

DEB'S DISTRICT UPDATE

Deb Jung • District Four

Greetings and happy spring! It appears we are finally turning the corner with this pandemic and allowing a full reopening of our county. Howard County residents have done a great job of getting those eligible vaccinated and we now have the best in state statistics.

Positivity rate 1.2% • 58% fully vaccinated • 73% at least one vaccination

The council is now reviewing the County Executive's FY2022 Budget and have introduced amendments. My priorities continue to be our schools, the County's infrastructure, and the well-being of all residents. I have introduced two amendments to transfer money to the school systemics budget to protect the health of students and staff through updated ventilation systems and renovations at overcrowded schools. Many schools are aging and are in need of new roofs, chillers, and other multi-million-dollar repairs and updates. The County should prioritize these requests so that our school buildings remain in good repair, saving our taxpayers the cost of school replacements.

I filed an additional amendment that would transfer $2.5 million from the County's operating budget to the HCPSS budget to help meet our instructional needs and provide critical funding for guidance counselors, special education assistance, and dyslexia reading programs.

Finally, I filed an amendment to put the present plans for the North Columbia Fire Station on hold until a better location can be found for the station. The residents of the surrounding communities overwhelmingly opposed the planned location in front of Cedar Lane Park East on Route 108, due to safety concerns, increased noise and traffic from proposed park enhancements, and the loss of valued park space. The community's stellar advocacy efforts enabled me to secure the support from two other Councilmembers to relocate the fire station in a more suitable and safer location.

The budget will be voted upon on May 26, completing our months-long process of reviewing and fine tuning the County's budget. The discussions about opening the George Howard building are proceeding and it appears that we will soon be able to invite the public back into our offices. I look forward to the day when we can all see each other again in person.

Deb

County Council Updates

APRIL-MAY LEGISLATION

The Council finished consideration of two tabled bills (CB17 and CB23) and introduced the Budget legislation at the May 3 session.

CB17 Solar Collectors & Commercial Solar Facilities Allows rooftop solar collectors in almost all zoning districts as a matter of right; ground mount collectors in residential districts as accessory use; commercial solar on agricultural land, including agricultural preservation land, as a conditional use. *Passed as Amended*

The majority of the debate dealt with commercial solar facilities on farm land, especially those whose development rights were sold to the County for the purposes of agricultural preservation. Councilmember David Yungmann sponsored a failed amendment to increase the setbacks of commercial solar facilities from the adjacent property lines and neighboring buildings on agricultural preservation land. A compromise amendment, sponsored by the County Executive, caps commercial facilities on preservation land to up to 34% of the parcel per the Hearing Examiner's review; this amendment passed.

Other successful amendments added requirements for the following:

- areas located under commercial solar ground mount collectors must be used for native plantings, grazing, or other ecological purposes
- glare studies for commercial facilities
- equipment removal after six months of disuse
- reduction of ground mount collectors in residential districts to 2% of the lot.

CB23 Aging-in-Place Tax Credit Expands qualification to 35 years in one residence; Deb Jung & Opel Jones; *Passed as Amended*

Councilmember Opel Jones sponsored an amendment to lengthen the phase-in of the credit to five from three years. This amendment failed. He also sponsored an amendment that limited the credit to consecutive years; this amendment passed.

The consecutive years requirement caused concern for me because eligible residents could potentially miss a year of the credit if they missed the reapplication deadline. I have learned from constituents that the reapplication process is onerous and easy to miss if there is an illness or other life events. I inquired with the Department of Finance if the process could be automated so that residents don't lose access to the credit. I sponsored a successful amendment requiring the Department to automatically renew the credit for residents who have already applied and who still qualify.

Council Legislation: Click here.

County Council Updates

MARCH-APRIL LEGISLATION

Councilmember's Legislation

CB19 Agricultural Preservation Subdivision: Removes the minimum size criteria for a landowner's dwelling; David Yungmann; *Failed*

CB20 Gender-Free Bathrooms: Requires single-user bathrooms to be accessible to all; Christiana Rigby; *Passed as Amended*

CB21/ZRA 196 Historic District: Adds commercial uses to Historic Office district; *Withdrawn*

CB22 TOD Moderate Income Units: Requires in-situ MIHU in Transit Oriented Districts; Christiana Rigby; *Passed as Amended*

CB24 ZRA Prohibitions: Prevents consideration of ZRAs one year prior to the General Plan; Liz Walsh. An amendment by Councilmember Christiana Rigby eliminated the ZRA prohibition effectively gutting the bill. The campaign finance requirement was retained and approved. *Passed as Amended*

CR43 Shared Streets: Encourages the County Executive to use public roads for outdoor spaces during the state of Emergency; Liz Walsh; *Passed as Amended*

County Executive's Legislation

CB16 Agricultural Preservation Purchase: Buys development rights from a horse farm on McKendree Road; *Passed as Amended*

CB18 Transit & Pedestrian Advisory Group: Moves this advisory group into the larger Multimodal Transportation Board; *Passed*

Click here for more on the March-April Legislative Session.

UPCOMING COUNCIL SCHEDULE

May 26—10:00am Budget Adoption

May 31 — County Offices Closed

June 7—7pm Legislative Session

June 9—1pm Monthly Meeting

June 14—9:30am Joint Meeting with BOE



Council Legislation: Click here.

While the Council meetings continue to be virtual, we are here for you. Please reach out to us at 410-313-2001 or djung@howardcountymd.gov.



BWI Noise Update

I continue to advocate for lower decibel, less frequent airplane noise generated by airplanes using BWI airport. Unfortunately, Howard County lost its legal challenges against the Federal Aviation Administration. Now my primary objective as the co-chair of the BWI Roundtable's Legislative Committee is to lobby for State and Federal regulations that protect against unhealthy levels of airplane noise in residential areas.

I testified about BWI airport noise during the General Assembly's Budget hearings for the Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA), and I'm pleased to announce that Senator Cory McCray added the following narrative for the MAA in the FY2022 Budget:

"Aircraft Noise Mitigation Report: The budget committees remain interested in efforts that Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA) is taking to mitigate the impact of aircraft noise on the lives on Marylanders. The budget committees request that MAA submit a report detailing these efforts that are being taken to mitigate the impact of aircraft noise on residents. This report should also include information on how expanded cargo aircraft traffic at BWI Marshall Airport will impact the noise levels being experienced by Marylanders in the area. The report shall be provided by July 1, 2021."

I'm also pleased to announce that funding for the BWI health study passed the General Assembly. Click here for more. Many thanks to Howard County State Senators Dr. Clarence Lam and Guy Guzzone for sponsoring this legislation.

Racial Equity Taskforce

The County Council-sponsored Taskforce is divided into six subgroups. Recorded meetings and draft recommendations are available online. Click here for more.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Date & Time	Subgroup
June 8, 4pm	Land Use and Housing Policy
June 16, 6pm	Public Health and Environmental Policy
June 21, 4pm	Legislative Policy

Subscribe to my newsletter here

Fiscal Year 2022 Budget

It is that time of year again, when the County begins its planning and budgeting process for the next fiscal year that begins in July.



CAPITAL & OPERATING BUDGET

- **County Executive's Proposed Budget**
  - **Capital Budget**: Click here.
  - **Operating Budget:** Click here.
- **Spending Affordability Advisory Committee Report:** Click here.
- **HCPSS Budget Request:** Click here.
- **County Council's FY2022 Budget Calendar:** Click here.

Capital Budget Overview

FY22 TOTAL: $274.7 million

FY21 TOTAL: $205.0 million

Sources of Funds

Pay Go (existing money):
FY22: $30.3 million
FY21: $4 million
FY22 represents the largest appropriation of PayGo in the last decade. It is being used for road resurfacing, stormwater projects in Old Ellicott City, and the East Columbia 50+ Center.

GO Bonds (borrowed money):

FY22: $82 million
FY21: $78.7 million
The County Executive proposes FY2022 borrowing for school construction (Hammond High School and High Scholl #13) and HCC Math & Athletics Complex. The Spending Affordability Advisory Committee recommended that FY2022 borrowing should not exceed $50 million.

District 4 Review of the Capital Budget

Here are the major Capital construction projects located in District 4 that received funding this year:

- Harriet Tubman High School Remediation & Restoration
- North Columbia Fire Station
- Math & Athletics Complex, Howard Community College
- New Central Branch Library

CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

The Capital Budget includes funding for infrastructure such as sidewalks, roads, and storm-water management. The following are D4 projects that appeared in the FY2022 Capital Budget and the questions that my staff prepared to the relevant departments for more information.

B3838-FY2006-PINDELL SCHOOL ROAD BRIDGE

Design of the project is continuing and right of way acquisitions are underway. We are coordinating with utility companies for necessary relocations that are

C0322-FY2012 CENTRAL FLEET SYSTEMIC IMPROVEMENTS and FUEL SYSTEM

Q: What is the Banneker Fuel Island at Fire Station 7 scheduled for FY2023?
A: Fire Station 7 is also known as the Banneker Fire Station. The Banneker Fire Station is planned to be redeveloped in the future to include both a Fire Station and housing. Due to delays in that redevelopment project, the replacement of the existing fuel island at the station is now planned for FY23.

D1124-FY2007 DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Q: Can you provide more information about the progress and status of Hyla Brook, Watch Chain Way, and Harriett Tubman stormwater projects?
A: The Hyla Brook affected property owners have agreed to provide the County needed easements but we are awaiting lien releases from their respective mortgage companies which has been very time consuming. The utility conflicts have been addressed and project can be constructed once land acquisition is complete. The Watch Chain Way study has been completed and forwarded to the affected residents. Harriett Tubman was investigated; it was determined the concern stemmed from non-roadway runoff, which we are unable to mitigate.



WATCH CHAIN WAY

D1159-FY2007 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT FACILITY RECONSTRUCTION

Q: Could you provide a list of D4 ponds under the "designed" project status?
A: The 'designed' list includes the following in D4: Beech Creek, Cardinal Forest, Cherrytree Farms (2 ponds), Fairest Dreams, Golden Star (2 ponds), Patuxent Springs, Shadow Lane, Towering Oaks (pond and outfall channel), Velvet Path, Winding Star, Bill Lilly Court, and Hickory Ridge outfall channel.

H2011-FY2013 MICRO SURFACING PROGRAM

Q: Please provide a list all D4 projects for FY22.
A: The County has been utilizing Micro Surfacing treatment on Open Section (without curbs) roadways. We are planning to implement Micro Surfacing on Stansfield Road between Old Scaggsville Road and Harding Road, Old Columbia Road between US 29 and the Park & Ride lot and Jamestown Ct in District4 in FY22.

K5035-FY1998 SCHOOL ROUTE PATHWAYS or SIDEWALKS

Q: There are no D4 schools/paths listed in the Project Status section. Are there any qualifying D4 projects that are farther back in the queue?
A: Since Columbia was a planned community with good sidewalk and pathway connectivity and school sites established mostly within walkable neighborhoods, there is not as much potential for school walk zone expansions in District 4. The collaboration between HCPSS Transportation, DPW and Howard County Office of Transportation will continue to look for potential school zone expansion projects in District 4.

K5066-FY2014 BICYCLE PLAN PROJECTS

Q: Could you provide more information about the Cedar Lane project scheduled for FY22?
A: The project is designed and funded and is in the property acquisition phase. There are 6 properties that still need acquisitions, 4 owned by individuals and 2 owned by HOAs. DPW Real Estate Services is working through these acquisitions.

K5069-BITUMINOUS CURB and GUTTER REPLACEMENT PROGRAMS

Q: Can you provide a list of D4 locations listed in this project?
A: Please see attached PDF for tentative locations identified for this program.

N3960-FY2006 ROBINSON PROPERTY NATURE CENTER

Q: Please describe the “bird protection for windows” sub-project.
A: We are considering this tinted film for the windows that present a bird strike problem. Click here for more.

T7094-FY2007 STREET LIGHTING PROGRAM

Q: What types of street lighting programs are occurring at the D4 locations?
A: FY 21 streetlights installed include: Jerry's Drive at Hickory Point Lane, Little Patuxent Parkway at The Bluffs at Clary's Forest Apartments entrance, Harriet Tubman Lane near Harriet Tubman Building, Trotter Road at Trotter Crossing Lane, and Hickory Ridge Road at Cordage Walk. The county LED Conversion program is currently underway where all streetlights will be upgraded by July 2022. This program is a separate Operating Fund and not included in T7094.

T7101-FY2008 STATE COUNTY SHARED INTERSECTIONS

Q: Could you provide more information about Rt 108 Clarksville traffic study? What intersection points are being considered?
A: The MD 108 Clarksville Traffic Study was completed in 2012. The study evaluated traffic operations on the MD 108 corridor from Sheppard Lane to Auto Drive/Signal Bell Lane and to identify needed roadway improvements or modifications to accommodate all users as part of new anticipated development program.

J4177-FY2001 STATE ROAD CONSTRUCTION

Q: Could you provide more details about FY21 - Projects in Design: MD108 at Centennial Lane intersection; construction to begin mid-2021. When will construction begin? Projected costs? There is no FY22 appropriation.
A: The project was advertised by MDOT-SHA in January of this year. The contract has been awarded and construction should begin in the next few weeks. Per agreement between the County and the State Highway Administration, the County's share is approximately $5.5million, which has been previously appropriated.

J4230-FY2017 SANNER ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

Q: Could you provide more information about this project?
A: Project design is ongoing and is approximately 50% complete at this time. There is no tentative date for construction to begin due to budget constraints. A community meeting was held in 2018 after the preliminary design was completed. The project will include stormwater management, roadway widening, and bike lanes in the north and southbound directions.

J4251-FY2018 LIME KILN ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

Q: Could you provide more details about this project? Did the project lose appropriations for land acquisition? The book shows a negative of $100,000 in FY 22.
A: The land acquisition costs were determined to be less than originally anticipated so the funds were reallocated to construction to pay for the utility relocations that are needed to allow installation of the new box culvert.

T7101-FY2008 STATE COUNTY SHARED INTERSECTIONS

Q: Could you provide more information about Rt 108 Clarksville traffic study? What intersection points are being considered?
A: The MD 108 Clarksville Traffic Study was completed in 2012. The study evaluated traffic operations on the MD 108 corridor from Sheppard Lane to Auto Drive/Signal Bell Lane and to identify needed roadway improvements or modifications to accommodate all users as part of new anticipated development program.

North Columbia Fire Station



I am happy to announce that I have filed an amendment with Councilmembers Walsh and Yungmann to put the proposed funding for the North Columbia Fire Station in contingency in an effort to find a better and safer location. This amendment, along with the FY2022 Budget, will be voted on May 26.

F5976 North Columbia Fire Station

FY22 proposed $1.65 million

District 4 residents might remember the proposed fire station project in last year's budget that was slated to remove open space from Harper's Choice Middle School. I lobbied hard to prevent this incursion on the school's peaceful setting and the community's access to green space. At the end of the FY21 Budget session, the County Executive decided to move the proposed station to Cedar Lane Park. I introduced an amendment to the Budget to put $3 million in contingency with the requirement to hold public meetings in an effort to fully inform the community.

On March 25, a community meeting was held by the County Executive, the Department of Fire & Rescue, and the Department of Recreation & Parks. At this meeting the Administration announced that the new station would be built immediately facing Route 108 where a current athletic field is located. The remaining field would be converted to an artificial turf field with a press box, lights, and operational hours until 10pm.

During the April 21 Worksession, I pressed the Administration to consider another location that doesn't take away existing parkland from the community, that doesn't exacerbate traffic on congested Route 108, and that doesn't impose the normal operational noise of a fire station on an existing neighborhood. Meeting the fire and rescue needs of the County is important but it is necessary to preserve quality of life in established neighborhoods. I'm confident that there are funds within the Budget that can be used for land acquisition so that the station can be better located. And I think it is a matter of equity to appropriate funds for land acquisition in Columbia just as the County has done in other districts and plans to do in the future.

Here is a summary of questions that I asked at the Worksession followed by the answers from the Department of Public Works and Fire & Rescue. I also appreciate Councilmember Rigby her insightful questions.

Q: According to the Auditor's budget analysis, Project C0360-Real Estate Planning and Design includes appraisals that have been conducted of the National Guard Readiness Center at 4244 Montgomery Road for an expansion at the Ellicott City Fire Station. The appraised values are between $3.5 and $3.6 million. Clearly the County is willing to spend money on land for a fire station. The County was also willing to spend money on land for a fire station expansion in Elkridge but not willing to do so for Columbia. What is the reason?
A: The County is not unwilling to spend money on land. It's a matter of finding appropriate parcels of land.

Q: I'm begging you not to put it on the park and to look at another piece of land. Not a park, open space, green space surrounded by homes. Also, the light control won't help with traffic because there's nowhere for cars to go. No shoulder. I have identified a number of pieces of property. Is there a traffic study?
A: The traffic study is underway and will be complete at the end of May. May need to take into account lighter traffic due to Covid.

Q: Is there a report of other sites?
A: No, possible locations that are optimal are limited. We know the location is controversial. But it is not feasible to accumulate the parcels necessary to build the station. No written report though.

Q: What acreage is needed?
A: Two to three acres

Q: Is it important to have fire station built within the PSA?
A: It is preferred, but there are stations that are not. The farther away you move the from target area (Folly Quarter, Homewood), the response stats will be impacted. Route 108 is best with a controlled light to be able to go east-west. The fire station is able to control the light to mitigate the flow of traffic. There is no immediate need for lights and sirens.

Q: What are the plans for mitigating noise?
A: State law requires use of all warning signals. But there is discretion about using those coming out of the station when not needed.

Q: Have you ever had to remove memorial trees at a place where you were building a fire station? What are plans for the trees?
A: There is no definite plan. We would have to discuss with the community. We would want to relocate them at the site or plant new trees, depending on the size.

Q: What about the berm that directs water into the field instead of away from it?
A: We are working on it now. We have purposely not proceeded with design until we had a public meeting. It's a design issue we will have to solve.

Q: What stormwater measures will be put in place? Also, what will the impact of eight pickleball courts and a new turf field be?
A: We will probably do retention under the field. If we couldn't handle stormwater management on site, we would have to abandon the site. Turf absorbs water. The Department of Recreation & Park prefers them due to less impact to programming sports season.

HCPSS Capital Budget

BOARD OF EDUCATION'S BUDGET REQUEST

- $108 million from the County Executive
- $40.3 million from the State

COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S PROPOSED BUDGET

- $85.119m from the County Executive
- $27.7 million from the State

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Major construction projects for FY2022 include the following:

- Hammond High School renovation
- New High School #13
- Talbott Springs Elementary replacement

There are no planned construction, renovations, or additions for District 4 schools.

HCPSS is receiving $12.6 million less from the State than anticipated. A joint request was made to the State funding commission by the County Executive, County Council, Superintendent, and Board of Education for an additional $9.6 million to cover costs for Hammond High School renovation and addition ($19.5 million in FY22).

E1044 Systemic Renovations

BOE request: $19.5 million
County Executive proposed: $8.124 million
The Board of Education requested that the County Executive make a $20 million annual funding commitment to tackle the mounting deferred maintenance that is occurring in its aging buildings. Unfortunately the County Executive's proposal is $11.42 million less than the request. Schools scheduled for FY2022 systemic renovation funding include:

- Applications & Research Lab
- West Friendship Elementary
- Bonnie Branch Middle School

There are no District 4 schools scheduled for this coming fiscal year.

HVAC replacements are among the costliest projects in the priority list and range from $5.5 million to $25 million. District 4 schools needing HVAC replacements include:

- Fulton Elementary School
- Harpers Choice Middle School
- Old Cedar Lane School
- Wilde Lake High School

E0989 Barrier-Free Projects

BOE request: $200,000
County Executive proposed: $200,000
There are no known District 4 schools listed in this program for accessibility features.



HCPSS Capital Budget

E0990 Playground Equipment

BOE request: $250,000

County Executive proposed: $250,000

Clarksville ES is listed as one of the scheduled schools in this category. The requested funding of $250,000 is adequate to replace a kindergarten playground and a grades 1-5 playground. past and anticipated funding for this project, Clarksville ES is planned for replacement in FY22/FY23.

E1038 Planning and Design

BOE request: $300,000

County Executive proposed: $300,000

There are no District 4 schools listed in this category.

E1045 Relocatable Classrooms

BOE request: $1.5 million

County Executive proposed: $1.5 million

In District 4, Reservoir High School is receiving three new relocatables in 2021.

E1046 Roofing

BOE request: $5 million

County Executive proposed: $1 million

HCPSS utilizes a third-party contractor to perform semi-annual roof inspections for all school facilities. Preventative maintenance is scheduled for all schools. The following is a list of schools in District 4 and the most recent or scheduled roof replacements:

- Atholton High: new in 2014
- Bryant Woods Elementary: new in 2006
- Cedar Lane School: new in 2005
- Clarksville Elementary: new in 1994 with additions in 2004
- Clarksville Middle: new 1989, major repair to gymnasium in 2014; full replacement scheduled for 2023
- Clemens Crossing Elementary: new in 1994; full replacement scheduled for FY2027
- Fulton Elementary: new in 1997
- Harper Choice Middle: new in 2020/21
- Lime Kiln Middle: new in 1999; full replacement scheduled for FY2025
- Longfellow Elementary: new in 2015
- Pointers Run Elementary: new 1991; full replacement for FY2022 and FY2023.
- River Hill High: new 2017
- Running Brook Elementary: new in 2004 with addition in 2014; full replacement scheduled FY2025
- Swansfield Elementary: new in 2003 with addition in 2010
- Wilde Lake Middle: new in 2016
- Wilde Lake High: new in 2016/2017 and 2019 (three-phase project)

E1048 Technology

BOE request: $3.75 million

County Executive proposed: $1 million

Technology projects in this category will benefit all schools across HCPSS. Other technology projects, such as teacher device replacement will impact all schools in District 4.



GENERAL

2021 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Calvin Ball
Howard County Executive

Seven Pillars

1. Ready and Successful Students
2. Safe and Engaged Communities
3. Clean and Sustainable Environment
4. Reliable and Accessible Infrastructure
5. Strong and Prosperous Businesses
6. Innovative and Efficient Government
7. Thriving and Healthy Residents

State Senators
Sen. Clarence Lam, Senate Chair
Sen. Guy Guzzone
Sen. Katie Fry Hester

State Delegates
Del. Jessica Feldmark, House Chair
Del. Vanessa Atterbeary
Del. Eric Ebersole
Del. Terri Hill
Del. Trent Kittleman
Del. Reid Novotny
Del. Shane Pendergrass
Del. Jen Terrasa
Del. Courtney Watson

✓= PASSED BILL

Venison Donation Tax Credit
Increases financial incentives for venison deer processing and donations to provide struggling families with more food options and support Maryland's deer hunters.
✓(SB 769)

Legislative Bond Initiatives
Supported more than $4.2M in infrastructure funding to support local efforts such as the East Columbia 50+ Center, developmental disability facilities, and environmental resilience projects to help businesses in Historic Ellicott City. ✓

Community College Cade Formula
Provides fair and proportional funding to ensure operational support and affordable tuition for students at community colleges across the state.
✓(HB 173/SB433)

First-Time Homebuyer Savings Accounts
Provides income-eligible first-time homebuyers with alternative financing methods to cover their down payment and closing costs.
✓(HB 1178)

Clean Energy Loan Program
Expands the authority of the Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy Program to help small businesses. This will assist in financing resilient infrastructure improvements and environmental mediation projects.
✓(HB 517/SB 319)

Digital Connectivity Act
Establishes an Office of Digital Inclusion to ensure that all Maryland residents have access to reliable and affordable broadband Internet by the end of the decade.
✓(SB 66)

Maryland Department of Emergency Management
Advances Maryland's Next Generation 9-1-1 infrastructure by creating a cabinet-level Maryland Department of Emergency Management.
✓(HB 990/SB 658)

Health Equity Resource Act
Reduces long-standing health disparities and improves health and life in communities across the state through the creation of the Pathways to Health Equity Program.
✓(SB 172/HB 463)

MACo Legislative Priorities
Joined fellow MACo Legislative Committee members to defend county budget security, fund fair elections, build out broadband, and promote funding for county health departments

Community College Collective Bargaining
Grants collective bargaining rights to adjunct faculty and staff at all 16 Maryland community colleges.
✓(HB 894/SB 746)

Local Management Boards FY22 Funding
Advocated for $18M to restore state funding for Local Management Boards to assist Maryland's children, youth, and families across the state.

LGBTQ Panic Defense
Prohibits defendants accused of murder or assault from using their victim's sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation to justify or excuse their violent actions.
✓(HB 231/SB 46)

Transit Safety & Investment Act
Invests in the Baltimore region's transit system to help more residents travel safely and reliably while reducing their environmental footprint.
✓(HB 114)

Kirwan Funding
Updates the "Blueprint for Maryland's Future" to maintain school system funding levels affected by declines in student enrollment due to COVID-19.
✓(HB 1372)

Hunger Free Campus Grant
Helps ensure adequate food access for higher education students in need by connecting them to healthy and affordable food options.
✓(HB 891/SB 767)

Climate Solutions Now Act of 2021
Would have required Maryland to reduce its statewide greenhouse gas emissions by 60% by 2030 and achieve net-zero statewide greenhouse gas emissions by 2045.
(SB 414/HB 583)

Statewide 3-1-1 System
Would have established a workgroup to study a statewide 3-1-1 system for Marylanders to receive accurate public information messaging in nonemergencies.
(SB 631)

Eviction Education & Services
Would have established a fund to provide educational services and legal assistance for tenants facing eviction.
(HB 1258 – Ho.Co. 15-21)



ASSEMBLY

COVID-19 Updates



The Pfizer vaccine is now available to children ages 12 to 15 years old wherever the Pfizer vaccine is offered. All other groups (adults and children ages 16-plus) are eligible to receive all vaccine types. Remember to get your second dose.

HOWARD COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT CLINICS

First Dose: Pre-registration is no longer required for vaccination clinics sponsored by the Howard County Health Department. Click here to see a list of clinics, vaccine types, hours of operation, and registration information. These clinics are open to anyone eligible for the vaccine. Appointments are recommended. Walk-in vaccine appointments are available while supplies lasts.

Second Dose: Make a second dose appointment via email (dose2@howardcountymd.gov. Walk-in vaccines are also available for those who missed second dose appointment.

Click here for more.



MALL IN COLUMBIA MASS VACCINATION SITE

In the old Lord & Taylor space
10300 Little Patuxent Parkway
Wed-Sun, 8am-4pm

Howard County now has it's own Mass Vaccination Site sponsored by the State. Appointments are recommended but walk-ins are accepted based on supply availability. This site has the Pfizer vaccine, which is approved for ages 12 years and older.

OTHER VACCINATION SITES

Some local pharmacies, private providers, and State mass vaccination sites are additional options for vaccinations.

Click here for the Maryland Vaccination Site Finder to locate the nearest supply. Enter your zip code and click FIND A VACCINATION SITE. Near the top of the page you can change your search radius up to 50 miles. Your search results will include information about all vaccine sites and registration information.

COVID-19 Updates

SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS

As of May 21, 58% of Howard County residents are fully vaccinated. The following health recommendations are in effect for Howard County; click here for more.



- 50+ centers are open with limited in-person services.
- HCPSS will no longer require masks to be worn on outdoor school properties, including outdoor athletics contests and practices, and outdoor athletic venues are open to full capacity.
- Businesses, including restaurants, may resume full capacity.
- Masks are not required in most settings.

CDC GUIDELINES FOR VACCINATED INDIVIDUALS

On March 7 and again on May 13, the CDC issued updated social-gathering guidelines for fully vaccinated people that include the following. Those who are fully vaccinated may:

- refrain from wearing masks both indoors and outdoors, except in health-care facilities, public transit and commercial airplanes, and congregate settings
- visit with unvaccinated family members indoors if COVID risks are low
- refrain from testing or quarantining if exposed to a COVID-positive person
- avoid medium to large gatherings

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

Howard County will be receiving $63.1 million in Federal relief funds announced in March. These funds can be used for COVID-19 emergency and economic responses, including:

- assistance to households, small businesses, nonprofits, tourism, and hospitality
- payments to essential workers and revenue losses
- investments in water, sewer or broadband infrastructure.

County News

NEW DEVELOPMENT NOTIFICATIONS

ZONING BOARD: ZB 1127M G&R Maple Lawn, Inc.
Not yet scheduled; Requesting approval of an amended preliminary development plan in a MXD Zoning District for 109.6 acres in Fulton (11788 Scaggsville Road) for an addition of 473 dwelling units (125 single-family detached units, 148 single-family attached units, and 200 apartments); change the land-use designation; and increase the permitted residential density from 2.2 dwelling units per gross acre to 3 dwelling units.

PRESUBMISSION COMMUNITY MEETING: Click here for more.

- 5/24, 6pm — Wynne Property (5668 Trotter Road), two single-family dwellings;
- 5/25, 6pm — Scott Property (6485 Trotter Road, 6479 South Trotter Road), 25 age-restricted residential units and a clubhouse;
- 6/9, 6pm — Highland Professional Park (13355 Clarksville Pike), commercial building.





JUNETEENTH: OFFICIAL COUNTY HOLIDAY

The commemoration day of the end of slavery in the U.S. will now be an official holiday in Howard County. June 19 will be recognized as Juneteenth National Freedom Day.

JAMA ACUFF NAMED NEW DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS DIRECTOR

Jama Acuff will oversee more than 170 employees and be responsible for the operation of the Howard County Detention Center, Central Booking Facility, and oversight of the pre-trial Community Supervision Program. She brings 40 years of correctional experience to her new position.

Welcome, Director Acuff.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

Calvin Ball
Howard County Executive

To ensure both students and educators feel supported and safe, County Executive Ball recommended the following modifications to the current SRO program:

Withdraw SROs from all Middle Schools

Require SROs to wear body worn cameras when on campus

Transition to a softer uniform (consisting of polo and khakis)

Ensure that SRO's will not be involved in any school-based disciplinary infractions

Require combined equity training of SROs and all school system personnel

Establish an SRO community workgroup comprised of students, educators, community stakeholders and consideration of added HCPD representation prior to eliminating the current program and proposals



HoCo By Design: General Plan

The General Plan, updated once every 10 years, establishes a clear policy on how and where the County will develop and grow as it adjusts to evolving economic, environmental, and social conditions. It is the basis for land use decisions made by the Planning Board, County Council, and Zoning Board and informs County plans, policies, regulations, and budgets. The Department of Planning and Zoning invites residents to share their visions for Howard County through the following input opportunities. Click here for more.

INITIAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Initial recommendations and planning scenarios are posted online:

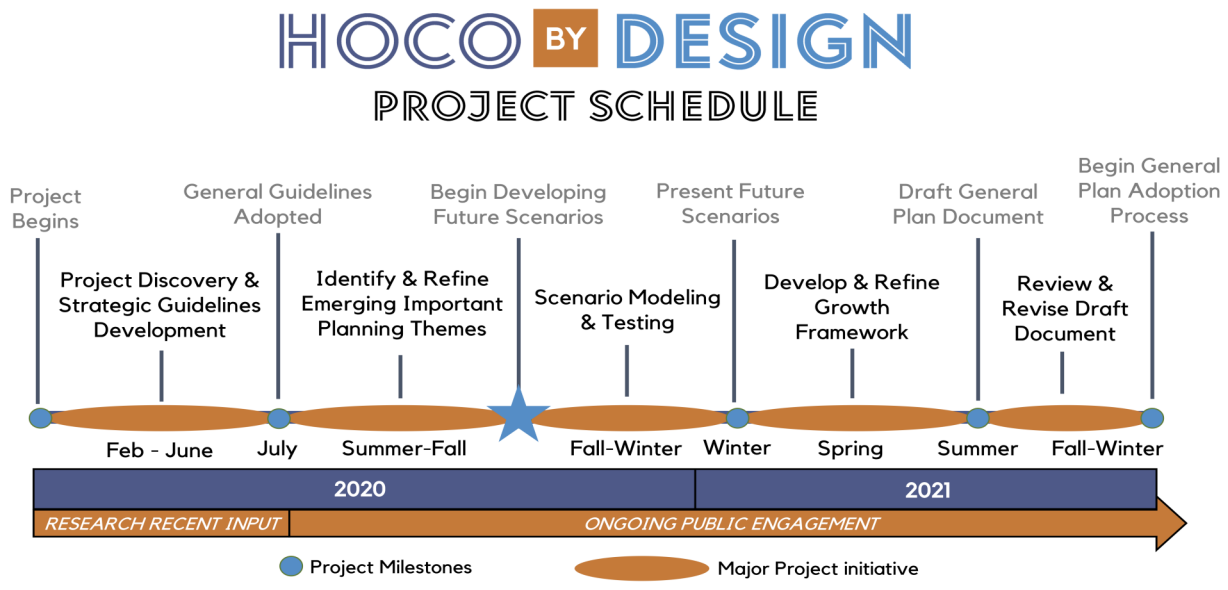
- Physical Assessment reports; click here for more.
- Growth Choices Workshops-Scenario Planning; click here for more.

NEW TOWN/COLUMBIA DESIGN SESSIONS

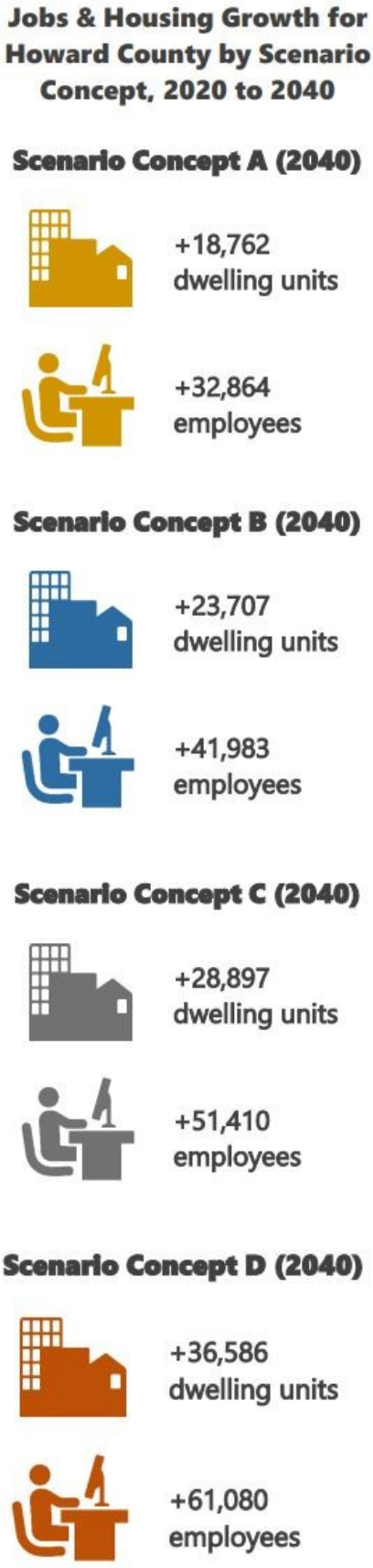
Virtual meetings were held May 18th and 19th to discuss general design principles and how they inform the New Town/Columbia experience. To watch a recording of the New Town session, click here.

These sessions will identify and prioritize important aspects of community character to preserve, enhance, transform, or strengthen in the New Town/Columbia area for the new General Plan

- June: A discussion about specific design concepts and their trade-offs for further growth opportunities
- August: A presentation highlighting the application of specific design concepts.



GROWTH OPTIONS: PROPOSED SCENARIOS



According to HoCo By Design, the County doesn't have enough housing, housing choices, or housing affordability to meet demand. Their proposed scenarios seek to increase dwelling units and in-County employees:

- **Scenario A** – No changes to current growth patterns. High density remains concentrated in Downtown Columbia and Route 1. Rural west remains largely undeveloped.
- **Scenario B** - Zoning and development regulations would be changed to support new growth in Downtown Columbia, Gateway, Columbia's Village Centers, Dobbin/ Snowden Corridor, and Route 1. Scenarios could include new Activity Centers (akin to Village Centers), detached accessory dwelling units in the east, redevelopment of Gateway as a mixed-use area but not as intense as Downtown Columbia. Route 1 would continue to transition from industrial to residential.
- **Scenario C**– Development is concentrated in Downtown Columbia, Gateway, and around MARC Stations to support urban density and mass transit. This is the most urban-scale scenario. Gateway would be redeveloped as intensely as Downtown Columbia with bus connections. It allows the county to grow up and not out, funneling growth into urban centers and adding more housing diversity and affordability than other scenarios.
- **Scenario D** — This is the most aggressive scenario, spreading growth throughout the County, increasing density in the rural west, and extending public sewer and water west of Maple Lawn for multifamily buildings. This scenario would maintain a sprawling character, allow accessory use in the rural west, enable office/retail growth in Downtown Columbia, Gateway, Route 1, Route 40, and Dobbin/Snowden corridor.

School News

HIGH-SCHOOL GRADUATION

So excited to hear that HCPSS graduations will not only be in person, but each graduate will receive 2 guest tickets for the Pavilion and 2 guest tickets for the lawn. All ceremonies will be held at Merriweather Post Pavilion.

Click here for more.

DIGITAL EDUCATION CENTER

HCPSS is planning for a full-time virtual option for students who wish to learn virtually for the 2021-2022 school year. The Digital Education Center is intended to function as an additional, separate K-12 center that will operate even after fully in-person learning resumes at all other HCPSS schools. Click here for more.

CLEMENS CROSSING'S ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL RECEVIES NATIONAL HONOR



Sonia Hurd, the assistant principal at Clemens Crossing Elementary School, was recently named the 2021 National Outstanding Assistant Principal for Maryland based, in part, on her exceptional leadership and respect among the CCES community. Congratulations, Ms. Hurd.

SCHOOL BUSES

BEWARE: Cameras have been placed on Howard County school buses to snap photos of car license plates when drivers illegally pass a bus that is stopped for children. The fine for illegally passing a stopped school bus will be $250. Please drive safely.



GOOGLE DOODLE FINALIST

District 4's very own James Pang, Clarksville Elementary student, has been selected as a finalist for his drawing submission to the Doodle for Google contest. The contest winner will receive a $30,000 college scholarship and $50,000 to the student's school for new technology. This year's theme is "I am strong because …". James said in his statement accompanying his drawing that, "I am strong because when I have a bad day, I find my inner peace and mental strength through meditation. When I am bored, I read and imagine traveling around the world. When I have big emotions, I express myself through music and art. I am emotionally strong." James, we are so proud of you and love your message!

Community News



VILLAGE NEWS

Wilde Lake

Harper's Choice

Hickory Ridge

River Hill

Town Center



Upcoming Events

INDEPENDENCE DAY

I'm happy to hear that Recreation & Parks will hold the annual July 4 fireworks display at the Lakefront at Columbia, beginning at 9:20pm on July 4, 2021. They ask that spectators wait until after 3pm on the afternoon of July 4 to lay down any blankets so as to preserve the grass. Free public parking for this event will be located at the Mall in Columbia and by the Columbia Lakefront, adjacent to Whole Foods.

MERRIWEATHER POST PAVILION

One of the most disappointing aspects of 2020 was the lack of live music in Columbia. Merriweather Post Pavilion is thrilled to announce their upcoming event season. Click here for more.

COLUMBIA ORCHESTRA: REFLECTS, REJOICES CONCERT

Online & in person, St. Louis Church
June 6, 5pm
Free

The Columbia Orchestra and the choirs of St. Louis and St. Francis churches welcome internationally acclaimed guest soloists. Maestro Jason Love will direct the their performance of Mozart's Requiem. Click here for more.

COLUMBIA FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

Columbia Festival of the Arts returns with its 34th summer of art and entertainment. Click here for more.

4th Annual Columbia Film Festival

In person, Merriweather Post Pavilion
June 21, 7PM
Tickets starting at $20
Kick off the film fest with the Columbia premiere of the award winning dance documentary UPROOTED, followed by a separately ticketed Q&A with the filmmakers.

Kat Edmondson Sings Songs From the Movies

Online
Tickets $15
Kat Edmonson is a vintage-pop vocalist, songwriter and an actor who performs jazzy covers plus originals, interweaving humorous anecdotes. She will be accompanied by her long-time band, including a piano, bass, guitar, and drums.

STREB PopAction

Live online, June 26
Free, Ages 7+
Kids and adults will learn how to be action heroes through this workshop that weaves together dance, martial arts, and acrobatics for all ages.

123 Andrés

Online, June 26
Free
This Latin GRAMMY—winning music duo performs catchy Spanish and English songs and geography filled concerts for young children.

Keeping up with Deb





I was very excited to participate with Governor Hogan in the opening of the newest mass vaccination clinic site at The Columbia Mall in the former Lord & Taylor space.

Get vaxxed so we can get our lives back!





It was such a great turnout for the **Rally to Save Cedar Lane Park** on Saturday. I enjoyed meeting so many community members who are energized and committed to saving Cedar Lane Park from losing crucial green space to the proposed North Columbia Fire Station and the construction of a turf field that includes a press box , PA system, 70-foot-tall light poles and games scheduled until 10pm.