

General Plan Monitoring Report 2009



Department of Planning and Zoning
Howard County, Maryland
January 2010



Table of Contents

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George Beisser, Zoning Administration and Public Service
Jeffrey Bronow, Research
Chuck Dammers, Development Engineering
Cindy Hamilton, Land Development
Elmina J. Hilsenrath, Resource Conservation
William Mackey, Comprehensive and Community Planning

Contributing Staff

Dace Blaumanis	Joy Levy
Randy Clay	Brenda Luber
David Cookson	Sharon Melis
Lindsay DeMarzo	Brian Muldoon
Carrie Grosch	Susan Overstreet
Roberta Jackson	Benjamin Pickar
Brad Killian	Megan Shewell, Intern
Zan Koldeway	Samantha Stoney

Contributing County Departments

Budget Administration	Libraries
Citizen Services	Police
Economic Development Authority	Public School System
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Table of Contents

Responsible Regionalism	3
Priority Funding Area (Policy 2.1)	4
Interjurisdictional Cooperation (Policy 2.2)	4
Funding for Regional Transportation Improvements (Policy 2.3)	6
Preservation of the Rural West	9
Rural Land Preservation (Policy 3.1)	10
Design of Cluster and Density Receiving Subdivisions and Scenic Road View Protection (Policy 3.2)	11
Agricultural Marketing Program (Policy 3.7)	11
Balanced and Phased Growth	13
General Plan Housing and Job Growth Forecasts (Policy 4.27)	14
Land Acquisition and Construction of New Public Facilities (Policy 4.1)	15
Affordable Housing and Senior Housing (Policies 4.2 and 4.3)	16
Economic Development (Policies 4.4 and 4.5)	18
Sewage Treatment Capacity (Policy 4.7)	20
Transportation Priorities (Policies 4.8 and 4.9)	20
Road Improvements (Policy 4.8)	22
Transit Use (Policy 4.9)	23
School Capacity (Policies 4.12 and 4.13)	23
Lifelong Learning (Policies 4.16 and 4.17)	24
Recreation and Parks (Policy 4.18)	25
Police Services (Policy 4.20)	26
Fire and Rescue Services (Policy 4.21)	26
Health and Human Services (Policy 4.22)	27

Table of Contents

Solid Waste (Policy 4.26).....	29
Community Conservation and Enhancement.....	31
Regulations for Mixed Use Redevelopment, Special Exceptions and Quality of New Development (Policies 5.3, 5.6, and 5.7).....	32
Corridor Revitalization Studies and Community Master Plans (Policy 5.19).....	33
Community Conservation (Policy 5.19).....	35
Property Maintenance and Reinvestment (Policies 5.8 and 5.11).....	36
School Equity (Policy 5.12).....	38
Crime (Policy 5.12).....	39
Historic Preservation (Policy 5.18).....	39
Working With Nature.....	41
Regulatory Protection of Environmentally Sensitive Features (Policies 6.2 and 6.3).....	42
Environmental Enforcement (Policy 6.8).....	42
Environmental Inventory (Policy 6.7).....	43
Watershed Management Plans (Policy 6.4).....	43
Stormwater Management (Policy 6.4).....	45
Working with Nature - Additional Accomplishments.....	45
Land Trusts for Environmental Protection (Policy 6.7).....	45
Green Building Program (Policy 6.9).....	45
Public Outreach and Education for Energy Conservation (Policy 6.9).....	45
Demonstration Projects (Policy 6.10).....	46
Accomplishments not identified in a General Plan 2000 Policy.....	46
General Plan Implementation.....	47



Table of Contents

Public Information and Involvement (Policy 7.1).....	48
Trend Indicators	51
Trend: Change in Residential Property Values.....	52
Trend: Growth of Residential Property Tax and Income Tax Revenues.....	53
Trend: Growth of Non-Residential Property Tax Revenues.....	54
Trend: Declining Work Force Availability.....	56
Trend: Declining School Enrollment.....	57
Trend: Growing Senior Population.....	58
Trend: Growing Population Diversity.....	59
Appendix A	60

Introduction

Howard County's General Plan is the County's blueprint for the future. It establishes policies and actions to address future needs and opportunities. These policies guide County decision-making in many arenas including development, land preservation, environmental protection, community conservation and the delivery of public services.

The 2009 General Plan Monitoring Report describes the County's achievements on various indicators outlined in the 2000 General Plan and sets the stage for future comprehensive planning efforts that will occur as part of the General Plan update starting in 2010.

The organization of this 2009 General Plan Monitoring Report reflects the structure of the Implementation Indicators and Trends Indicators charts in the General Plan. For the Implementation Indicators, specific measures and the schedule for accomplishments are established in the General Plan. Some tasks were scheduled to be completed in the first reporting period (see GPMR 2002); some were not scheduled to be completed or even started until the second reporting period (see GPMR 2005); and others were identified as ongoing actions with progress expected in all reporting periods. This text includes the updates presented in the previous reports and adds information about accomplishments during the final reporting period.

The public review process for this report included soliciting input from members of the original General Plan 2000 Task Force who were invited to review a draft of the report in Fall 2009. Comments from the Task Force were incorporated into the document text and a draft report was submitted to the Planning Board at a public meeting on January 7, 2010, to receive comments by the Planning Board and the public.

To focus implementation efforts, the General Plan's final chapter establishes priorities, associated indicators, and a process for monitoring execution every two years via the General Plan Monitoring Report. The two previous monitoring reports, released in 2002 and 2005, provided valuable insight into changing trends affecting Howard County. This report serves as a final review of strategies and goals outlined in General Plan 2000 and will serve as a platform for the initiation of the next general plan.

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Responsible Regionalism

Priority Funding Area

Interjurisdictional Cooperation

Funding for Regional Transportation Improvements



Vision 1

Our actions will complement State and regional initiatives in resource and growth management.



Responsible Regionalism

Priority Funding Area (Policy 2.1)

Indicator: CONFIRMATION THAT PLANNED SERVICE AREA MEETS PRIORITY FUNDING AREA REQUIREMENTS

Measure: APPROVED BY THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

Status:

- The Planned Service Area (PSA) boundary was not changed by General Plan 2000, and had previously been approved by the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) as the County's Priority Funding Area. MDP has indicated that re-approval is not necessary.
- General Plan 2000 text (pp. 97–99) was amended to enable, under certain conditions, PSA amendments to permit water and sewer service for public or institutional uses.
- Since January, 1, 2000, there have been nine (9) map changes involving expansion of the PSA boundary (see Appendix A) resulting in the following:
 - 177.4 acres in the water-service-only area (Alpha Ridge) were granted both water and sewerage to County-owned property service instead of just water service;
 - 67.388 acres were included in the PSA for water and sewer.

Interjurisdictional Cooperation (Policy 2.2)

Indicator: INTERJURISDICTIONAL INITIATIVES EXPANDED

Measure: NUMBER AND TYPES

Status:

- **Continued participation in:**
 - The Baltimore Metropolitan Council's (BMC) programs for cooperative forecasting, transportation planning/budgeting, and cooperative purchasing;
 - BMC cooperation and coordination to develop an emission reduction strategy to bring the region into compliance with Clean Air Act requirements, increased regional cooperation on homeland security and emergency planning, and sharing Howard County's housing unit capacity analysis system with BMC and the State;
 - Regional environmental initiatives including the Patuxent River Commission, Patapsco/Back River Tributary Team, and Baltimore and Patuxent Reservoirs watershed protection;
 - The Economic Development Authority's collaboration on regional economic development with the Greater Baltimore Alliance, the Greater Washington Initiative, and the BWI Business Partnership; and

- Periodic meetings of the Mayor and County Executives of the State's largest "Big Seven" jurisdictions to discuss issues of common concern.
- **Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Related Initiatives:**
 - The Howard County BRAC Task Force, along with its counterpart Anne Arundel County Task Force, initiated the development and continued sustainment of the eight-county and two-city Fort Meade Regional Growth Management Committee (RGMC). One of the prime focuses of the RGMC has been on the coordinated planning of transportation infrastructure, land use and emergency planning as they relate to the significant growth (40,000 employees to 62,000 employees) of Fort Meade. The Task Force has worked very closely with DPZ on this action.
 - The Howard County BRAC Task Force, working with key planners in DPZ, developed and implemented growth models forecasting the number of new jobs and families moving to the county as a result of Fort Meade growth. This led to the specific finding that the levels of development anticipated in General Plan 2000 can accommodate projected growth at Fort Meade.
 - Beginning in June 2007, the Howard and Anne Arundel County Planning Departments, in concert with County BRAC coordinators, began developing a joint study transportation design for BRAC impacted corridors and intersection locations in Anne Arundel County and Howard County. The study analyzed existing conditions at BRAC impacted intersections and corridors and assessed the future traffic impact based on traffic forecasts and growth modeling. The list of intersections to be studied was refined and Howard County coordinated with BMC, SHA, Anne Arundel County and consultants to correct errors and refine the BMC regional transportation model for application to the BRAC Study. A draft traffic analysis of existing conditions for the chosen highway corridors and intersection was completed in December 2008.
 - During the summer and fall of 2007, Howard County's Department of Planning and Zoning developed a detailed BRAC related traffic modeling network to be included in the BMC regional transportation model. In 2007 and 2008, Howard County coordinated with BMC members and staff on transportation modeling efforts to incorporate BRAC networks and transportation model forecasts into the regional transportation planning process. DPZ staff assessed the resulting BRAC traffic forecasts to determine a reasonable level of reliability had been achieved.
 - In 2009, the Department of Finance, the Geographic Information Systems Division in the Department of Technology and Communication Services, the Department of Planning and Zoning, and the BRAC Office will collaborate to complete a comprehensive application requesting the designation of the Savage Towne Centre development as a BRAC Revitalization and Incentive Zone (BRAC Zone). The Savage Towne Centre is a proposed mixed-use development project to be located on the site of the existing Savage MARC Station. The intent will be to focus growth resulting from BRAC in an area already designated for growth. In line with the County's General Plan 2000 and the State's Smart Growth initiatives, Howard County is seeking to deflect additional growth in undeveloped areas in order to mitigate the negative impact of sprawl and traffic congestion.
- **Additional Regional Planning Efforts:**
 - Howard County is an active member of the Baltimore County Regional Transportation Board and a vital contributor to federal regional transportation planning efforts.
 - At the request of County Executive Ulman and Transportation Secretary Pocari, BMC leadership has directed the region's planning directors to develop a regional land use and transportation vision that looks beyond current master plans to promote sustainability and reduce our carbon footprint. A public process is envisioned to develop and evaluate the vision using measurable regional indicators of land use, transportation, smart growth and energy efficiency.



Responsible Regionalism

Funding for Regional Transportation Improvements (Policy 2.3)

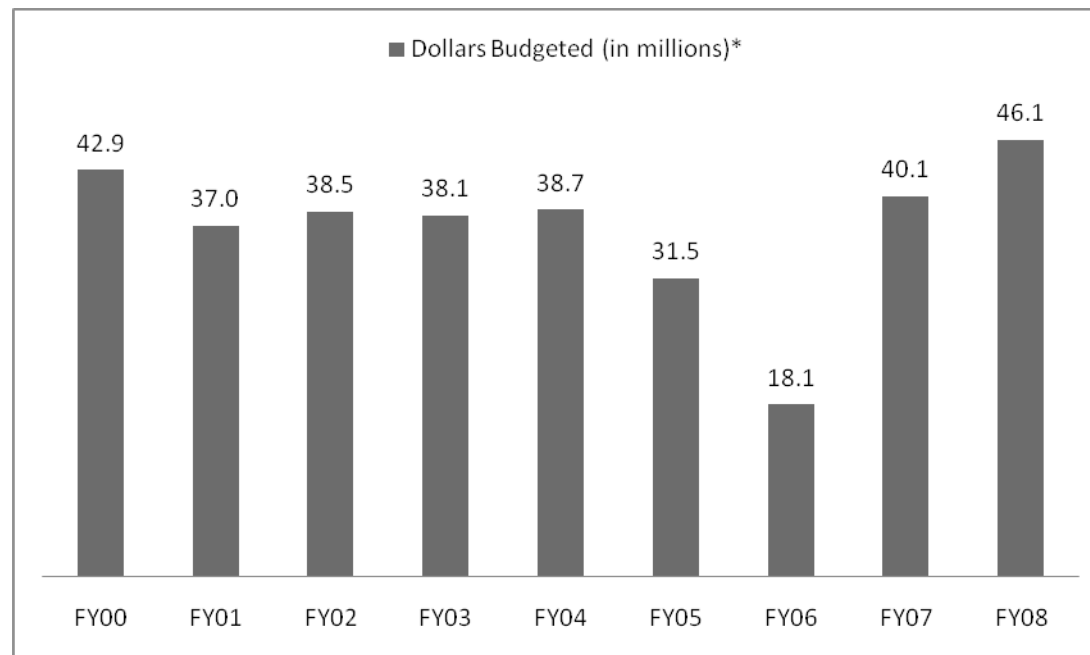
Indicator: FEDERAL AND STATE DOLLARS SPENT FOR REGIONAL HIGHWAY AND TRANSIT IMPROVEMENTS IN THE COUNTY

Measure: HIGHWAY BUDGET AMOUNT/TRANSIT BUDGET AMOUNT

Status:

- The County benefits from state and federal funds expended in the County, including projects with regional impacts, such as interchange improvements and widening on MD 29 and MD 32.

Federal and State Highway Funds Budgeted FY 2000 – FY 2008

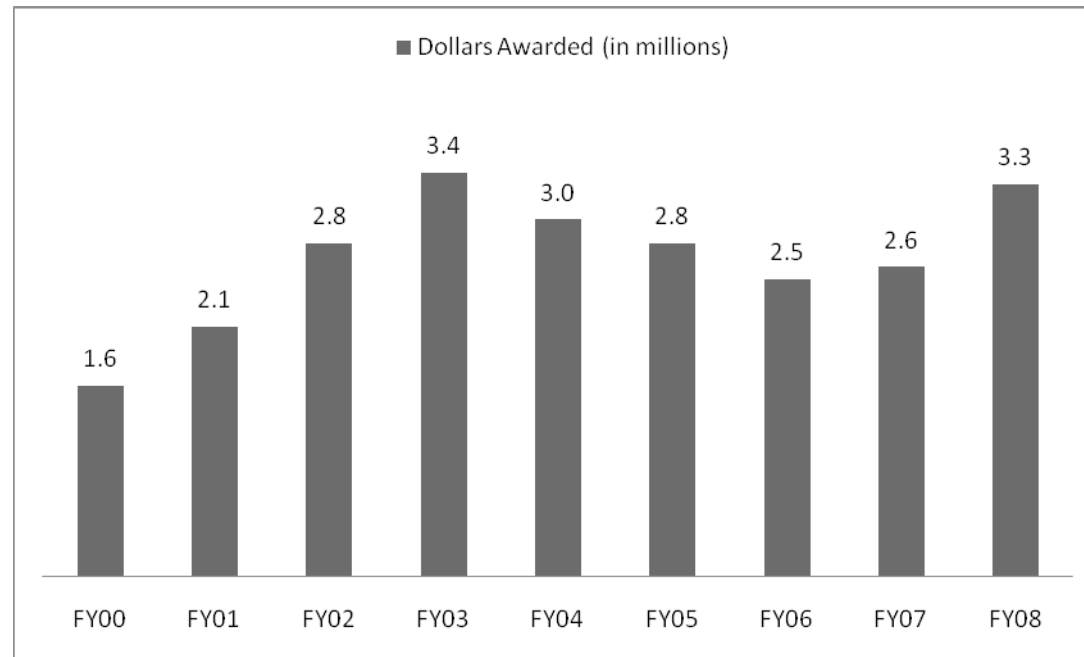


** Totals include area-wide project funding allocated to Howard County as per SHA*

Source: Howard County Department of Finance; Maryland Department of Transportation; Maryland State Highway Administration

- Federal and State funds awarded to support Howard Transit fixed route, paratransit services and ridesharing totaled \$20.8 million from FY 2000 to FY 2007. In FY 2008, the County expended \$3.3 million in Federal and State funding. Federal and State funding continues for various regional MTA bus and MARC rail services, but information is not available on a County-by-County basis.

Federal and State Transit Grant Funds Awarded FY 2000 – FY 2008



Source: Maryland State Highway Administration

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Preservation of the Rural West

Rural Land Preservation

Design of Cluster and Density Receiving Subdivisions and
Scenic Road View Protection

Agricultural Marketing Program



Vision 2

Our rural lands will be productive and rural character will be conserved.



Preservation of the Rural West

Rural Land Preservation (Policy 3.1)

Indicator: NUMBER OF ACRES IN PRESERVATION EASEMENTS INCREASES

Measure: 25,000 ACRES OF AGRICULTURAL EASEMENTS AND 30,000 ACRES PROTECTED BY ALL METHODS

Status:

- **Preservation Easements** – As of January 1, 2009, preservation easements in the Rural West total 28,589 acres, which approaches the 30,000 acre goal. As shown in the table, below, 20,437 acres of agricultural preservation easements have been obtained by State and County programs. In addition 8,152 acres of other easements have been granted, including environmental preservation parcels dedicated through the subdivision process (7,085 acres), historic easements (102 acres) and donated conservation easements held by the Maryland Environmental Trust and/or the Howard County Conservancy (965 acres). Including County and State Parks (7,880 acres) and Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) land (2,466 acres), the total preserved land amounts to about 41% of all land in the Rural West.

Program/Type of Easement	Acres Added	
	2000 - 2008	Total Acres Preserved
Agricultural Easements	2,596	20,437
Other Easements	3,505	8,152
SUBTOTAL - PRESERVATION EASEMENTS	6,101	28,589
Parks and Open Space	129*	10,478
TOTAL - ALL PROTECTED LANDS	6,230	39,064
ACRES IN RURAL WEST		94,087

* An additional 319 acres have been dedicated to the County for public parkland (counted under “Other Easements”)

- **Agricultural Easement Programs** – Compared to figures reported in General Plan 2000, as of January 1, 2009, the Howard County Agricultural Land Preservation Program (ALPP) purchased an additional 618 acres of permanent agricultural easements, bringing the total preserved to 13,516 acres; the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) program purchased 78 acres of easements, for a total of 3,952 acres; Rural Legacy easements were acquired on 81 acres; and 1,820 acres were added through the dedication of agricultural easements, bringing that total to 1,820 acres.
- **Policy Amendments, 2001 to 2008** – In 2001 and 2004, the County announced application periods during which the County would accept applications from property owners wishing to sell agricultural land preservation easements. Despite the increases in price per acre offered for easement purchase and the expanded eligibility criteria, only a few property owners applied to the program, and none accepted the County’s purchase offer. Reasons for this difficulty included the strong market pressures that support using land in the Rural West for residential development and the high land prices offered by developers for both purchase of land and purchase of development rights.

In fall 2003, the County Council approved changes to both the purchase of development rights program and the density sending provisions of the RC-DEO (Rural Conservation – Density Sending Option) District. Minimum size requirements were lowered and the maximum price per acre for easement purchase was increased to \$20,000.

In recognition of changing prospects for ALPP easement acquisition, the 2005 General Plan Monitoring Report noted that the County reduced its expected agricultural easement projection to 21,000-22,000 acres. Current projections, however, are more promising and indicate that the County should be able to purchase about 1,000 acres in additional easements and obtain at least 2,000 additional acres in dedicated easements, bringing the total amount of agricultural land preservation easements to at least 23,500 acres.

As an incentive to attract more properties into the ALPP, in April 2006, the County Council approved an increase in the maximum price per acre for easement purchase from \$20,000 to \$40,000. The County made new payment options available with this, including cash payments and a short term (10-year) installment purchase agreement (IPA), in addition to the standard 30-year IPA. Three properties applied to the program in fall 2006 and agricultural preservation easements have been acquired on two of the three properties, with the third settlement expected in 2009.

In FY 2007, the County Council approved the commitment of \$24 million for additional agricultural land preservation easement purchases, followed by \$12.5 million in FY 2008. Due to a downturn in the economy in 2008, there has been renewed interest in the ALPP.

Design of Cluster and Density Receiving Subdivisions and Scenic Road View Protection (Policy 3.2)

Indicator: REGULATIONS IMPROVED

Measure: CODE REVISIONS ADOPTED

Status:

- **Subdivision Design** – Amendments to the Zoning Regulations for the Rural West were adopted November 7, 2001. There were amendments to: improve design of cluster and density exchange subdivisions, address conflicts between agricultural and residential uses, and expand farm-related business uses as a permitted use on preservation parcels. In 2006, the Subdivision and Land Development Regulations were amended to require that new developments along a scenic road maintain a minimum 35-foot buffer of existing forest or woods between the road and the new development, to maintain the road's visual character.
- **Scenic Roads** – In 2006, a portion of Governor Warfield Parkway from Windstream Drive to Twin Rivers Road was added to the Howard County Scenic Roads Inventory. In 2008, five roads were added to the Inventory: all of Daisy Road, Duvall Road, A E Mullinix Road and Ed Warfield Road, and an additional section of Jennings Chapel Road from Daisy Road to Florence Road.

Agricultural Marketing Program (Policy 3.7)

Indicator: ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS THROUGH COUNTY AND STATE PROGRAMS INCREASES

Measure: NUMBER OF FARMERS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE

Status:

- **Marketing & Publications, 2001 to 2008** – The Howard Ag newsletter was first published in 2001 and continues to be an extremely valuable resource in promoting and sharing information about the agricultural community. As of January 2009, three issues are produced annually. Additional Agricultural Marketing Program (AMP) publications to promote agriculture or for educational purposes include:
 - “Shares in Success”, a publication detailing how to start a produce subscription service, 2005;



Preservation of the Rural West

- “Baler Twine and Duct Tape Marketing-A Primer for the Budget-minded Entrepreneur”, 2006;
- “Farms and Services Guide”, 2006;
- Howard County Farms and Agriculture activity book (14,000 copies distributed), 2007;
- An initiative to develop Youth and Agriculture curriculum for the 14 high school’s Career and Development Course (approximately 800 students reached each year), 2008; and
- An Agro-Tourism promotional map currently in the final stages of completion. There are currently eight agritourism operations in the County. The newest, Tin Lizzy Wineworks, opened in the fall of 2008 and teaches individuals and families the process of wine making.
- **Education Programs, 2005 to 2008** – Educational programs include: hosting the NxLevel Entrepreneurial Training (6 farmers) in 2005, four Central Maryland Women in Agriculture Forums (175 women to date) beginning in 2006, a “Controlling Energy Costs: Practical Solutions for Small Farms” workshop (35 farmers) in 2007, and both a “Writing Your Own Farm Business Plan” workshop (4 farmers) and co-hosting the “Changing Ag Markets-New Opportunities” program (35 farmers) in 2008.
- **Annual Promotion, 2005 to 2008**
 - First held in 2005, the Farm-City Celebration has now celebrated its fifth anniversary and expanded from eight days to at least 17 days. The “Iron Chef” event, now in its third year and held during the Howard County Fair, promotes eating and cooking with local foods. A “Job Exchange” has also been added during which the County Executive exchanges jobs with a farmer for one day. In 2008, a “Student Day on the Farm” was added that allows middle school students, who have no farm knowledge, to spend a day learning and working on a farm.
 - The Agricultural Marketing Program (AMP) has helped establish an annual farmers’ market program in the County. Currently, the AMP supports three farmers’ markets with 18 different vendors at the East Columbia Library, the Oakland Mills Village Center and the Glenwood Library.

Balanced and Phased Growth

General Plan Housing and Job Growth Forecasts

Land Acquisition and Construction of New Public Facilities

Affordable Housing and Senior Housing

Economic Development

Sewage Treatment Capacity

Transportation Priorities

Road Improvements

Transit Use

School Capacity

School Equity

Lifelong Learning

Recreation and Parks

Police Services

Fire and Rescue Services

Health and Human Services

Solid Waste



Vision 3

Our development will be concentrated within a growth boundary, will be served by adequate public facilities and will encourage economic vitality.



Balanced and Phased Growth

General Plan Housing and Job Growth Forecasts (Policy 4.27)

Indicator: FORECASTS ARE INCORPORATED INTO ADEQUATE PUBLIC FACILITIES HOUSING ALLOCATION CHART
Measure: CHART AMENDED

Status:

- To quickly implement the new General Plan planning areas and lower residential growth targets, a midyear amendment to the Adequate Public Facilities (APF) housing unit allocation chart was adopted February 5, 2001. Subsequent charts have been adopted on an annual basis each year in July.
- Several changes have been made to the Allocations Chart since 2000: In July 2003, the County Council created an additional 250 allocations per year for revitalization of the Route 1 Corridor. This action aligned with the Comprehensive Rezoning at that time creating new mixed use zones along Route 1. This increased the total to 1,750 units per year from the original General Plan total of 1,500. In order to promote affordable housing, an additional 100 moderate income housing unit (MIHU) allocations were added to the chart in July 2006, bringing the annual total to 1,850. In July 2007, a pool of 100 “green neighborhood” allocations was created to provide incentives for environmentally sustainable development. At that time, allocations were reduced in other areas, primarily the Rural West, in order to maintain the 1,850 total.
- In March 2009, the County Council passed a bill to allow residential development projects more flexibility to re-phase into the future. This action was precipitated by the steep downturn in the housing industry due to the economic recession. It was designed to alleviate the potential of half-finished developments, ease near-term strains on the homebuilding industry (given the limited market and lack of credit), and allow the County to better track when housing units will be built. The last point is particularly important because it allows for more accurate planning for capital construction projects including schools and roads.

Indicator: DEVELOPMENT MONITORING SYSTEM TRACKS DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY
Measure: REPORT PRODUCED ANNUALLY

Status:

- Development Monitoring System (DMS) Reports – Eight annual reports have been produced covering October 2000 through September 2008. All of these reports are posted on the Department of Planning and Zoning’s web site.
- Housing Units – From 2000 to 2008, a total of 13,126 housing units were built. This averages 1,641 units per year, in line with the General Plan projections.
- Job Creation – From 2000 to 2007 (the latest available from the US Bureau of Economic Analysis), 28,841 jobs were created, an average growth rate of 4,122 new jobs per year. This is slightly more than the 4,000 annual jobs targeted by the General Plan.
- Housing Type Distribution – The housing type distribution in the County is shifting. There is a declining supply of land available for single-family units in the East. Increases in single-family attached housing and apartments are projected. These projections are primarily based on zoning changes that

created new mixed use zones along US 1, additional opportunities to build smaller, higher-density age-restricted units for seniors, and regulations requiring more affordable housing.

- Age-restricted Housing – The demand for age-restricted housing allocations has surpassed expectations. Like all housing, demand and construction of age-restricted housing has slowed significantly due to the current economic climate. However, over the long term the average age of the Howard County population will continue to rise, so it is anticipated that overall demand for this product type will remain strong.

Indicator: FORECASTS INCORPORATED INTO OFFICIAL BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL (BMC) REGIONAL FORECASTS
Measure: NEW BMC FORECASTS ADOPTED

Status:

- New BMC forecasts that incorporate the General Plan household, population and employment projections have been adopted. The latest adopted forecast is known as Round 7B.
- The Howard County DPZ Research Division partnered with other county agencies and the Howard County Public School System to develop a model that takes the same projections and distributes by various geographies including school planning polygons, transportation analysis zones, statistical areas, water pressure zones, sewer service areas, fire box areas, and police beats. This allows the annual projections produced by DPZ to be easily used to consistently plan for all capital and operating categories.

Land Acquisition and Construction of New Public Facilities (Policy 4.1)

Indicator: TEN-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT MASTER PLAN BECOMES A MEANINGFUL TOOL FOR COUNTY PLANNING, BUDGET PRIORITY SETTING AND CONSTRUCTION
Measure: PREDICTABLE IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

Status:

- The County's Ten-Year Capital Improvement Master Plan is not yet fully effective in establishing a predictable implementation schedule for facility construction and maintenance. Projected expenditures for near term years are excessive and out years are very low. Better planning to improve projections of future needs is required for many types of facilities. For all project categories, clear priorities need to be established and adhered to in order to establish predictable phasing for new construction, maintenance, renovation, and other important projects that may lack a strong constituency and are therefore frequently deferred. Projects that have typically been deferred are roads, storm drains, sidewalks, parks and the maintenance of County buildings.
- County policies and actions are based on comprehensive plans and the capital budget. Most comprehensive plans are produced for 5 – 10 year cycles. As of January 2009, completed facility master plans include:
 - o 2003
Fire Facility Assessment



Balanced and Phased Growth

- o 2004

- Library Facilities Assessment and Master Plan: 2004 – 2030

- Senior Housing Master Plan

- o 2006

- Consolidated Housing Plan: FY 2006 – FY 2010

- Economic Development Strategic Plan

- Human Services Master Plan: 2005 - 2010

- Community College Master Plan: 2005 – 2015

- Land Preservation, Recreation and Parks Plan

- o 2007

- Pedestrian Master Plan

- o 2008

- School Facility Assessment – High Schools

- Transportation Development Plan (draft)

- Water and Sewerage Master Plan

Affordable Housing and Senior Housing (Policies 4.2 and 4.3)

Indicator: 2001 CONSOLIDATED PLAN INCLUDES STRATEGIES TO RETAIN EXISTING ASSISTED HOUSING, MAKE EXISTING UNITS AFFORDABLE TO LOW AND MODERATE INCOME HOUSEHOLDS AND INCLUDE AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN MIXED USE CENTERS

Measure: PLAN AMENDED

Status:

- The Consolidated Plan for 2001-2005 was adopted May 5, 2001. This five year plan was updated in May, 2006 and covers the period from 2006 to 2010.

The latest plan describes the County's diverse affordable housing strategies, including: rehabilitation loan and home repair programs to preserve the supply of more affordable older homes; home ownership assistance; increasing the supply of affordable rental housing through construction partnerships and rental assistance programs; and programs to assist displaced residents and homeless persons.

- Moderate Income Housing Units (MIHUs) required by changes to the Zoning Regulations after the adoption General Plan 2000 are beginning to be produced. The MIHU requirement was first added to the MXD zone as part of the 1993 Comprehensive Zoning Plan. It was then added to age-restricted housing use in July, 2001. By far, the largest expansion was with the 2004 Comprehensive Zoning Plan and "Comp Lite" in 2005 when other higher density zones were included. Additionally, in July 2006 an annual 100 unit MIHU APFO allocation pool was created.
- Plans including MIHU units based on these zoning changes were first approved in 2003. Since then a total of 760 MIHU units have been approved.
- An additional 628 MIHU units are in plans in process (not yet approved). All these statistics are reported annually in the Development Monitoring System report.

Indicator: MORE SENIOR HOUSING UNITS CONSTRUCTED OR RENOVATED

Measure: MINIMUM OF 250 NEW UNITS/YEAR

Status:

- Between November 2000 and October 1, 2008, 2,337 senior housing units have been built. Prior to the adoption of the General Plan 2000, there were 422 senior housing units in the County. The current total amounts to 2,759 senior units. These account for 2.6% of the 105,243 homes in Howard County as of October 1, 2008. Presently, there are an additional 2,054 senior housing units in the development 'pipeline': 166 under construction, 676 approved (no current building permits), and 1,212 planned but not yet approved. Development of these units will be phased over a number of years.
- In response to the demand for senior housing and the competition for housing unit allocations in the planned service area, in 2001 the County amended the housing allocations chart to provide an additional 250 allocations for senior housing in the east. This senior housing set-aside recognizes the fact that senior units place a lesser burden on County services than nonage-restricted units.
- The Aging in Place program is designed to provide home modifications to help residents live safely in their homes as they age. During FY 2003 and FY 2004 there was a record 405 referrals to the Aging in Place Program. As a result, 38 seniors received grant-funded home repairs/ modifications totaling \$41,044 through CDBG; 45 individuals received collaborative services through Rebuilding Together, Christmas in April and the Aging in Place program; and 64 seniors were provided with home repair consultations through telephone and home site visits. The remaining 258 referrals were evaluated for home modification needs through in-home occupational therapy services with 185 individuals receiving minor home modification / assistive devices totaling \$17,575. From 2006 through 2008, the Aging in Place Program completed 116 home repairs with \$110,029 in CDBG grant funds, 48 Columbia Association properties were modified with a \$68,980 grant from the Columbia Association and an additional \$13,066 in County funds supported 8 home modifications.
- Maryland Access Point (MAP), a single point of information and referral for persons over 50, and those over 18 with disabilities, now handles over 30,000 calls and in person visits per year. There was a 24% increase in the number of calls related to housing problems and a 36% increase in the number of calls related to income and financial issues from FY 2007- FY 2008. To address the increase in call volume related to the identified issues that affect aging in place, MAP increased its staff to include a Korean speaking MAP information specialist, and two case managers to assist clients with short-term needs. An automated call distribution system was installed and wait time to speak with a specialist averages less than 30 seconds. In 2007, MAP staff became certified to counsel residents about reverse mortgage options to remain in their homes. In 2008 MAP conducted 525 counseling sessions.



Balanced and Phased Growth

- As of September 2008, the County had issued 561 Senior Tax Credits and between 2007 and 2008 had 2,069 applicants, including 743 applicants who reapplied in 2008.
- The National Family Caregiver Support Program helps the elderly remain in their homes by providing support to their caregivers. From 2007 to 2008, over 10,000 caregivers received assistance through telephone contact and website resources. The number of caregivers who provided financial support for respite care and supplies increased 21% during the same period.
- The Senior Care Program provides resources for in-home care, including respite care, personal care and services, and medical supplies. From 2007 to 2008 the number of Senior Care clients increased by 24%. The total number of clients served during the two years is 321.
- Eight Senior Centers provide an opportunity for socialization, continuing education, improved nutrition, physical fitness and healthy lifestyle, and creativity for those aging in the community. In 2009 the County will break ground for a ninth, state-of-the-art Center in Laurel. Membership in the Senior Centers topped 4,000 in 2008, an increase of 23% over 2007. Three Senior Center Plus Sites provide a social day model program that helps individuals remain connected to community life by providing a range of structured activities designed to promote independence. This licensed program served 138 individuals in FY 2008. The Senior Centers have been able to serve other critical functions in the community. Three of the Centers, Glenwood, Florence Bain, and Ellicott City, are designated as emergency shelters in the County's emergency preparedness plan and staff has trained to run shelters in the event they are needed.
- The Office on Aging has sponsored several Evidence-Based Disease Prevention programs designed to assist seniors to age comfortably in the community. The Chronic Disease Self Management Program, Healthy Ideas program, APA Stroke program are three evidence-based models the Office has imbedded in its menu of opportunities. The Office on Aging has collaborated with medical practitioners and researchers to conduct these programs.
- The County's first Senior Housing Master Plan was released in early 2005. As the County ages and land values rise, the availability of housing becomes more acute. The Plan focused on ways to support universal design in new construction, tools for assisting those who want to age in place and ideas for addressing concerns about housing affordability. Various initiatives are expected to emanate from the Plan.

Economic Development (Policies 4.4 and 4.5)

Indicator: ANNUAL JOB TARGET MET OR EXCEEDED

Measure: 4,000 JOBS/YEAR (2000-2010)

Status:

- An additional 28,841 new jobs were created in Howard County from 2000 to 2007, the latest year available as reported by the US Bureau of Economic Analysis. This is an average growth rate of 4,122 new jobs per year, slightly more than the 4,000 annual job target. *Source: US Bureau of Economic Analysis*

Indicator: NUMBER OF COUNTY JOBS FILLED BY COUNTY RESIDENTS INCREASES
Measure: COUNTY AGENCIES AND STAKEHOLDERS TO DETERMINE APPROPRIATE QUANTITATIVE MEASURES OF ACHIEVEMENT

Status:

- The percentage of Howard County residents working in Howard County increased from 1980 to 2000. In 1980, 33.8% of working Howard County residents worked in Howard County. In 1990, the percentage rose slightly to 35.8% and by 2000 it had increased to 38.0%. This increase occurred as the number of working residents increased by over 74,000, from 60,839 workers in 1980 to 134,992 in 2000. Data from the Census Bureau's 2005 to 2007 American Community Survey indicate 39.9% of working Howard County residents worked in Howard County (3-year average); thus the upward trend appears to be continuing.

Indicator: VALUE OF ASSESSABLE BASE FOR NON-RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY INCREASES
Measure: 2% OVER THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Status:

- From July 2000 to July 2009 the non-residential assessable base in Howard County increased by 93.5%. Over the same period the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by 23%. The non-residential assessable base has clearly stayed ahead of inflation during this time period. *Source: Howard County Budget Office, and US Bureau of Labor Statistics*

Indicator: STRATEGIES TO ENCOURAGE PRIVATE REINVESTMENT IN UNDERUSED NON-RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY ADOPTED
Measure: NUMBER OR VALUE OF BUILDING PERMITS FOR RENOVATION

Status:

- US 1 Revitalization Loan Program, Established April 2002 – To spur reinvestment and redevelopment along US 1, the County's Economic Development Authority established a loan program to encourage businesses to improve building and site conditions within the corridor. The program offers at or below market rate financing through participating banks based on the lending criteria of each. By 2005, five banks were participating. As of December 2008, seven banks participate in the program: BB & T, Howard Bank, M & T Bank, OBA Bank, PNC Bank, Susquehanna Bank, and The Columbia Bank. Since the beginning of the program, 24 projects, totaling over \$25 million, have been approved.
- US 1 Business Relocation Assistance Program, 2004 – Funding through the State's Community Legacy Grant program was secured to study business conditions within the corridor and provide support, information and assistance to businesses interested in relocation or that may be displaced by redevelopment. The study was completed in 2005.
- Revenue Authority, Established 2005 – In 2005, the state's legislature approved the creation of a Howard County Revenue Authority. The authority's function is to finance, or operate cultural, recreational (excluding golf courses) and parking facilities. Members of the authority began meeting in August 2007. As of December 2008, the authority has been engaged in the feasibility studies for an Ellicott City parking garage and County aquatic facility.
- MARC Savage Station Garage (Project Research), 2008 – The County has been evaluating different methods for advancing growth and development goals. The FY 2010 Capital Budget will include project C0318 for funding the construction of a parking garage in conjunction with the MARC Savage Station redevelopment. Funding will be obtained by the issuance of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Bonds. The state authorizes the creation of TIF districts as a means of financing public infrastructure in connection with private development which furthers goals and policies set by the County. The project will establish the County's first TIF district used to fund public infrastructure.



Balanced and Phased Growth

- US 40 Loan Program, 2005 – In early 2005, Citizen's National Bank launched a Below Prime Financing Program for the Route 40 corridor. Through December 2008, there were no loans reported for the program.

Sewage Treatment Capacity (Policy 4.7)

Indicator: PLANNED EXPANSION OF LITTLE PATUXENT WATER RECLAMATION PLANT CONSTRUCTED

Measure: DATE COMPLETED

Status:

- Capacity of the Little Patuxent Water Reclamation Plant was expanded to 25 mgd in 2003, and the plant is currently operating under a discharge permit, which expires at the end of 2013, for that amount. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has implemented limits of technology goals, which will require improvements to nitrogen removal processes at the plant. Capital improvements to upgrade the plant's nutrient treatment levels are scheduled to begin in 2009 and be completed in 2012. Upon completion, all facilities will have a capacity of 28.5 mgd. As the County's population increases, the remaining facilities will be built out to the 28.5 mgd standard.

Transportation Priorities (Policies 4.8 and 4.9)

Indicator: TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN COMPLETED

Measure: PRIORITIES IN 10-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT MASTER PLAN

Status:

- The Transit Development Plan (TDP) was completed in November 2001. The TDP was updated through a public participation process in 2008.
- Most of the implementation priorities are being funded through the County budget, which included for FY 2001 and FY 2002: \$750,000 for seven (7) additional vehicles to expand service, reduce headways, and extend hours of service; \$190,000 to improve pedestrian access to bus stops; and \$800,000 for the AVL (Automatic Vehicle Locator) system to improve service reliability and quality control. The FY 2004 budget included \$850,000 for three (3) low floor buses for fixed route service and ten (10) new bus stop shelters. In FY 2008, three (3) paratransit buses were ordered and six (6) truck buses were delivered. In 2008, the County accepted delivery of two (2) 35-foot Hybrid buses.
- The County, in receipt of Congressional earmark funds, continues to explore options for establishing a transit operations facility. The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA), coordinating with the County and its consultants, is submitting requests to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for approval to purchase a six-acre site in Annapolis Junction. A successful acquisition of the site will permit construction of a new maintenance and operations facility for Howard Transit. Additional Federal funds are being sought for the construction of the new transit facility. These steps continue to involve MTA, FTA, and Anne Arundel County.

- Inter-jurisdictional service continues to the BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport, BWI Amtrak station and the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) Light Rail station. This service is funded through Federal, State and County dollars. Following a complete service analysis by the MTA in fall 2007, route additions and modifications were completed and took effect in January 2008. These changes included: the addition of the Gold Route (Columbia Mall to Maryland Food Center); modification to the Blue Route; renaming of the route from Columbia to BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport from the Red Express to Silver; thirty (30) minute frequency at peak hours on the Green Route; subdivision of the Brown Route to Brown and Orange Routes; and alignment adjustment to the Yellow Route.
- Howard County has made strides toward a goal of a total hybrid transit fleet as part its continuing commitment toward improving the environment. In the first steps toward this goal, Howard County purchased two hybrid buses which were put into the Fixed Route fleet for use in the fall of 2008 and began using four hybrid sedans for the HT Ride fleet in 2007. Additionally, Howard County has received Federal and State grants to help fund the continued acquisition of hybrid buses for both the Fixed Route and Paratransit systems, with the next hybrid buses expected in the paratransit fleet in December 2009.
- Other Accomplishments: A centralized toll-free telephone number providing Howard Transit, commuter and ridesharing information was created in FY 2004; the bus stop inventory and needs assessment was updated in 2008 to reflect new routes; as of 2008 Howard Transit has built 88 shelters and 52 bus stop pads.

Indicator: COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN OF HIGHWAYS UPDATED

Measure: PRIORITIES IN 10-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT MASTER PLAN

Status:

- The County utilizes General Funds as well as General Obligation Bonds and Excise Tax revenues to fund improvements through the Capital Budget. County funds are prioritized to leverage State funding for improvements on State roads through the Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP). Improvements since 2000 include interchanges at US 29/MD216, US 29/Johns Hopkins Road and MD 175/Snowden River Parkway; and roadway improvements to MD 216 and US 29, Dorsey Run Road , Sanner Road, and interchanges along US 29



Balanced and Phased Growth

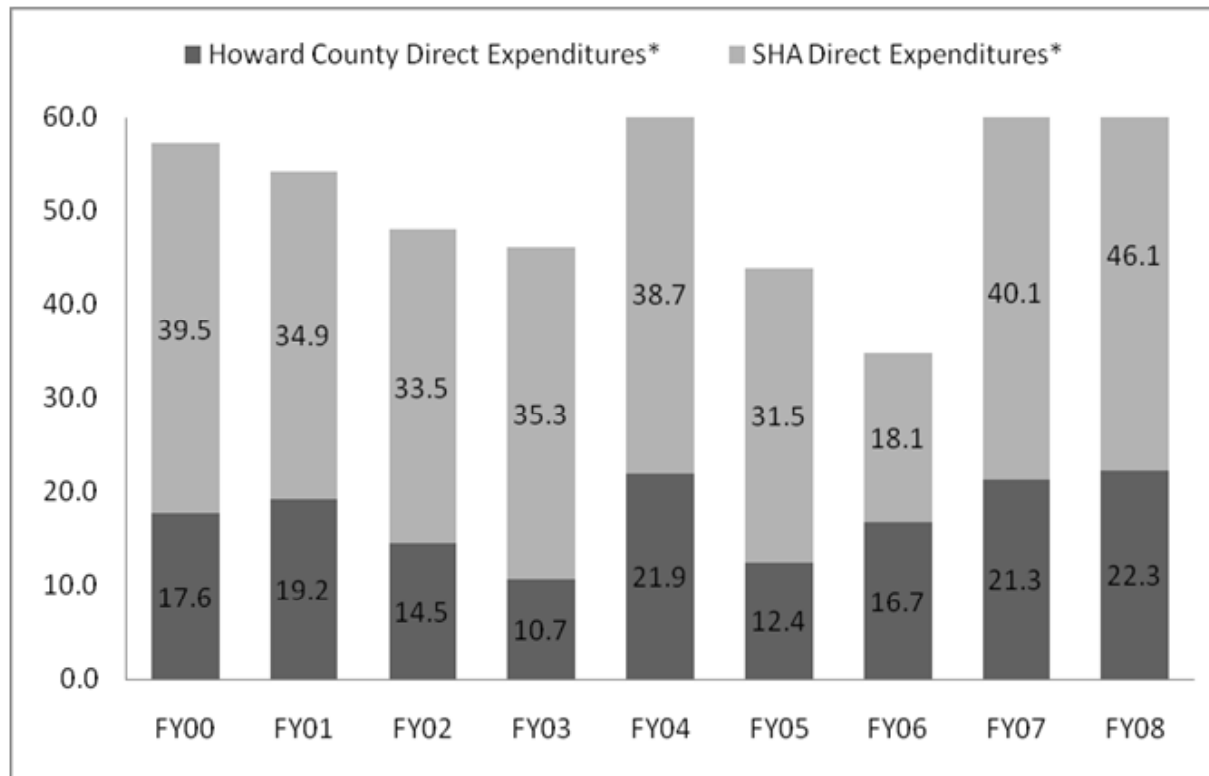
Road Improvements (Policy 4.8)

Indicator: FEDERAL, STATE AND COUNTY DOLLARS SPENT

Measure: AVERAGE OF \$35 MILLION PER YEAR

Status:

- Federal, State and County funding for road improvements totaled \$57.1 million in FY 2000, \$54.1 million in FY 2001, \$48.1 million in FY 2002, \$46.0 million in FY 2003, \$60.6 million in FY 2004, \$43.8 million in FY 2005, \$61.3 million in FY 2007, and \$68.4 million in FY 2008. These figures are greater than the General Plan target of \$35 million/year (see Chapter 2, Policy 2.3 for related information).



* Figures in millions of dollars and include federal contributions

Source: Howard County Department of Finance; Maryland Department of Transportation; Maryland State Highway Administration

Transit Use (Policy 4.9)

Indicator: PASSENGERS SERVED BY FIXED ROUTE AND PARATRANSIT INCREASE

Measure: AMOUNT OF CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS YEAR

Status:

- Howard Transit fixed route ridership increased more than 344%, from 184,000 trips in FY 2000 to 818,000 trips in FY 2008. Howard Transit was named Best Locally Operated Fixed Route Service in Maryland by the Transportation Association of Maryland in 2001 and again in 2007. HT Ride, a specialized transportation service for individuals who cannot ride fixed route buses, was named Best Paratransit System in 2008.
- Between FY 2000 and FY 2004, HT Ride paratransit ridership decreased 12% from 116,192 to 102,384 trips. The reduction in paratransit usage can be attributed to the following elements: reduced fare program for passengers with disabilities and senior citizens, a fixed route training program, targeted routing, and ensuring that fixed route vehicles are handicapped accessible. Over the last several years, HT Ride has shown a steady increase in ridership from 102,384 trips in FY 2004 to an estimated 125,000 trips in FY 2009, a 20% increase.
- As of the end of 2008, the County had 3,649 Park and Ride spaces in 12 lots, with an average annual useage of 59%.
- Applicants for the County rideshare matching program (carpools/vanpools) increased 40% from 366 in FY 2000 to 614 in FY 2008.

School Capacity (Policies 4.12 and 4.13)

Indicator: SCHOOL OVERCROWDING REDUCED

Measure: NUMBER OF SCHOOLS OPERATING OVER CAPACITY BY LEVEL

Status:

- Howard County's Adequate Public Facilities (APF) regulations define overcapacity as 115% of a school's program capacity. At this level, a school district is closed to new residential development (at the elementary and middle school levels). The total number of schools operating over 115% capacity decreased over the last 9 years. In 2000, 25 schools were over 115% capacity compared to only 2 schools in 2008. The school system relieves overcrowding through redistricting, portable classrooms, additions and building more schools. Capacity increases in conjunction with the County's APF regulations and limiting growth in crowded districts manage capacity needs over time.

Number of Schools over 115% of Program Capacity

Year ==>	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Elementary	18	16	13	10	7	4	2	2	2
Middle	5	5	5	3	2	1	0	0	0
High	2	5	3	4	4	1	1	1	0
Total	25	26	21	17	13	6	3	3	2

Source: Howard County Public School System

Indicator: EXPENDITURES FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION ARE MINIMIZED TO MEET SHORT-TERM NEEDS FOR ADDITIONAL CAPACITY

Measure: BUDGET FOR NEW SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION



Balanced and Phased Growth

Status:

- The FY 2001 through FY 2009 capital budgets approved by the County Council included a total of \$240.7 million to increase capacity using portables and additions vs. \$167.1 million for new school construction. This results in five year annual averages of \$26.7 million and \$18.6 million, respectively.
- During this same time period, a total of 10,555 permanent seats were added to the school system by building additions to existing schools and building new schools.
- To implement full-day kindergarten by 2007, 87 classrooms were required. A plan was in place to initially use portables and add new additions over time to fulfill these needs. Implementation and funding of this plan is complete.
- The school system hasn't had to redistrict for the last 2 years. The next redistricting is anticipated for the 2010/11 school year.

Number of Additional Seats (Permanent Capacity)

Year ==>	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total
Elementary	400	200	350	838	294	0	1,052	1,488	383	5,005
Middle	0	662	0	818	0	78	0	0	0	1,558
High	0	0	1,579	169	275	1,400	169	0	400	3,992
Total	400	862	1,929	1,825	569	1,478	1,221	1,488	783	10,555

Source: Howard County Public School System

Additional Relocatable Classrooms										
Year ==>	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total
Elementary	12	7	9	13	3	18	2	0	0	64
Middle	5	5	4	0	3	1	0	0	0	18
High	-1	5	7	0	13	4	0	0	0	28
Total	16	17	20	13	19	23	2	0	0	110

Source: Howard County Public School System

Lifelong Learning (Policies 4.16 and 4.17)

Indicator: VOLUME OF COUNTY LIBRARY CIRCULATION/SERVICES PROVIDED INCREASES

Measure: AMOUNT OF INCREASE

Status:

- A major component of Howard County's strong educational system, in addition to the Howard County Public School System and Howard Community College, the Howard County Library System delivers equal opportunity in education for every resident of Howard County.

- People of all ages, means, and backgrounds visited Howard County Library's six branches more than 2.6 million times in FY 2008 to borrow 5.6 million items (e.g. books, music, video), conduct research on 300 computers, and attend classes, meetings, and seminars. These numbers reflect 26 percent and 15 percent increases, respectively, compared to FY 2007 statistics, and 178 and 57 percent respective increases over FY 2001.
- Projections for FY 2009 visits and items borrowed continue to increase in the 20 percent range.
- Increases in usership are attributable to the value the community places in the three pillars of the Library's quality educational program, which includes Self-directed Education via print materials and e-resources, Research Assistance and Instruction for individuals (personalized) and groups (classes), and Instructive and Enlightening Experiences through community/cultural center concepts.
- The Library's Facilities Assessment and Master Plan 2005 – 2030 proposes an additional 142,000 square feet of library building space through replaced and renovated facilities. The additional space addresses current and projected use, and brings total square footage to the national standard of one square foot of library space per capita. The first and most pressing project, the new Charles E. Miller Branch & Historical Center, is slated to open in 2011.
- Howard County Library ranks first in the nation among public library systems for its overall educational program (HAPLR, American Libraries, November 2008).

Indicator: HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE ENROLLMENT IN CREDIT AND NON-CREDIT CLASSES INCREASES
 Measure: AMOUNT OF INCREASE

Status:

- In FY 2008, Howard Community College had 27,609 students enrolled in classes compared to 20,758 in FY 2000. For credit enrollment increased from 7,992 in FY 2000 to 11,274 in FY 2008. Non-credit enrollment increased from 12,766 to 17,056 over this period. With many students attending part-time, enrollment equated, on a full time equivalent (FTE) basis, to 5,829 FTE students in FY 2008 compared to 3,792 in FY 2000, a 53.7% increase.

Recreation and Parks (Policy 4.18)

Indicator: COMPREHENSIVE RECREATION, PARKS AND OPEN SPACE PLAN IS UPDATED, INCLUDING SPECIFIC LAND ACQUISITION, GREENWAY AND TRAIL PRIORITIES
 Measure: PRIORITIES INCORPORATED INTO 10-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT MASTER PLAN

Status:

- The 2005 Comprehensive Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan must be updated by December 2011. The Department of Recreation and Parks (DRP) received State Guidelines and data from the MD Department of Planning. The DRP will begin preparation of a new Land Preservation, Recreation and Parks Plan in July 2010, and expects to have a final plan by the end of 2011.

Indicator: PRIORITY ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED
 Measure: NUMBER AND TYPES OF ACTIONS

Status:

- DRP has implemented numerous priorities from their 1999 Comprehensive Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan, and the 2005 Land Preservation, Recreation and Parks Plan, since General Plan 2000 was adopted. These include: purchase of 43 parcels totaling 218 acres to expand regional parks and greenways; acquired over 1,583.9 acres of open space through subdivision dedication; restoration of historic structures including the Ellicott City Colored



Balanced and Phased Growth

School and the Pfeiffers Corner Schoolhouse; construction or replacement of numerous community parks and playgrounds; addition of an in-line hockey facility at Alpha Ridge Park and the four-mile Patuxent Spur Trail from Lake Elkhorn to Savage Park; completion of Phases I and II of the Western Regional Park and Meadowbrook Community Park; start of construction of the Meadowbrook Athletic Complex; addition of six synthetic turf fields at Rockburn Branch Park, Western Regional Park, and Cedar Lane Park; construction of the Glenwood Community Center; and completion of a master plan for the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area.

- Additional major initiatives:
 - o The Citizen's Planning Committee for Blandair Regional Park conducted three public meetings and completed a master plan for the 300-acre park in Columbia.
 - o The Robinson Nature Center Citizen Advisory Committee conducted public meetings and completed a master plan for the Nature Center.
 - o The North Laurel Community Center and Park Citizen Advisory Committee conducted public meetings and completed a master plan for the Community Center and Park.

Police Services (Policy 4.20)

Indicator: NUMBER OF CRIMES PER 1,000 POPULATION REMAINS STABLE OR REDUCED
Measure: EQUAL TO OR LESS THAN 1999 LEVEL

Status:

- The crime rate has steadily decreased from 1999 levels. Part I crimes (more serious offenses such as murder, theft, rape and aggravated assault) decreased 0.85% from 31.7 to 31.5 per 1,000 population between 1999 and 2008. Part II & III crimes (simple assault, vandalism, driving while intoxicated, drug offenses) decreased 18.6% from 47 to 38 per 1,000 population over this period. These are significant decreases given a 14% population increase during the same timeframe.

Fire and Rescue Services (Policy 4.21)

Indicator: AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME IN MINUTES
Measure: IMPROVEMENT IN RESPONSE TIME

Status:

- From 1998 to 2008, the number of emergency incidents increased 39.7% from 20,670 incidents in 1998 to 28,880 incidents in 2008. The number of incidents per 1,000 population increased 23.7% from 88 to 102.

- The overall average response time for a first arriving unit to the scene of an emergency incident has increased from 7:45 minutes in 1998 to 9:02 minutes in 2008. This measure includes call processing time and travel time.
- Analysis has shown that this increase may be attributed to several factors including the dispatch and call processing sequence associated with Emergency Medical Dispatch, an increase in concurrent calls for service, and an increase in roadway congestion.
- Modifications to the dispatch process will be implemented in February 2009 and are expected to reduce the average response time of the first arriving unit by about one minute.
- Initial findings from a self-assessment study generated recommendations for additional fire stations to provide better distribution of resources throughout the County and further reduce response times. These projects were included in the Executive's proposed FY10 Capital Budget.

Health and Human Services (Policy 4.22)

Indicator: COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES PLAN

Measure: THE PLAN IS COMPLETED

Status:

- The Howard County Department of Citizen Services and the Association of Community Services (ACS) completed the Human Service Master Plan (HSMP) in 2005. The HSMP contains a wealth of information about the human service needs of the County, including goals for each population group identified and possible indicators to be used to track progress. Findings from a number of earlier studies and reports were used in developing the HSMP, including: Health Improvement Plan (2001), Status of Seniors in Howard County; Aging in Place Initiative (2001), Howard County Health and Human Service Study (2002), Howard County Office on Aging Study of Demographics and Needs of Seniors and Middle Age Populations in Howard County (2002), Phase 2 Report: Strategies for Enhancing Delivery in the Route 1 – Hammond Area (2002), Connecting Across Cultures: Improving Access to Health and Human Services for the Foreign Born in Howard County, MD (2002), Status and Needs of Women in Howard County (2002), and Howard County Senior Housing Master Plan (2004).
- In 2007, committees were created for each of the goals described in the HSMP and tasked with identifying key indicators, potential partners with a role to play, and what works to improve the quality of life. Work by the committees was the basis for the Human Services Master Plan: Quality of Life Indicators report released in January, 2009. The report is available on the Citizen Services and ACS website and reflects the Results-Based Accountability (RBA) model, which Citizen Services adopted for use in implementation of the HSMP.
- Citizen Services uses the HSMP in making funding decisions for the Community Service Partnerships (CSP) program, which provides funding to local non-profit human service providers. Other local funders also consider the HSMP in their funding decisions. ACS has incorporated findings from the HSMP in its Public Policy papers, and has convened work groups on several focus areas.
- The FY 2008 budget included an additional \$500,000 to support implementation of the HSMP. Most of this funding was distributed as grants to non-profits for one-time capacity building projects.
- Additional contributing studies, 2005 to 2008
 - o Howard County's Foreign-Born Community: Dimensions, Growth and Implications, 2005 – A needs assessment conducted by the Association for the



Balanced and Phased Growth

Study and Development of Community, funded by Howard County Government and the Horizon Foundation; results were woven into the HSMP in 2006.

- o Report of the Howard County Task Force on Affordable Housing, 2006 – The Task Force was convened to develop a strategy that addresses affordable housing needs and goals, the barriers to implementing the provision for low, moderate and middle income households and the resources to overcome such barriers.
- o Equality at Stake: The Economic Status of Women in Howard County, 2007 – Produced for the Howard County Commission for Women and a follow-up to the 2002 report, Status and Needs of Women in Howard County.
- o Paratransit Survey Final Report, 2008.

Indicator: PRIORITY ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED
Measure: NUMBER AND TYPE

Status:

- Self-Sufficiency
 - o The HSMP identified four over-arching issues: housing, homelessness, transportation and access to services. The recognition that all are economic issues led to a growing focus on the concept of self-sufficiency. In 2008, the Board to Promote Self-Sufficiency was created, bringing together key stakeholders from the public and private sectors to determine the most effective strategies for addressing poverty and self-sufficiency in Howard County. The Board began meeting in January, 2009, and one of its first actions was to create the Committee to End Homelessness, which is charged with providing leadership in the development of a 10-year plan to end homelessness.
- Access to services
 - o Citizen Services is currently engaged in a capacity building initiative that address issues of poverty and self-sufficiency and the needs of the foreign born. This project provides a unique opportunity to study the current systems of service in these two critical human service areas and to explore creative, new approaches. The goal is to develop new models of service delivery, which build on the strengths of existing organizations, while eliminating gaps and barriers that prevent people from accessing the services they need.
 - o To improve access to services in the southeastern portion of Howard County, in January 2004 the Horizon Foundation made a multi-year grant to Family and Children's Services of Central Maryland to open an office in North Laurel. In 2008, with additional funding from Citizen Services and the Columbia Foundation, and with the Community Action Council as the lead agency, the new North Laurel/Savage Multi-Service Center was launched. The Center has since been successful in providing valuable services to the community. It now has representatives from: Community Action Council, Howard County Department of Social Services, Domestic Violence Center, Family and Children Services, FIRN, Grassroots, Legal Aid, and Howard County Workforce Development.

- o MD Access Point (MAP) builds on the efforts of the earlier Aging Alliance Coordinator, who originally provided help to ElkrIDGE-area seniors. Howard County was one of two counties selected in 2003 to pilot this innovative project to serve as a gateway for information and assistance for older adults, persons with disabilities, family members and other caregivers. Information, along with assistance and futures planning, is available through this program to individuals of all income levels in need of services to assist with remaining in the community and leading full lives.
- Cultural Competency
 - o A recurring theme in the HSMP was the need for services to be culturally competent in order to meet the needs of the fast growing foreign born population in the County. With funding from Citizen Services and the Horizon Foundation, FIRN organized a cultural competency summit for community leaders in fall, 2008, to develop a greater understanding of this issue.
- On-going implementation of the HSMP
 - o Citizen Services has adopted the Results-Based Accountability (RBA) model for use in moving the HSMP forward. Within Citizen Services, both the Community Service Partnerships (CSP) program and the Local Children’s Board utilize RBA as part of their grants management.
 - o The next steps envisioned regarding implementation are to:
 - Identify the activities already underway in the County – by nonprofits, for-profits, and faith-based organizations – which support efforts to “turn the curve” on the selected indicators, and to determine how outcomes of those activities are being measured.
 - Find ways to develop data which is currently lacking for some of the indicators.

Solid Waste (Policy 4.26)

Indicator: AMOUNT OF RESIDENTIAL AND NON-RESIDENTIAL WASTE RECYCLED INCREASES

Measure: 40% OF TOTAL VOLUME

Status:

- The County recycles or reduces more than 45% of the total residential and non-residential waste stream. Howard County’s Maryland Recycling Act (MRA) Waste Diversion Rate was 45% in 2005, 47% in 2006 and 48% in 2007.
- County recycling includes anti-freeze, asphalt shingles, batteries, cardboard, carpet, cooking oil, electronics, metal, metal cans, paint, paper, plastics (hard and soft), textiles, tires, wood waste, and yard waste. Recycling markets and prices paid to the County for collected materials are forecasted to remain flat with little or no revenue in the near future.
- In July 2006, single stream recycling, which allows recyclable items to be put in the same recycling container with no separation, was started countywide.
- In 2008, recycling carts or containers were delivered to every resident for County recycling collections. Since the delivery of the carts in September 2008, recycling participation rates have increased countywide and recycling volume has increased 10% and trash volumes decreased 12%. Also in 2008, additional items were added to the County’s recycling program including hard plastics, soft plastics, carpet, cooking oil, and wire hangers.

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Community Conservation and Enhancement

Regulations for Mixed Use Redevelopment, Special Exceptions and Quality of New Development

Corridor Revitalization Studies and Community Master Plans

Community Conservation

Property Maintenance and Reinvestment

Aging Public Facilities and Infrastructure

School Equity

Crime

Historic Preservation



Vision 4

Our communities will be livable, safe and distinctive.



Community Conservation and Enhancement

Regulations for Mixed Use Redevelopment, Special Exceptions and Quality of New Development (Policies 5.3, 5.6, and 5.7)

Indicator: REGULATIONS IMPROVED

Measure: CODE REVISIONS ADOPTED (POLICIES 5.6 AND 5.7)

Status:

- **Pre-submission Community Meeting, 2001 to 2007** – In 2001, regulations were created for petitioners of new residential infill development in the Planned Service Area (PSA) to hold meetings with communities prior to submitting plans. The meetings allow developers to provide information to the community regarding a proposal and also allow community residents to ask questions and offer comments. In 2002, requirements were expanded to cover both conditional uses (previously special exceptions) and zoning map amendments. In 2007, amendments expanded meeting requirements to include all residential subdivisions both within and outside the PSA and strengthened the process by requiring meetings to be held in public buildings within five miles of a site. The amendments also included notification requirements and established a process for citizen meeting requests with DPZ staff to review formally submitted plans.
- **Special Exception Provisions, 2001 to 2002** – Major revisions to special exception provisions of the zoning regulations were adopted. Key amendments included: revising the approval standards to improve compatibility with neighboring land uses, changing the term *special exception* to *conditional use*, and deleting some special exception uses authorized in each zoning district.
- **Environmental Protection, 2001** – The Subdivision and Land Development Regulations were amended, creating the fifth edition. Amendments to enhance the protection of environmental features included: increasing stream buffers in high quality rural watersheds; improving the design of residential infill within the PSA by allowing smaller lot sizes and requiring increased amounts of open space for subdivisions of eleven or more lots; and by increasing residential lot sizes in smaller infill projects of ten or less lots. Zoning regulations were also amended to improve the design of rural subdivisions to better protect farmland and rural character by basing receiving density on net, rather than gross, site area.
- **Route 1 Corridor, 2001 to 2008** – Completed in 2002, the *Route 1 Corridor Revitalization Study* recommended three new zoning districts to foster mixed-use development patterns in the US 1 corridor. As part of the County's Comprehensive Zoning cycle, the Corridor Employment (CE), Transit Oriented Development (TOD) and Corridor Activity Center (CAC) designations were created. The accompanying *Route 1 Manual* was adopted in March 2004 and set design requirements and recommendations for developments in the new zoning districts. In December 2008, DPZ began revisions to the *Route 1 Manual* that include zoning regulation amendments approved by the County Council and recommendations from the 2008 Maryland State Highway Administration's *US 1 Corridor Improvement Strategy*.
- **Route 40 Corridor Zoning, 2004 to 2005** – Completed in 2004, the *Route 40 Enhancement Study* called for the creation of a mixed-use district for the corridor and recommended other goals and guidelines to improve the quality of development within the study area. Recommendations for zoning changes were proposed during the 2004/2005 Comprehensive Zoning update. The new TNC (Traditional Neighborhood Center) Overlay District was approved and intends to create vibrant mixed-use, pedestrian-oriented centers in the corridor. Sites within the corridor may continue to be used, developed, and redeveloped in accordance with the underlying zoning district.
- **Scenic Roads, 2006 to 2008** – Amendments were made to the Howard County Code to require, in certain instances, buffers for forested areas along

scenic roads. In December 2008, several rural, historically significant roads were added to the County's inventory. (Refer to Policy 3.2 for more information.)

- **Green Buildings, 2007** – The County established green building standards for public and private buildings. Green building techniques use environmentally sustainable materials to construct buildings that conserve resources, both in their construction and in their future operation, and provide healthy living or working space. Most new publicly funded buildings (30% or more County funding), larger than 10,000 square feet must attain a United States Green Building Council (USGBC) LEED Silver rating. Most new private buildings larger than 50,000 square feet must attain a USBGC LEED Certified rating.
- **Green Neighborhoods, 2007** – The County adopted a green neighborhood program that establishes standards for making communities more environmentally sustainable through resource conservation and energy efficiency. As both an incentive to promote the program and accelerate progress toward more sustainable development patterns, housing allocations are made available for residential projects that meet specific standards developed for green neighborhoods and homes. Projects that qualify as Green Neighborhoods receive “fast track” plan processing.
- **Public Postings, 2007** – Requirements for posting coded signs were established to enhance public identification of land development and zoning proposals. Posted signs identify and advertise upcoming public hearings, new subdivisions and pre-submission community meetings. The codes can then be used to find out additional information about cases or meetings by either calling DPZ or referencing the codes on the County's newly updated website.
- **Design Advisory Panel, 2008** – The Design Advisory Panel (DAP) was established to improve project design and compatibility with surrounding development, to promote revitalization and to enhance property values. The DAP process encourages excellence in a project's architecture and site design. It is required for development, redevelopment and construction projects within the US 1 corridor and for age-restricted adult housing requiring a conditional use permit.
- **Neighborhood Infill Development, 2008** – Regulations to limit infill in established single-family neighborhoods were created to address incompatible development patterns between new and existing development and to better protect the character of established single-family communities. The regulations encourage the preservation of parcels by allowing density exchange between small R-20, R-12, and R-ED sending parcels and larger receiving parcels in the R-20, R-12, R-SA-8, R-A-15, and CAC zoning districts under certain conditions. Density exchange from small parcels, as an alternative to neighborhood infill, promotes preservation of established neighborhoods by allowing owners to sell their development rights for use in new projects located in other zoning districts.

Corridor Revitalization Studies and Community Master Plans (Policy 5.19)

Indicator: PLANS UNDERWAY OR COMPLETED

Measure: NUMBER AND TYPES

Status:

- **US 1 Corridor Study, 2001 to present** – The *Route 1 Corridor Revitalization Study* was the first corridor planning initiative following the adoption of General Plan 2000. The first phase report, completed in June 2001, documented the results of community workshops held in 2000 and established the Route 1 Task Force and Area Committees to create short-term policy and program recommendations for transportation, appearance and youth service initiatives. A second phase report was completed in July 2002 and identified topics broader in scope with longer-term objectives. Recommendations were focused on tools and incentives for revitalizing land use patterns, transportation systems, ensuring environmental quality and approaches for meeting health and human service needs in the corridor. In February 2008, the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA), in partnership with Howard County, produced the *US 1 Corridor Improvement Strategy* report. The report recommends a set of transportation improvements to accommodate new development and redevelopment along the corridor and enhance the appearance and functioning of the US 1 road network.



Community Conservation and Enhancement

- **Route 40 Corridor Study, 2003 to present** – The Route 40 Enhancement Study Task Force was created in September 2003. The Task Force met with the Department of Planning and Zoning for ten months to develop a vision for the corridor and a comprehensive plan that proposed land use, design, and transportation recommendations. The final report – *Route 40 Enhancement Study* – was published in December 2004. In 2008, DPZ initiated a streetscape master plan (SMP) process for the Route 40 study area. The SMP will identify opportunities to enhance the aesthetic quality of the study area through the addition of landscaping elements and pedestrian improvements within the public rights-of-way.
- **Oakland Mills Revitalization Plan, 2004 to present** – The Enterprise Foundation, in conjunction with a Partnership Group represented by community-based organizations, property owners, local governing bodies, village staff and County agencies, brought together residents of Oakland Mills in February 2004 to create a Revitalization Plan for the village. The Partnership finalized the Revitalization Plan in January 2005. A community development officer was hired and four committees (housing, education, community vibrancy and safety) were established to help implement the plan's recommendations. In spring 2007, the revitalization effort's Community Vibrancy Committee developed the *Oakland Mills Village Center Master Plan* which established a broad vision for evolving a unique identity, greater vitality and cohesive and well-planned redevelopment for the village center.
- **Downtown Columbia, 2005 to present** – In October 2005, a multi-day planning and design charrette was held for the public to create a vision for the future development of Downtown. Following the charrette, the Columbia Downtown Focus Group was established to provide further comment on the charrette vision and its implementation. In February 2006, a preliminary draft master plan was presented to the public. The master plan was based on the initial concepts developed during the weeklong charrette and was influenced by the discussions of the Focus Group and additional public feedback. Areas of focus included housing, transportation, design, community facilities, fiscal impacts, building heights, density and the redevelopment of existing areas. A final vision document, *Downtown Columbia: A Community Vision*, was completed in December 2007. The document defines goals for redevelopment and serves as a broad framework for the development of a downtown master plan. In October 2008, General Growth Properties (successor to the Rouse Company) submitted a General Plan Amendment and a Zoning Regulation Amendment for review by the County.
- **Additional Accomplishments:**
 - Highland Crossroads, 2005 – A series of meetings involving County staff, the Greater Highland Crossroads Association and commercial property owners were held to discuss how potential redevelopment could be visually compatible and consistent with surrounding development. Voluntary architectural and site development guidelines were completed in January 2006.
 - Pedestrian Master Plan, 2006 to 2007 – Study for the master plan began in 2006 and included a comprehensive review of the sidewalk network within the County's Planned Service Area. Additional field surveys were conducted through 2007. Almost two dozen community meetings were held to present the results of the study and gather community feedback. The *Howard County Pedestrian Master Plan* was completed in August 2007, establishing a framework for guiding and prioritizing public and private pedestrian improvements. Potential projects are prioritized on the basis of safety, level of demand, engineering feasibility, cost and other factors.

Indicator: IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIORITY ACTIONS

Measure: NUMBER AND TYPES

Status:

- **Route 1 Corridor:**

- Rezoning – As part of the Comprehensive Zoning Plan, approximately 1,580 acres in the corridor were rezoned to new corridor districts: 225 acres to CAC, 270 acres to TOD, and 1,085 acres to CE. As of August 2008, approximately 55% of the 335 acres (8 projects) zoned CAC were developed or in process, 16.8 acres (2 projects) zoned TOD were in process and approximately 47 acres (8 projects) zoned CE were in process.
- Image Enhancement – These include a GTV cable television special, “how to” brochures, corridor clean-up campaigns, tree planting beautification, and gateway community signage in North Laurel, Savage, Jessup, and Elkridge.
- Transportation Improvement – Sidewalk has been installed in the vicinity of Gorman Road, MD 175 and Pocomoke Avenue, and the Troy Hill Corporate Center. The extension of Dorsey Run Road, north of MD 175 to MD 103, has been initiated and is scheduled for completion by 2012 at the earliest. A roadway design study has also been initiated to evaluate the engineering required to retrofit a 1.3 mile segment of Route 1 from MD 175 to Business Parkway with new standards identified in the *US 1 Corridor Improvement Study* using developer and capital funding.

- **Route 40 Corridor:**

- Rezoning – As part of the Comprehensive Zoning Plan, 13 zoning changes were approved for the corridor including the creation of Traditional Neighborhood Centers (TNC) at Chatham Square, Enchanted Forest Shopping Center, and other property along Frederick Road.
- Image Enhancement – Over 100 cherry trees have been planted at multiple locations along the corridor.
- Resource Conservation – A \$40,000 grant from Maryland’s Department of Natural Resources (DNR) was used to develop a work plan to restore water quality and water habitat in the Lower Patapsco. The Sucker Branch sub-watershed, which crosses US 40 on the west side of Normandy Shopping Center, was included among the study areas.
- Transportation Improvements – Road resurfacing and restriping has been completed from the Little Patuxent River to St. John’s Lane. Preliminary design work for the Patapsco Bridge renovation has also been completed. New lanes have been added at Rogers Avenue and the southbound Route 29 interchange. Improvements have been made to turn lanes at Pebble Beach Drive and additional improvements are planned for turn lanes at the intersection of Rogers Avenue. Pedestrian connections included new sidewalk between Plumtree Drive and North Chatham Road.

Note: Implementation of priority actions in the Route 1 and Route 40 corridors are also described under Economic Development (Policy 4.5, loan programs), Health and Human Services (Policy 4.22), and Regulations for Mixed Use Redevelopment, etc. (Policies 5.3, 5.6, 5.7, zoning).

Community Conservation (Policy 5.19)

Indicator: COMMUNITY CONSERVATION COMMITTEES ESTABLISHED AND SUPPORTED

Measure: NUMBER AND TYPES

Status:

- Broad-based stakeholder groups were created to support the County’s planning efforts. From 2000 through 2008, County agencies provided committee



Community Conservation and Enhancement

support to the Bryant Square, Harper's Choice, and Oakland Mills communities in Columbia; Route 1's Elkridge and Cedar Villa Heights communities in the eastern part of the County; and the Highland community in the western part of the County. In general, these groups monitor conditions, identify community strengths and weaknesses and make needed interventions. Established in 1995, the County Council's District 4 Revitalization Committee facilitates collaboration among government agencies with the goal of creating strong, healthy neighborhoods in the district. In 2007, the committee was reorganized as the Columbia Revitalization Committee to include other Council districts within the Columbia planning area.

Indicator: PROJECTS UNDERWAY OR COMPLETED

Measure: NUMBER AND TYPES

Status:

- **Wilde Lake, 2003** – The Bryant Square Landscape Maintenance Manual and Revitalization Plan were completed in May 2003. DPZ and DPW worked with residents of Bryant Square and the Wilde Lake Community Association to complete implementation projects including: paving of Nightmist and Daystar Courts; removal of a concrete emergency entrance; installation of curb, gutter and sidewalk; slope regrading to correct drainage runoff; and the installation of a fence between Roslyn Rise and Bryant Square.
- **Highland, 2005** – With assistance from DPZ, the Highland community installed gateway signs at entry points along MD 108.
- **Blossoms of Hope, 2006** – This tourism project is designed to raise awareness about cancer and to offer hope to individuals and families dealing with the disease. In 2006, the County initiated a tree planting program with the original goal of planting 1,000 cherry trees on public property. Having reached this milestone, the program was expanded to include private property and a total of 3,000 cherry trees across Howard County to beautify more locations and “beckon people to visit and experience the County’s many attractions.”
- **Oakland Mills/Robert Oliver Place, 2007 to 2008** – The Robert Oliver Place Enhancement (ROPE) was identified as a pilot project for funding through the County’s Community/Renewal Enhancement (C0287) capital project. The fund was created to support communities facing ongoing challenges of improving and maintaining their surroundings. The need for a visual and physical connection between the community barns and the Interfaith Center was identified in the 2007 *Oakland Mills Village Center Master Plan*. A work group was formed in the fall of 2007 to facilitate the design and construction of the project. Preliminary design plans were completed in the spring of 2008 and include new pedestrian and street amenities that will allow the public roadway to become a special gathering space for both daily needs and community events. Final design plans were in development in 2008 with construction drawings planned for contractor bid.

Property Maintenance and Reinvestment (Policies 5.8 and 5.11)

Indicator: REGULATIONS AND/OR INCENTIVES ADOPTED AND FUNDED

Measure: NUMBER OR VALUE OF BUILDING PERMITS FOR RENOVATIONS

Status:

- From 2000 to 2005, the number and value of residential additions, alterations and repairs (AAR) nearly doubled. In 2000, there were 717 building permits for \$21 million worth of renovation work. This increased in 2005 to 1,310 permits valued at almost \$52.5 million (includes permits for work

valued at more than \$10,000). While the number of permits declined from 2005 to 2006, the value of AARs continued to increase. Noticeable declines in activity from 2007 through 2008 may be attributed to the effects of the current national economic recession.

Number and Value of Residential Additions, Alterations and Repairs Cal 2000 – Cal 2008

Calendar	# of Permits	Value*
2000	717	\$21,006,189
2001	841	\$26,631,587
2002	1,003	\$34,381,828
2003	1,140	\$40,026,483
2004	1,104	\$47,924,842
2005	1,310	\$52,419,674
2006	1,124	\$65,561,493
2007	890	\$53,313,986
2008	684	\$38,716,193
TOTAL	4,805	\$169,970,929

* Includes only AARs with values of \$10,000 or more

Source: Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits

- The Department of Housing and Community Development has two programs to assist seniors and disabled persons with needed home maintenance projects. (see Policy 4.3). The Economic Development Authority oversees a Below Prime Financing Program for reinvestment in the Route 1 Corridor (see Policy 4.5).

Aging Public Facilities and Infrastructure (Policy 5.12)

Indicator: MAINTENANCE AND REPLACEMENT SCHEDULES FOR ALL TYPES OF FACILITIES COMPLETED

Measure: INCORPORATED INTO 10-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT MASTER PLAN

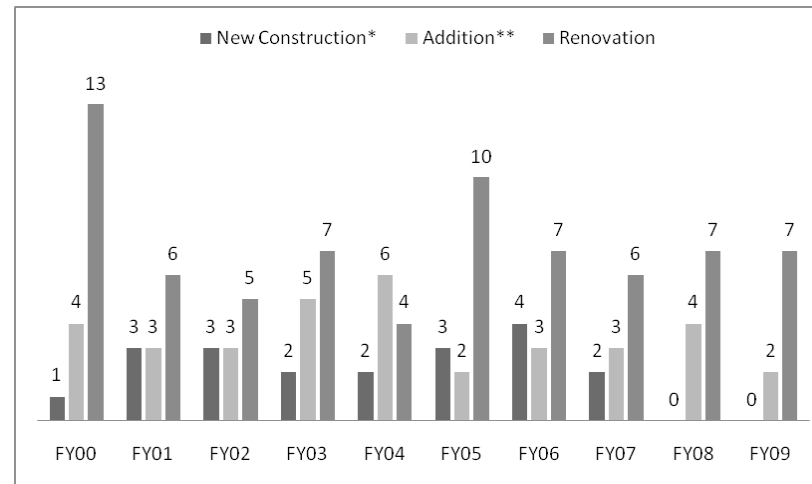
Status:

- Capital Budgets for the fiscal years 2000 through 2009 contain 127 total requests for school projects associated with facility maintenance and replacement including: 20 new construction, 35 addition and 72 renovation requests. Renovation projects include improvements to roofing as well as systemic and other renovations. The capital planning requests do not include projects for minor renovations, playgrounds, site acquisition, technology, minor roofing projects, barrier free projects, parking lots, technology education expansion, or athletic fields.



Community Conservation and Enhancement

School Project Requests in Capital Budgets FY 2000 – FY 2009



*New Construction includes Replacement projects

** Some Additions may also include a Renovation component that is not included in the Renovation category

Note: Some projects are counted in multiple years reflecting funding of project phases

Source: Howard County Public School System; Howard County Capital Budget Documents FY00 – FY09

- To maintain other public buildings, DPW manages a systematic improvement fund for the renovation and replacement of aging facilities, systems and equipment. Other capital projects fund maintenance and/or replacement of public infrastructure such as roads, sidewalks, water and sewer lines, stormwater management systems, and parks and natural resource areas. It continues to be a challenge to fund maintenance and replacement projects that compete with the demand for new facilities.

School Equity (Policy 5.12)

Indicator: DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SCHOOLS ARE NOT A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN HOME PURCHASE DECISIONS

Measure: COUNTY AGENCIES AND STAKEHOLDERS TO DETERMINE APPROPRIATE QUANTITATIVE MEASURES OF ACHIEVEMENT

Status:

- Every zip code in Howard County has experienced sharp increases in housing prices. Countywide, from the 2000/01 school year to 2007/08, median home sales prices increased 90% at an average rate of 9.6% per year. Increases by zip code range from a 42% increase during this time period for zip code 21036 to a 128% increase in zip code 21723, both located in the Rural West. The amount of price increase varies among neighborhoods, which may

be a function of the type and age of residential units. Demand for dwelling units is strong in all neighborhoods. *Source: Development Monitoring System Report*

Crime (Policy 5.12)

Indicator: PERCEPTIONS OF CRIME ARE NOT A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN HOME PURCHASE DECISIONS

Measure: COUNTY AGENCIES AND STAKEHOLDERS TO DETERMINE APPROPRIATE QUANTITATIVE MEASURES OF ACHIEVEMENT

Status:

- Since 2000, housing prices have increased in every zip code in the County. Although perceptions of crime might have an impact on home purchase decisions, it is clear Howard County is not experiencing dramatic impacts in neighborhoods that have more crime. *Source: Development Monitoring System Report*

Historic Preservation (Policy 5.18)

Indicator: SITES ADDED TO THE HISTORIC INVENTORY OR UPDATED

Measure: NUMBER OF SITES

Status:

- The County has obtained grants from the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) to update and expand the Historic Sites Inventory. County and MHT funds have been used to hire an architectural historian, establish a work program and update the inventory.
- As of December 2008, there are approximately 945 properties on the Historic Sites Inventory. This is a substantial increase (approx. 67%) from 2000, when there were approximately 636 properties listed.

Funding for Historic Sites Inventory

Fiscal Year	State Grant	County	Total
FY 02	\$40,000	\$29,000	\$69,000
FY 03	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$50,000
FY 04	\$30,000	\$29,000	\$59,000
FY 05	\$30,000	\$32,000	\$62,000
FY 07	\$32,000	\$32,660	\$64,660
FY 08	\$32,000	\$32,660	\$64,660
FY 09	\$35,000	\$40,560	\$75,560
TOTAL	\$224,000	\$220,880	\$444,880

Source: DPZ Resource Conservation Division



Community Conservation and Enhancement

Indicator: USE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION TAX CREDITS INCREASES

Measure: VALUE OF PROJECT APPROVED

Status:

- County historic preservation property tax credits may be approved for 10% of the cost of eligible maintenance and restoration improvements to historic properties. The use of the tax credits fluctuates each year, as the program is voluntary and only serves as an incentive to encourage rehabilitation of historic properties. Over the past nine years, 166 applicants have been pre-approved for historic tax credits, but only 61 have applied for the final tax credit. As part of the Historic Inventory process and the Historic District Commission review process, the County acquaints property owners with the tax credit program; however, further outreach and education to applicants is needed to ensure the tax credit program is used to its fullest potential, thus ensuring ongoing care of historic properties.

Number and Amount of Historic Property Tax Credits Claimed 2000-2008

Year	Number Claimed	Amount
2000	4	\$12,771.40
2001	4	\$19,216.83
2002	7	\$16,726.18
2003	10	\$20,686.95
2004	3	\$5,252.84
2005	9	\$11,800.82
2006	12	\$25,685.57
2007	4	\$15,582.43
2008	8	\$8,402.70
TOTAL	61	\$136,125.72

Source: Howard County Historic District Commission Database

Working With Nature

Regulatory Protection of Environmentally Sensitive Features

Environmental Enforcement

Environmental Inventory

Watershed Management Plans

Stormwater Management

Land Trusts for Environmental Protection

Green Building Program

Public Outreach and Education for Energy Conservation

Demonstration Projects

Accomplishments not identified in a General Plan 2000 Policy



Vision 5

Our environmental resources will be protected, used wisely and restored to health.



Working With Nature

Regulatory Protection of Environmentally Sensitive Features (Policies 6.2 and 6.3)

Indicator: REGULATIONS IMPROVED

Measure: CODE REVISIONS ADOPTED

Status:

- Amendments to enhance protection of sensitive environmental features were included in revisions to the Subdivision and Land Development Regulations, adopted November 2001 (5th edition) and again in October 2003 (amended 5th edition). Key amendments included: increasing stream buffers to 100 feet for Use III and IV streams (as classified by the State); prohibiting inclusion of steep slopes within residential lots less than 20,000 sq. ft. in size; prohibiting the inclusion of floodplains, wetlands, streams, their buffers, and forest conservation easements on residential lots less than ten acres in size (unless they are part of an infill subdivision with ten or fewer lots); and strengthening limitations on necessary encroachment into protected areas for utilities or site access.

Environmental Enforcement (Policy 6.8)

Indicator: PERFORMANCE AUDIT OF DEVELOPMENT INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT

Measure: COMPLETED AND ACTIONS TAKEN

Status:

- Review of environmental inspection and enforcement procedures identified two problem areas. To more effectively address drainage and sediment control, the inspection function was transferred in 2001 from the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits, which is responsible for Building Code enforcement, to the Department of Public Works (DPW), which is responsible for both inspecting other site improvements and oversight of the County's storm drainage system. Drainage and sediment control inspection has been successfully integrated into developer projects and is complemented by capital project and underground utility inspections. This provides a comprehensive review by inspectors who are knowledgeable about all facets of site construction. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has reviewed the process and continued delegation of erosion and sediment control authority to the DPW Construction Inspection Division through June 30, 2010.
- Beginning July 2002, the County started charging a forest conservation inspection fee and has assumed the responsibility for inspecting and determining compliance with forest conservation agreements. All forest conservation legal agreements have been amended to add specific start and completion dates to ensure timely completion of planting. Prior to 2002, the County relied on certificates of completion by forest conservation consultants. At that time, the self-certification process resulted in a backlog of developments that had not completed forest conservation requirements. The County has taken enforcement action against a number of projects that are in default and is working with the remainder to bring them into compliance. DPZ, DPW's Real Estate Services, and the Office of Law have developed a multi-step process for notification, compelling compliance and taking legal action against those who default on their obligations. The Department of Recreation and Parks is assisting DPZ with education of residents and taking enforcement action when adjacent residents or businesses encroach on forest conservation easement areas.

- From January 1, 2000 through December 31, 2008, 682 development projects - affecting more than 11,200 total acres and approximately 3,820 acres of existing forest - were subject to the requirements of the forest conservation program. On average, these projects preserved slightly more than 47% of on-site forests, retaining more than 1,800 acres of existing forest and resulting in on-site or off-site reforestation of more than 980 acres.

Environmental Inventory (Policy 6.7)

Indicator: ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY PREPARED AND GUIDING ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION PROGRAMS

Measure: INITIAL MAPPING COMPLETED

Status:

- Geographic Information System (GIS) layers have been created and are regularly updated for environmental features including watersheds, water features, floodplains, streams, federally-designated wetlands, forests, soils, Forest Conservation Easements and protected lands.
- Environmental inventories layers are being used to assess options for purchase of open space, design of open space and preservation parcels created through the subdivision process, review of development proposals and as the basis for watershed planning.

Watershed Management Plans (Policy 6.4)

Indicator: WATERSHED PLANS PREPARED FOR PRIORITY WATERSHEDS

Measure: COMPLETE 2 WITHIN 5 YEARS

Status:

- In 2002, the County completed watershed management plans for Cherry Creek, which drains to Rocky Gorge Reservoir, and for the Little Patuxent River. The Little Patuxent River Watershed Restoration Action Strategy was funded in part by a grant of \$40,000 from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.
- The County's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit required the County to establish priorities for future watershed study and restoration. In 2001, sixty-two (62) subwatersheds were analyzed and ranked to identify the top ten subwatersheds for future study. Studies for two of these priority subwatersheds, Wilde Lake and Centennial Lake, were completed in 2005.
- A watershed management plan was completed for the Lower Patapsco River watershed in 2006 and this included subwatershed studies for Rockburn Branch and Sucker Branch. Rockburn Branch is also an NPDES priority subwatershed. The Lower Patapsco Watershed Restoration Action Strategy was funded in part by a grant of \$40,000 from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.
- The County is currently developing a watershed management plan for the Upper Little Patuxent River, which includes the five subwatersheds in the headwaters area and will be completed in 2009.

Indicator: PRIORITY RESTORATION PROJECTS IN PROGRESS OR COMPLETED

Measure: NUMBER AND TYPES OF PROJECTS

Status:

- **Stream Channel Restoration** – A stream channel restoration project was completed in the Deep Run watershed and in the Tiber-Hudson watershed (projects were identified in the 1999 Deep Run and Tiber-Hudson Watersheds Ecosystem Restoration Report). These projects were cost-shared with the US Army Corps of Engineers. The Deep Run project also had cost-share with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Estimated County cost for design and construction for both projects was \$209,600. An additional stream restoration project in the Deep Run watershed is currently under design,



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with design completion expected in 2009. Construction will commence in 2010.

- **Cherry Creek Restoration** – Cherry Creek restoration projects include a stormwater retrofit and stream channel restoration project completed in 2006 and an additional stream channel restoration project to be completed in 2009. Estimated design and construction costs for all Cherry Creek projects are \$1,155,000.
- **Wilde Lake Tributary Projects** - A stream restoration project identified in a 1995 University of Maryland Stream Evaluation and Sediment Study for the Wilde Lake tributaries was completed in 2005. A second project is on hold pending acquisition of grant funding for construction. These projects are being cost-shared with the Maryland Department of the Environment and the Columbia Association. Estimated County costs for design and construction for all Wilde Lake projects are \$230,000.
- **Centennial Lake/Wilde Lake Watersheds** – The 2005 Centennial and Wilde Lake study identified nine projects in the Centennial Lake watershed with an estimated cost of \$1.1 million and 17 projects in the Wilde Lake watershed with an estimated cost of \$3.5 million. Four projects have been completed in the Centennial Lake watershed at a cost of \$537,000. Two projects have been completed in the Wilde Lake watershed and two projects have been designed at a cost of \$218,000. These projects include new bioretention facilities and sand filters, pond retrofits and stream channel restoration.
- **Little Patuxent River Watershed** – In the Little Patuxent River watershed, five stream restoration projects have been completed at a cost of \$700,000 and a sixth stream restoration project is in design with an estimated cost of \$300,000. In addition, two pond retrofits have been completed at a cost of \$580,000 and a third will begin construction in spring 2009 with an estimated cost of \$270,000. These projects were identified in the Little Patuxent study.
- **Lower Patapsco River**
 - The Lower Patapsco River study identified 13 priority projects. Two stream restoration and two pond retrofit projects have been completed at a cost of \$1,125,000. Two stream restoration and two pond retrofit projects are currently being designed with an estimated cost through construction of \$1.8 million. The remaining five projects include a variety of stream and pond projects and have an estimated cost of \$3.0 million.
 - The Rockburn Branch study identified 18 potential projects with an estimated cost of \$2 million. One project has been completed at a cost of \$241,000. The Sucker Branch Study identified 16 potential projects with an estimated cost of \$2 million. One project has been completed at a cost of \$216,000.
- **Riparian Remediation** – The Department of Recreation and Parks has planted 213 riparian forest acres since FY 2001 using fee-in-lieu funds through the County's Forest Conservation Program. These plantings added over 54,000 trees along almost 10 miles of stream buffer.
- **Backyard Re-Leaf Program** – The Little Patuxent Backyard Stream Re-Leaf Program was initiated in 2003, to encourage homeowners to plant stream buffers on their property. This program was funded primarily by grants from Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the US Forest Service through 2006. In 2007, the County began funding the program directly and expanded the program to all property owners in the County. From 2003 to 2008, this program has had 120 participants and has resulted in the planting of 3,969 trees.

Stormwater Management (Policy 6.4)

Indicator: FUNDING STRATEGY TO MEET FEDERAL, STATE AND COUNTY REQUIREMENTS

Measure: FUNDING IN BUDGET

Status:

- Limited funding for restoration efforts has been provided through the County's annual budget process. An increased long-term funding source for maintenance and inspection of stormwater facilities as well as enhanced watershed restoration efforts has not yet been established.

Working with Nature - Additional Accomplishments

Land Trusts for Environmental Protection (Policy 6.7)

- In 2007, the County initiated a partnership with the Howard County Conservancy to encourage donated conservation easements on properties of less than 50 acres. Under this partnership, Howard County will provide grants to the Conservancy for administration of this program. In FY 2008, conservation easements were obtained on six properties totaling 53.3 acres. Easements on three of these properties totaling 24.8 acres were donated to the Rockburn Land Trust and easements on three of these properties totaling 28.5 acres were donated to the Conservancy.

Green Building Program (Policy 6.9)

- In 2007, the County passed legislation that became effective in 2008 to establish green building standards for public and private buildings. Most new publicly funded buildings (30% or more County funding), larger than 10,000 square feet, must attain a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver rating. Most new private buildings larger than 50,000 square feet must attain a LEED Certified rating. As an incentive to encourage green buildings that exceed these requirements, the County also offers expedited review and property tax credits for certain green buildings.
- In 2007, the County established a voluntary Green Neighborhood Program with Green Neighborhood housing allocations as an incentive. This program encourages residential development that is environmentally sustainable including enhanced community linkages, environmental resource protection, water conservation, energy efficiency, use of sustainable materials and waste reduction.

Public Outreach and Education for Energy Conservation (Policy 6.9)

- In 2008, Howard County held the first Howard County GreenFest at Glenwood Community Center as a kick-off to Earth Month. GreenFest is an annual event that includes not only local vendors, but also workshops, activities, lectures, nature hikes and children's activities. In 2008, the event focused on "Green Buildings – Inside and Out" with over 65 vendors providing citizens with practical information about green buildings – both home and office – and ways to live a more ecologically sound lifestyle in Howard County. Approximately 1,500 visitors came to GreenFest in 2008.
- In 2008, the Office of Environmental Sustainability (OES) began outreach efforts to all age levels. Children's outreach and education activities included participating in groundbreaking activities for a school rain garden, teaching children during Earth Week about the importance of recycling and stream health, and assisting with stream cleanups. Other activities included attending festivals and events to provide citizens with information and handouts about the County's many environmentally focused programs. New OES outreach materials known as "Live Green Cards" were also created to provide citizens with fast reference guides to living greener lives. Live Green cards for energy conservation, green schools, and native plants have been distributed and are available on the website.



Working With Nature

Demonstration Projects (Policy 6.10)

- Howard County converted all traffic lights on County roads to LED (light emitting diode) lights. LED lights use dramatically less energy than incandescent lights. Based on the first year after the conversion of all 85 intersections, the lights are using 60% less energy.
- Twenty-four solar photovoltaic (PV) panels were installed atop Howard County Library's East Columbia Branch as part of an effort to incorporate solar power into County government operations. The system, on average, is expected to generate approximately 500 kWh a month. In the first month of operation, the solar array generated over 700 kWh (kilowatt hours) of electricity which would be enough to power 28 average-sized Howard County homes for one day. An interactive computer station inside the library provides real-time data on how much power the photovoltaic cells produce and helps users learn more about the benefits of solar power.
- The County adopted a policy to phase in hybrid vehicles for all vehicles in the fleet that have an equivalent hybrid on the market. The County fleet presently includes 46 hybrid vehicles with 14 more on order. The savings from hybrids is currently estimated to be \$1,000 per vehicle per year in fuel costs. The County also incorporated two diesel-electric hybrid buses into the Howard Transit service. The County anticipates the hybrid buses will reduce fuel consumption by about 35% and reduce maintenance and repair costs by 30% to 50% compared to similar diesel buses.

Accomplishments not identified in a General Plan 2000 Policy

- In 2008, the County established the Office of Environmental Sustainability, which works to coordinate sustainability efforts throughout Howard County government.
- In 2008, the County developed a comprehensive greenhouse gas emission inventory as part of a process to develop a climate action plan. The inventory measures the direct and indirect emissions for County government operations and also for the community as a whole.

General Plan Implementation

Public Information and Involvement



Vision 6

Our citizens will take part in the decisions and actions that affect them.



General Plan Implementation

Public Information and Involvement (Policy 7.1)

Indicator: HEARING EXAMINER ESTABLISHED

Measure: CODE REVISIONS ADOPTED

Status:

- Legislation was adopted November 2001 to establish a Board of Appeals Hearing Examiner. Rules and Procedures for the Hearing Examiner were adopted March 2002 and cases began to be heard in May 2002. The Hearing Examiner conducts hearings and makes decisions on requests for variances, conditional uses, departmental appeals and non-conforming uses.

Indicator: PLANNING BOARD EFFECTIVE AS A FORUM FOR MEANINGFUL CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

Measure: COUNTY AGENCIES AND STAKEHOLDERS TO DETERMINE APPROPRIATE QUANTITATIVE MEASURES OF ACHIEVEMENT

Status:

- Prior to the appointment of the Hearing Examiner, cases primarily involving the review of individual projects occupied most of the Planning Board's time and limited the board's ability to focus on larger planning items.
- The shift in types of cases before the Hearing Examiner significantly broadened the ability of the Planning Board to comment on major planning initiatives. Periods for public testimony and work sessions have been expanded. The Planning Board is now able to devote greater attention developing recommendations and decisions on many of the County's comprehensive planning issues including: the General Plan monitoring report, proposed amendments to the General Plan, the water and sewer master plan, capital budget and comprehensive rezoning.

Indicator: INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS ON THE WEB AND/OR IN PRINT EXPANDED

Measure: VOLUME AND TYPES OF MATERIALS

Status:

- The County's website is a major source of information about County Government. Since 2000, citizens have increasingly used the County's website to access information about services, meetings, documents, and other public activities. In 2004, components of the County's Geographic Information System (GIS) were made more readily available to the public with a neighborhood search application that allows residents to type an address and receive information on County data in that area. Newly developed applications continue to expand the user interface online by providing the ability to search development plans and public meetings within different geographies.
- In 2007, Really Simple Syndication (RSS) was added as an interactive component. RSS is a format for electronic content distribution that allows site visitors to select types of information they want to receive on news and information at their own computers. Video has also been introduced as a way to expand the dissemination of information. In 2008, DPZ migrated the department's development applications to fully interactive forms. New software is being phased in that converts the plan review process from paper to electronic work flow. This will enhance the efficiency of the development review process. Once fully operational, citizens will be able to access plan review comments online.

Indicator: WORKSHOPS AND MEETINGS WITH CITIZEN GROUPS EFFECTIVE IN IMPROVING COMMUNICATION AND INVOLVEMENT
Measure: COUNTY AGENCIES AND STAKEHOLDERS TO DETERMINE APPROPRIATE QUANTITATIVE MEASURES OF ACHIEVEMENT

Status:

- **Route 1 Revitalization, 2000 to 2001** – DPZ typically met monthly with the Route 1 Revitalization Task Force. Two community workshops (100+ persons each) were also held as part of the Route 1 Corridor Revitalization Study.
- **Route 40 Revitalization, 2003 to 2004** – DPZ met monthly with the Route 40 Task Force. One community workshop was held in June 2004 (over 100 persons attended).
- **Community Meetings** – Each month DPZ staff typically attend several standing community meetings to provide information about County resources and issues or to assist communities in conservation and revitalization activities including Columbia villages, Highland and Cedar Villa Heights, the Greater Elkridge Community Association, Oakland Mills Community Association, the North Laurel Civic Association, the advisory Horizon Council, and others.
- **Environmental Meetings** – In 1999, the Environmental Advocacy Committee was formed to provide a forum for sharing information and concerns. The Departments of Planning and Zoning, Public Works, and Recreation and Parks met periodically with this Committee. In 2007, the Commission on the Environment and Sustainability was formed to review and evaluate the County's environmental policies, practices and procedures. The Commission produced a final report in August 2007 that included the recommendation for a permanent advisory board. As a result, the Environmental Sustainability Board was established in 2007. This Board meets monthly and replaces the citizen's forum previously provided by the Environmental Advocacy Committee. Additionally, DPZ and DPW have made presentations to the League of Women Voters, the Howard County Environmental Coalition, the Master Gardeners, and other groups on request.
- **Watershed Management Plans** – The Departments of Planning and Zoning, Public Works, and Recreation and Parks conduct regular public outreach in conjunction with the development of watershed and subwatershed management plans. Outreach includes: web page updates; informational displays at events such as Earth Day celebrations and watershed festivals; informational brochures; public meetings and/or workshops; presentations for environmental organizations; and/or regular meetings with workgroups that include representatives from citizen organizations, environmental organizations, and County and State agencies.
- **Downtown Columbia Planning and Design Charrette, 2005 to 2006** – Residents, business owners and property owners gathered over a period of eight days to collaborate, develop and refine elements of a vision plan for the planning and design of Downtown Columbia. Over 300 community members attended the kickoff meeting with over 250 attending the final presentation. This process was followed by the creation of a focus group to discuss key issues and further synthesize the charrette's vision elements. A summation of the focus group's feedback was completed in 2006.
- **US 1 Corridor Improvement Study, 2006 and 2007** – DPZ met regularly with Maryland State Highway Administration's consultants and periodically with the US 1 Corridor Improvement Strategy Advisory Committee. This 23-member citizen committee helped shape SHA's US 1 study, which was jointly sponsored by Howard County. As part of the study, a community open house meeting held in 2006 attracted more than 60 people while a set of meetings open to the community in 2007 attracted a total of approximately 150 people.
- **Public Engagement in Land Use (PELU) Task Force, 2007 to 2008** – In December 2007, the Howard County Council passed a resolution establishing the Public Engagement in Land Use (PELU) Task Force. The task force was charged with evaluating the development management processes in order to recommend ways to broaden public involvement. The task force published a final report in May 2008. This report is available on the Howard County Council website.
- **Columbia Village Center Revitalization, 2008** – In the Spring of 2008, a series of listening sessions were held with residents of Columbia's villages to discuss ideas for how to provide village centers with opportunities to evolve and revitalize. Discussions were focused on four points of interest: what works well, what changes might be needed, what land uses might be appropriate, and what the process for revitalization might be.

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Trend Indicators

Change in Residential Property Values

Growth of Residential Property Tax and Income Tax Revenues

Growth of Non-Residential Property Tax Revenues

Declining Work Force Availability

Declining School Enrollment

Growing Senior Population

Growing Population Diversity



Trend indicators are quantitative measures that are intended to help track a number of evolving trends that will be significant in shaping our transition to a maturing County. The intent is to monitor the assumptions that underlie many of the key Policies and Actions in order to help determine whether adjustments to the implementation strategy are needed.



Trend Indicators

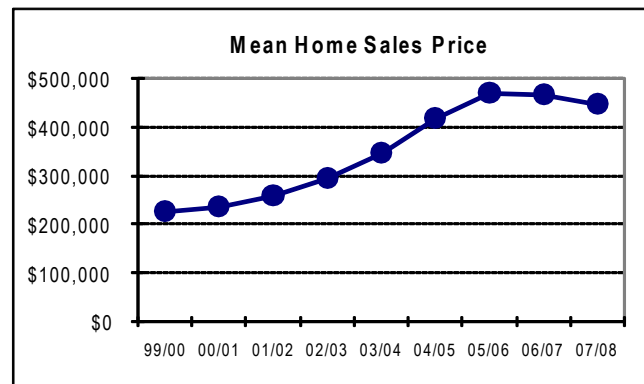
Trend: Change in Residential Property Values

Trend Indicator: AVERAGE SALE PRICE OF NEW HOMES AND OLDER HOMES (BY UNIT TYPE AND GEOGRAPHIC AREA)

Status:

- The cost of housing in Howard County increased dramatically, from a mean annual sales price of \$226,390 in 2000 to a high of \$471,126 in 2006 for all housing types combined (including new units and re-sales). This increase in housing prices reached a peak in 2006 and is a more than a doubling of housing prices during this six year period (a 108% total increase, 13% average annual increase). Over the next two years, from 2006 to 2008, housing prices declined slightly by about 5%. In 2008, the average sales price of all homes sold was \$448,975. This decrease is more modest compared to other parts of the State and country, where housing prices have declined by more significant margins starting before the economic recession that began in late 2007 or early 2008.

It can be anticipated that housing prices may continue to decline modestly in the short term as the economy and building demand continue to stagnate. However, prices are expected to hold steady and then increase by more moderate and normal rates in Howard County due to continued strong demand, limited land capacity, and growth controls. Refer to the Development Monitoring System report (DMS) for additional details of sales by geography and housing type. *Source: Annual DMS Reports*

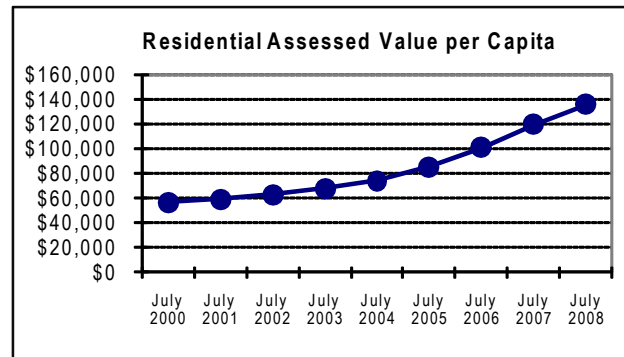


Trend: Growth of Residential Property Tax and Income Tax Revenues

Trend Indicator: RESIDENTIAL ASSESSED VALUE PER CAPITA

Status:

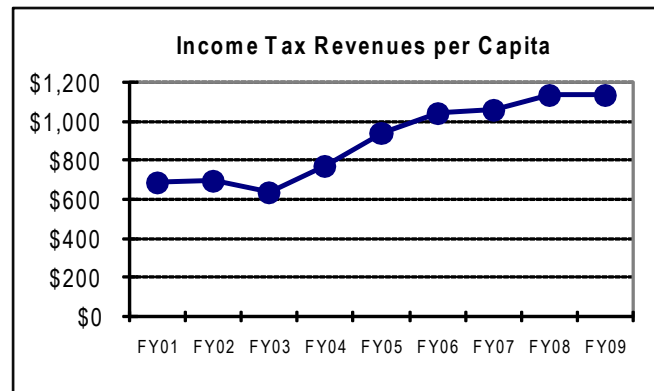
- The residential assessed value per capita was \$56,970 in July 2000. By July 2008, the residential assessed value per capita was \$136,075, a 139% increase. This clearly reflects the upswing in housing prices since 2000. *Sources: Howard County Budget Office; DPZ Construction Report*



Trend Indicator: INCOME TAX REVENUES PER CAPITA

Status:

- In FY 2001, income tax revenues per capita were \$685. In FY 2009, eight years later, they were \$1,131, a 65% increase. In FY 2003, the per capita rate dropped slightly due to a decrease in capital gains income resulting from the 2001 economic recession. Income taxes increased in large part thereafter due to the increase in the income tax rate that went into effect January 2004 (half way through FY 2004). Since then income tax revenues per capita have increased significantly each year through FY 2008 due to a strong local economy. Income tax revenues per capita dropped slightly to the current level in FY 2009. It is likely that this indicator will continue to decline in the short-term (similar to what occurred following the 2001 recession) given the current economic downturn. *Sources: Howard County Budget Office; DPZ Construction Report*





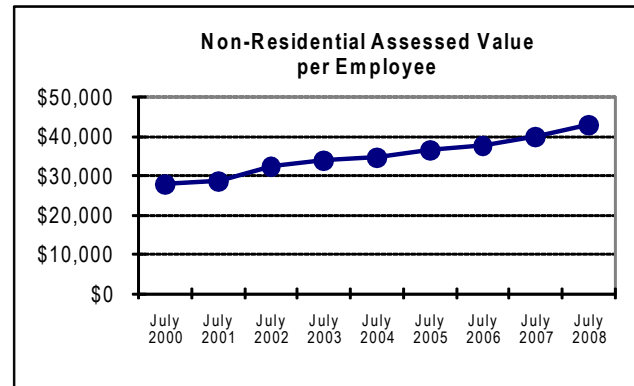
Trend Indicators

Trend: Growth of Non-Residential Property Tax Revenues

Trend Indicator: NON-RESIDENTIAL ASSESSED VALUE PER EMPLOYEE

Status:

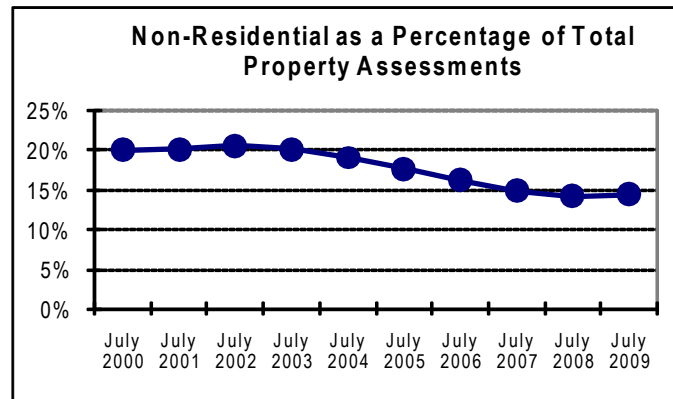
- The non-residential assessed value per employee for July 2000 was \$27,803. By July 2008, this value rose to \$42,832, a 54% increase. This reflects the increase in the amount of higher end office development that has occurred in Howard County over the last 8 years as well as the strong valuation in non-residential buildings and land. *Sources: Howard County Budget Office; Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation*



Trend Indicator: PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL PROPERTY TAX REVENUES (TARGET 25%)

Status:

- In July 2000, non-residential real property tax revenues made up 19.95% of the total property tax revenues in the County. This figure increased to a high of 20.51% in July 2003. Since then, non-residential real property tax revenues (as a percentage of the County total) have decreased due to the fact that residential assessed value has increased dramatically. Based on the latest certification from the State, the non-residential percentage for July 2008 is 14.31%, significantly lower than the high of 20.51%. This is a slight increase from the previous year in July 2007 when the percentage was 14.15%. (Note that non-residential properties also generate personal and corporate property tax revenues.) *Source: Howard County Budget Office*





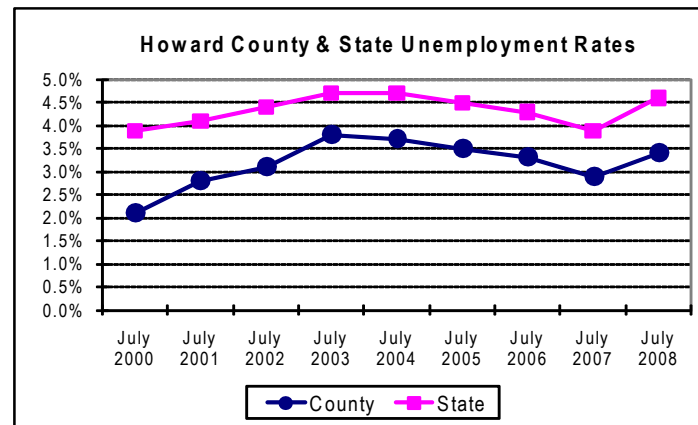
Trend Indicators

Trend: Declining Work Force Availability

Trend Indicator: UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Status:

- The unemployment rate in Howard County has been low compared to both the State and Federal standards. In July 2000, the Howard County unemployment rate was 2.1% and then increased to 3.8% by 2003. It decreased thereafter to a level below 3% by 2007. However, the rate has increased sharply in 2008 and is expected to rise into 2009 as a result of the current economic downturn. The County is in position to weather the downturn relatively well compared to other parts of the State and country, and lower unemployment rates are anticipated in the future in part due to the County's diverse and educated workforce, a prime location between Baltimore and Washington, and Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) activity at Ft. Meade, which may create more job opportunities for Howard County residents over the next 10 years. *Source: Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation*



Trend Indicator: WORK FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE

Status:

- The work force participation rate increased over the last few decades as more women joined the workforce. In 1980, the labor force participation rate for Howard County residents was 72.7%. By 1990 it had increased to 79.2%. However, data for 2000, from the U. S. Census Bureau, showed a decrease in Howard County to 75.5%. This decrease was also seen at the state level. Recent data from the U. S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey 2005 – 2007 shows that in Howard County the rate has continued to decrease to 72.9% (3-year average). It is anticipated that over the long term, particularly after 2010, that the labor force participation rate will continue to decline as baby-boomers retire (the labor force is defined as those age 16 and older).

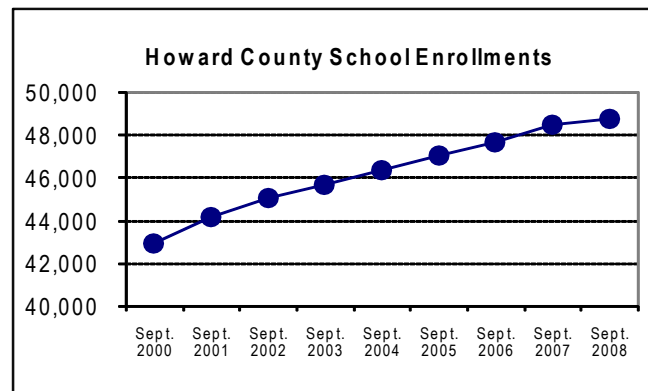
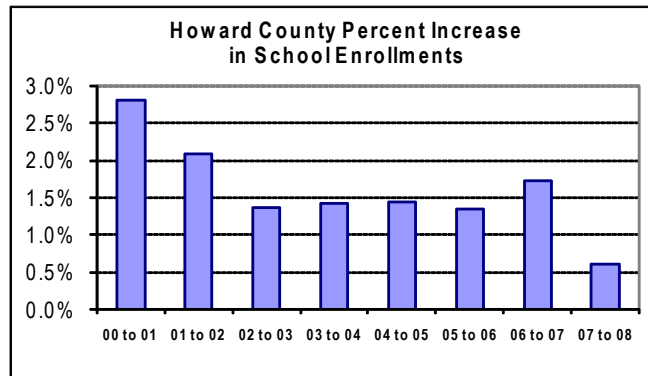
This may be offset to some degree by a higher percentage of seniors continuing to work for more years, particularly as residents are living longer and healthier lives. *Source: U.S. Census Bureau*

Trend: Declining School Enrollment

Trend Indicator: NUMBERS OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

Status:

- Over the last 8 years, the rate of growth in the number of students in the school system has declined. From 2000 to 2001 total enrollment increased by 2.8%. Last year, from 2007 to 2008 growth rate was only 0.6%, with generally trending declines to that point in the intervening years. The Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) anticipates that this trend will continue with a general slowing of total school enrollments. However, if turnover in the County's maturing neighborhoods leads to a new influx of families with young children, then higher growth rates may occur. *Source: HCPSS Enrollment Reports*





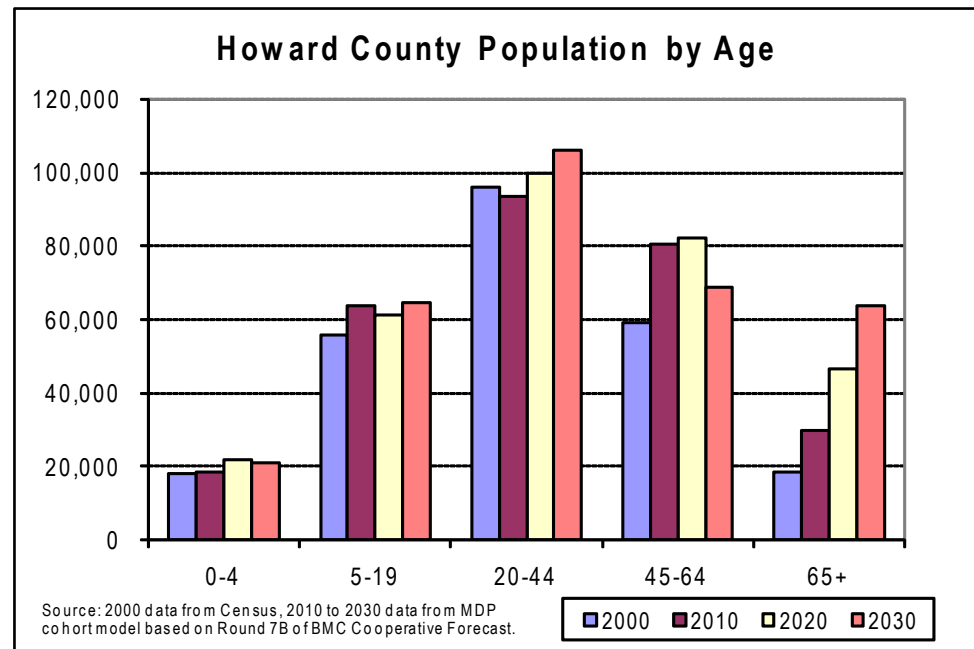
Trend Indicators

Trend: Growing Senior Population

Trend Indicator: NUMBERS OF RESIDENTS 65 AND OLDER

Status:

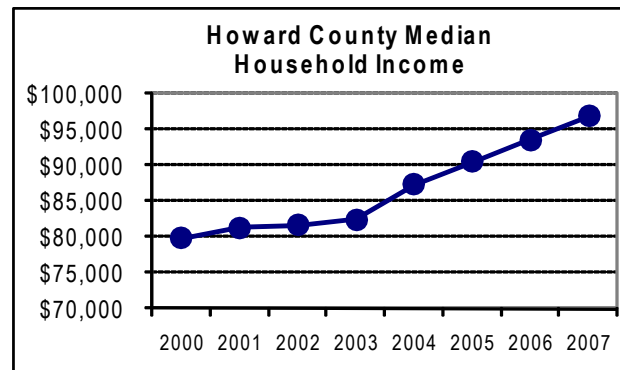
- Census data indicate that in 2000 Howard County had 18,468 residents 65 or older. This was 7.5% of the County's total population at that time. The U. S. Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program for 2007 (the latest available) indicates that this percentage has increased to 9.2%. The proportion of Howard County residents age 65 and older remains one of the smallest among all State jurisdictions. Perhaps not surprisingly, the county also has one of the youngest median ages (based on entire county population). However, trends and current age cohorts indicate that Howard County will have one of the fastest growing senior populations in the State over the next 10 to 20 years. The extent to which this occurs depends on whether residents decide to age in place or not. Projections for 2030 show that those 65 and older will make up 21% of the total population in Howard County.



Trend Indicator: AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Status:

- Based on estimates provided by the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP), median household income has increased from \$79,800 in 2000 to \$96,900 in 2007, a growth rate of more than 30%. This income level is the highest in Maryland (the 2007 Statewide median as reported by MDP was \$68,300). The 2007 median household income in Howard County as reported by the Census Bureau's American Community Survey was \$101,672 (with a margin of error of +/- \$3,594). It is anticipated that household incomes will continue to rise in Howard County given its diverse and well-educated workforce as well as the multitude of high-paying job opportunities that exist in the Baltimore/Washington metro area.

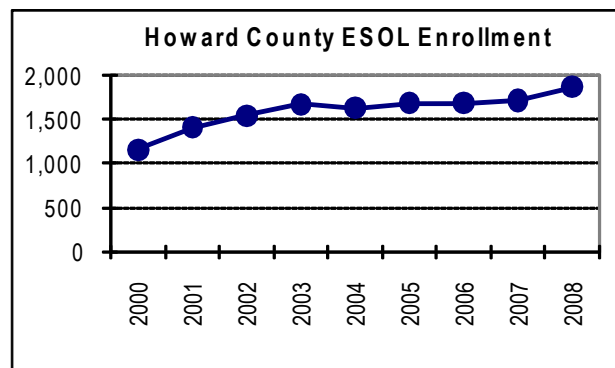


Trend: Growing Population Diversity

Trend Indicator: NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESOL) PROGRAM

Status:

- The number of students enrolled in the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program has increased steadily over the last eight years. In the 1999-2000 school year there were 1,163 students enrolled in the program. By the 2007-2008 school year, the number was 1,878. This represents an average annual growth rate of 6.2%. *Source: Howard County Public School System*
- According to the 2000 Census, 4.8% of County residents over five years of age speak English less than "very well." This is up from 2.6% of the population in 1990. Based on the most recent 3-year American Community Survey results from 2005 to 2007 the rate is even higher at 6.7%. Population diversity in the County has been on the rise, and thus, the trend is likely to continue into the future.



Howard County
M A R Y L A N D

PSA Line Amendments

Legend

Planned Service Area (current)

Water Only Area

Council Bill Amendments



Source: Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning, 2009.
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For information or alternative formats contact:

Department of Planning and Zoning

3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043
410-313-2350
www.howardcountymd.gov