

# Office of the County Auditor

## Auditor's Analysis

### Council Bill No. 61-2020

Introduced: November 2, 2020

Auditor: Michael A. Martin

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#### Fiscal Impact:

There is minimal fiscal impact of this legislation.

The Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ) expects there to be limited copying and distribution costs associated with the Ellicott City Watershed Master Plan (the Plan), all which will be absorbed by their existing printing budget.

#### Purpose:

The purpose of this legislation is to amend the general plan for Howard County, *PlanHoward2030*, to include the Plan and recognize it as a comprehensive, long-range document created by a community-driven vision. The priority in the current budget is to advance the flood mitigation efforts proposed in the Ellicott City Safe and Sound project.

#### Other Comments:

The adoption of the Plan will not directly obligate County expenditures. Although the Plan does set forth specific concepts, DPZ is unable to provide cost estimates for implementation of these strategies. The costs of these elements will be part of the Ellicott City Safe and Sound project implementation.

According to DPZ, the legislation represents the addition of a small area plan as an amendment to the current general plan, building upon the 2019 Ellicott City Safe and Sound flood mitigation plan. It centers around 12 individual frameworks and initiatives that will span over the course of 20 years:

- Community Character & Placemaking
- Flood Mitigation
- Environmental Stewardship
- Economic Development
- Transportation & Parking
- Streetscape
- Riverfront
- Lower Main
- Upper Main
- Ellicott Mills Gateway Area
- West End
- Courthouse Area