



Listening Sessions 2025 Preliminary Input

7 Sessions | 91 Attendees | Stats for **78 Attendees** ➡
 Largest Session: Bain (23) | Smallest Session: PTW (5)
Average # of Attendees per Session: 12 attendees

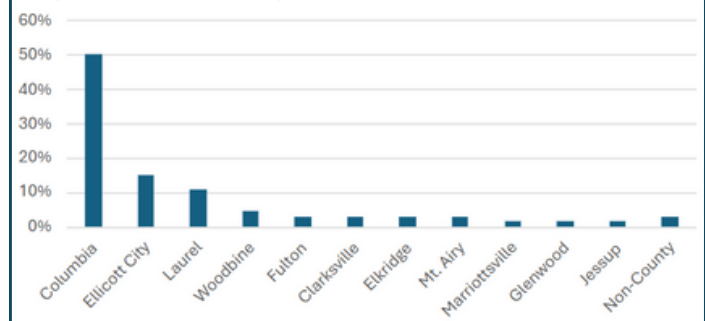
One word to describe Howard County:

Demographics

Male	24%
Columbia	50%
Elliott City	15%
Laurel	11%



Figure 1: % Listening Session Attendees by Location



Community Strengths

- **50+ Centers**
 - Welcoming spaces for activity and connection
- **Libraries**
 - Inclusive, informative, and trusted
- **Parks & trails**
 - Clean, accessible, navigable
- **Communication Resources**
 - Ball Bulletin, e-newsletters & bulletin boards are primary sources for information

Cross-Cutting Themes

- Desire to age in place
- Frustration with rapid overdevelopment
- Need for inclusive public spaces
- Community voices want action, not just input collection

Community Challenges

- **Transportation**
 - Lack of sidewalks
 - Limited bus shelters/benches
 - Aggressive driving
 - Long public transit times/routes
- **Housing Stress**
 - Rising prices, taxes, utilities
 - Lack of downsizing/right-sizing options
 - No rent control
 - Costly maintenance, contractor challenges
- **Healthcare Gaps**
 - Long waits for care (triage)
 - Few local providers
 - Transport barriers to appointments
- **Public Safety**
 - Increasing crime/concerns at mall
 - Night driving, pedestrian safety



Listening Sessions 2025 Preliminary Input

Top 5 Priorities



Housing
(24%)



Transportation
(20%)



Longevity
(16%)



**Inclusion &
Connection**
(13%)



Resilience
(11%)

Community Input → Goals and Actions

Housing Goal: Expand affordable, age-friendly housing options and improve aging-in-place support.

- Create a “Trusted Contractor/Business List” for people who are seeking products/services
 - Partners: OAI, Chamber of Commerce
 - Success metrics: Guide published; Downloads/distribution numbers

Transportation Goal: Improve transportation access and safety countywide.

- Conduct a countywide sidewalk and bus stop audit with a focus on gaps near senior housing, 50+ Centers, and schools
 - Partners: DPW, OAI, MTB
 - Success metrics: % of stops with shelter/bench; Number of miles of sidewalk added

NEXT STEPS:

1

Review existing strategic plans (for alignment)

2

Finalize key areas of livability for 2024-2029 Action Plan

3

Identify and engage key collaborators

4

Convene work groups

5

Develop action items (SMART goals) with metrics