



# Howard County

## RECREATION & PARKS

**SUBJECT: SAO 1 FY 2018**  
***Testimony for B&O Sign Grant***

**TO:** Lonnie R. Robbins  
Chief Administrative Officer

**FROM:** John R. Byrd, Director  
Department of Recreation and Parks

**DATE:** October 24, 2017

The County Administration requests favorable support from the County Council for SAO 1 FY 2018 for the B&O Sign Grant.

On September 1, 2017, the Department of Recreation and Parks took over the management and operations of the Baltimore and Ohio, Ellicott City Station Railroad Museum after eleven years of management and operations by the B&O Museum in Baltimore.

Upon a detailed inspection of the property and museum, it was determined that several areas were not in satisfactory condition, creating a need for renovations and or replacement. Several interpretive and functional signs within the museum were out of date, some are in poor condition that they are difficult to read, others need to be recreated to achieve a more professional appearance and to give the visitor a better experience and understanding of the information being presented. There were several other criteria evaluated which included; safer exhibit signage, ADA considerations and information presentation standardization to be consistent with other Heritage sites managed by the Department of Recreation and Parks.

To address this need, the Department's Living History and Heritage Programs Section applied to the Preservation Maryland's, 2017 Historic Ellicott City Revitalization Grant Program for funding. On August 2, 2017, the Grant Selection Committee awarded \$6,300.00 for redesign and replacement of the interpretive signage mentioned above.

The Department looks forward to a positive response to this SAO and is eager to continue enhancing this Museum and other sites under its management.