB) has a HCPSS student representative each year who coordinates with OCS to promote various environmental initiatives currently being addressed by HCPSS green groups. The student representative is usually a member of the Howard County Association of Student Council, but the position on the ESB, and coordination with OCS, encourages the individual to develop their leadership skills by communicating between the HCPSS, County Government, and the ESB. OCS regularly accepts unpaid interns and GT mentees, often high school students, who are then given a chance to learn and engage in a multitude of environmental initiatives.

**Policy 12.3 Increase currently successful, collaborative efforts between residents, businesses, nonprofit groups, and the County to continue implementing state-of-the art, cost-effective, sustainability practices and techniques.**

> **a. Networking. Expand networking and resource sharing for businesses and nonprofits, such as expanding networking opportunities at GreenFest, through the Green Business Council, and via the Office of Environmental Sustainability. (OCS)**

OCS provided networking opportunities while reaching out to a variety of businesses and nonprofits to participate in its annual event. GreenFest's theme changes yearly and the planning committee seek different sectors of the business and nonprofit community to be vendors or presenters at GreenFest so that different parts of the community are represented each year.

OCS coordinated with the Howard County Environmental Sustainability Board to make connections between businesses and nonprofits.

OCS collaborated with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay to administer the County-funded READY program. This program encourages its applicant pool to seek employment with local businesses looking for semi-skilled laborers.

Policy 12.3 a mentions the Green Business Council. The Council has been merged with the Maryland Center for Entrepreneurship.

See Policy 3.9 c.

**b. Demonstration Projects. Increase demonstration sites and provide tours throughout the County of various techniques for living more sustainably, such as rain water reuse, alternative energy, and protection of natural resources and habitat areas.**

OCS provided signage for READY projects to identify all raingardens as demonstration projects. READY rain gardens also use the HoCoGro compost sign, which advertises a sustainable product available to County citizens at an affordable rate. Howard County's redeveloped Savage Library is a model demonstration site for sustainability techniques.

**c. Public Education Resources. Expand work with schools and educational centers to incorporate case studies and demonstration projects into curricula and lessons.**

Organized by OCS, READY Program participants maintain gardens at HCPSS schools and used the sites as tools for education with HCPSS classes. Students were involved in the majority of tree plantings organized by OCS. During the reporting period, READY has completed the following HCPSS initiatives:

- Partnered with stakeholders to address maintenance of the River Hill High School demonstration rain garden
- Provided Maple Lawn Elementary School with large-size printout maps for use in watershed planning lessons.

See Policy 3.5, a.

**d. Ongoing Advancement. Revise regulations, such as Green Building Legislation, and implement new cost-effective requirements in order to maintain cutting-edge sustainability standards**

Reporting for this item is anticipated after conclusion of the mid-term period.