

ELLICOTT CITY WATERSHED MASTER PLAN

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED ON DRAFT PLAN

PUBLIC COMMENT WINDOW – JULY 21, 2020 TO AUGUST 28, 2020

On July 21, 2020, Howard County’s Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ) released the public draft Ellicott City Watershed Master Plan. From July 21 to August 28, community members were invited to review the public draft and provide comments. These comments were submitted through various means:

- An open-ended survey
- A PDF commenting platform (Konveio)
- At a virtual community meeting held on August 19
- At a special virtual meeting for Baltimore County residents held on August 24
- Via emails sent to DPZ
- Via phone calls to DPZ

In addition to general public outreach, DPZ collected feedback from appointed groups at virtual meetings:

- Historic Preservation Commission on August 6
- Master Plan Advisory Team on August 26
- Planning Board Workshop on August 20

In total, the county received **442 comments** on the draft plan. These comments are in addition to the hundreds collected at meetings and through online surveys throughout the planning process that began in 2017. [This table](#) lists the total public comments received during this public comment window.

A wide variety of comments were received, including specific requests for plan changes but also general statements and opinions. While many comments focused on the master plan, some comments were more appropriately referred to other agency projects (notably, the EC Safe and Sound flood mitigation projects under the Department of Public Works).

Themes from the Comments

DPZ grouped each comment under one of 27 themes, as listed in the table below. Among these, the top four themes represented approximately half (209) of the 442 comments received. These top four themes included:

1. EC Safe and Sound flood mitigation plan – 97 comments addressed specific flood mitigation projects, the proposed removal of buildings in Lower Main, and the Section 106 review process.
2. Spelling, grammar, formatting, references – 45 comments suggested minor changes to text, captions, etc.
3. Parking garages – 34 comments provided feedback on garages identified as options in various locations.
4. Streetscape – 33 comments offered input on sidewalk materials, utility poles, drive lanes, etc.

Themes from the Comments (Continued)

The remaining themes cover a wide range of topics and geographic areas described in the plan. The table below lists themes and comment tally for each.

Theme	Comments
EC Safe and Sound flood mitigation	97
Spelling, grammar, formatting, references	45
Parking garages	34
Streetscape	33
Riverfront	24
Alternative transportation modes	19
Environmental stewardship	19
Recreational trails and experiences	18
Historic preservation	17
Public amenities and facilities	16
Courthouse	13
Regulations	13
Support for the plan	12
Flood protection – private sector	10
Economic development	9
Implementation	9
Lower Main	9
Plan scope	9
Planning process	8
COVID	7
Events	5
West End	5
Vision statement and goals	4
Climate change	2
Ellicott Mills Gateway	2
Heritage area	2
Affordable housing	1