

WHAT WE'VE HEARD

Public Engagement

The Public Engagement Plan for HoCo By Design is composed of a comprehensive set of initiatives that represent a significant investment to partner with the community and create a shared document for guiding decisions about the County's future. This shared document can only come to fruition with the full participation of and input from every part of the Howard County community—including but not limited to decision-makers, employers, service providers, community organizations and, most importantly, the general public.

Fourteen different stakeholder engagement initiatives have been identified to support the General Plan update—you're taking part in one of them right now! Below is a sample of what we've heard so far.

"We have lots of free, safe, pleasant and accessible parks, libraries, community centers & trails. Let's keep it that way."

"Development projects and affordable housing need to be balanced against protecting the environment and stormwater management and getting them paced better with infrastructure."

"It suits my family's need in that I can do everything I want for my lifestyle right here in the County."

"I love the diversity, the sense of community, and the pathways that allow for a nature hike right from your backyard. It is a treasure. That's why I want to continue to work to make it better"

"Howard County has a lot to offer, but it truly needs a Vision to ensure that infrastructure can more than adequately handle the development."

"It's the people that make the County special. Our diversity, our civic enthusiasm, our ideals and desire to make our community better make us more than just a bedroom community between Baltimore and DC."

"We need to strengthen our commercial base and to welcome younger and less affluent people. Workforce/affordable housing, multi-modal transportation systems, increasing emphasis on arts and culture will keep HoCo one of America's best places to live."