Amendment 50 to Council Bill No. 28 -2023

BY: The Chairperson at the Request
      of the County Executive

Legislative Day 11
Date: October 2, 2023

Amendment No. 50

(This Amendment adds a statement acknowledging the need to partner with organizations that provide critical health care services to the community and adds a policy statement that the County will continue to partner with entities that provide critical services such as higher education and health care facilities.   This amendment also adds an implementing action acknowledging the County's support of such organizations.)

1   In the *HoCo By Design* General Plan, attached to this Act as Exhibit A, amend the following

2   pages as indicated in this Amendment:

3   • Chapter 9, Supporting Infrastructure – pages 32 and 33

4   • Chapter 11, Implementation – page 56

5

6   Correct all page numbers, numbering, and formatting within this Act to accommodate this

7   amendment.

ALLIED AGENCY FACILITIES

Howard County Library System

The Howard County Library System (HCLS) is an allied agency, like the Howard County Public School System and Howard Community College, and is governed by a Board of Trustees. However, HCLS' annual capital and operating budgets are largely funded by and must be approved by the County each year.

Howard County Library consists of six branches. Three of these facilities—the East Columbia, Elkridge, and Savage branches—are approximately 20 years old. The 30-year-old Central Branch in Downtown Columbia was renovated in 2001. The Glenwood Branch was renovated in 2000, and the Miller Library in Ellicott City in 2011.

INF-7 Policy Statement

Partner with the Howard County Library System to provide training and resources needed in the community.

Implementing Actions

1. Evaluate the need for additional library capacity in the County to serve planned population and program growth. Provide necessary expansion of resources via additions or new facilities within the Planned Service Area.
2. Enhance the design of existing and any future libraries to both optimize the delivery of service at each library branch and help create a civic focal point. Where feasible, integrate libraries with other complementary public or private facilities.

Howard Community College

The Howard Community College (HCC) is another allied agency and is governed by a Board of Trustees. However, the HCC's annual capital and operating budgets are largely funded by and must be approved by the County each year.

In addition to serving the varied academic needs of younger students, the college plays a significant role in workforce development by offering a wide range of career training services and professional certification programs. Additionally, lifelong learning programs and personal enrichment courses serve many senior residents. HCC's operating funds come from tuition and fees, Howard County, the State of Maryland, and other sources. Given the limitations on County bond funding, the burden of financing higher education activities cannot fall solely on the County.

HoCo By Design's Future Land Use Map (FLUM) designates HCC as a Campus character area. As more fully described in the Character Areas technical appendix, the Campus character area supports academic, medical, or office buildings; athletic facilities; event spaces; equipment; or other ancillary uses needed to support an educational, medical, or other large institution. This character area provides flexibility in that building uses and intensities may vary widely based on the institution's mission, available space, and site topography.

HEALTH SERVICES

Howard County residents benefit from a wide variety of high-quality local health care providers and services, and from close proximity to excellent health care facilities and academic medical centers in the Baltimore/Washington region. The health care delivery system is complex and depends upon the resources of many organizations, including the Howard County Health Department, Howard County General Hospital, the Horizon Foundation, Sheppard Pratt, special nursing and assisted-living facilities, hospice services, urgent care clinics, numerous nonprofit providers, and private practitioners. As the Howard County population grows and medical needs evolve and expand, the County should continue to partner and support the entities that provide critical health care services to the community, especially if it furthers equitable access to healthcare.

Recognizing the flexibility needed for large institutional campuses, HoCo By Design's Future Land Use Map includes a Campus character area that applies to Howard County General Hospital. Additional details are provided in the Character Areas technical appendix.

INF-8 Policy Statement

Continue to support ~~the Howard Community College's expanding abilities to provide higher education for county residents and workers~~ <u>and partner with entities that provide critical services,</u> <u>programs, and infrastructure such as higher education and health care faciliites.</u>

Implementing Actions

1. Continue the County's commitment to fund expansion of the Howard Community College (HCC) to accommodate enrollment and program growth. Support the HCC in obtaining funding from the State of Maryland and others to invest in the campus.
2. Continue to work with the Howard County Economic Development Authority, the private sector, and other institutions of higher education to meet workforce development and re-training needs, especially in science and technology-related fields.
3. Continue to expand non-credit course offerings and cultural programs that promote life-long learning and enhance community life.
4. <u>Continue to support and partner with organizations that play a critical role in the health care delivery system, such as hospitals, to ensure there is adequate capacity.</u>
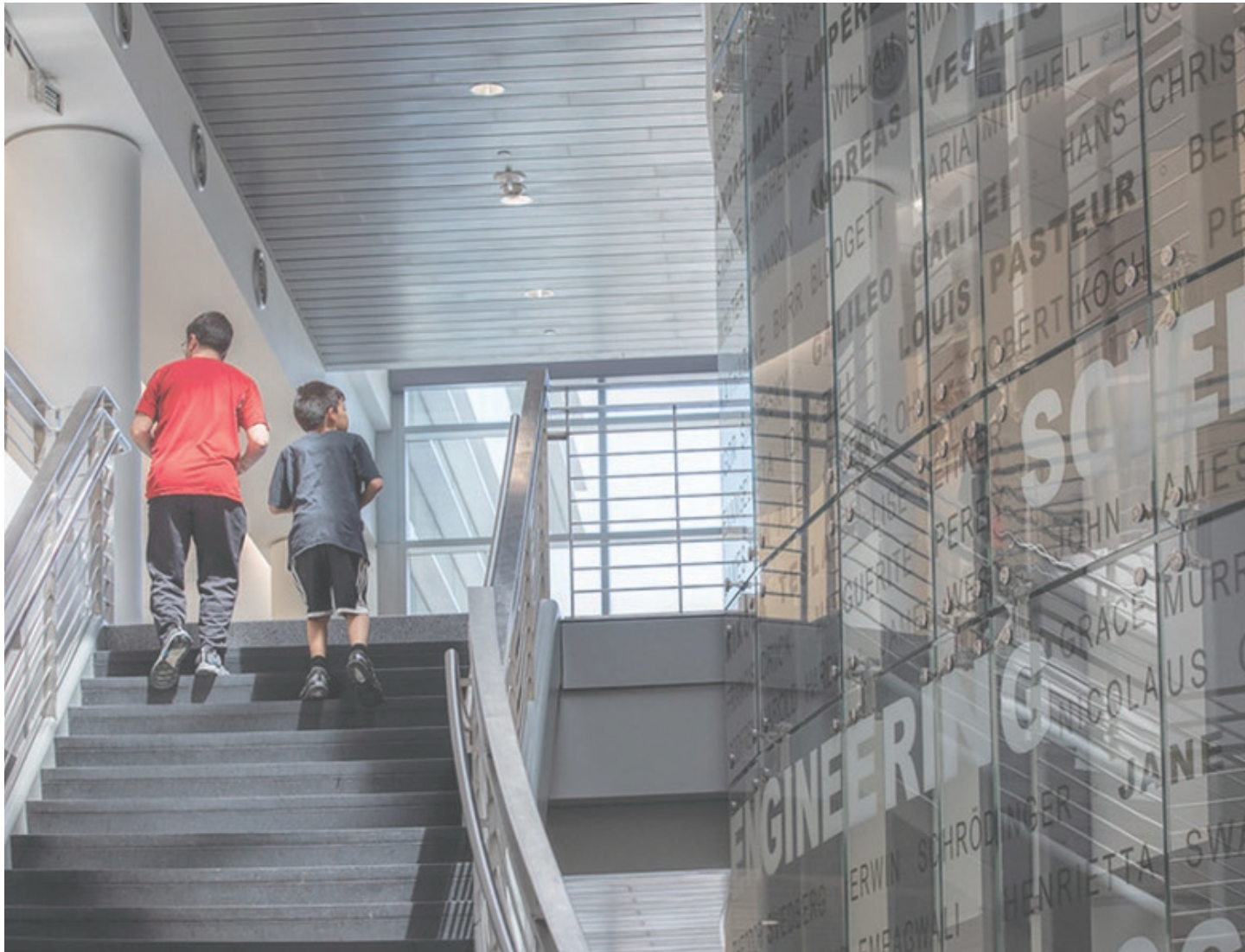
DRINKING WATER SUPPLY AND WASTEWATER TREATMENT

Public Water and Sewer Services

The location of Howard County's public water and sewer services are inextricably linked to the type, location, and intensity of future growth in the County. With these public services, businesses can operate more efficiently and homes can be located on smaller lots.

The County plans for the provision of public water and sewer facilities in the Master Plan for Water and Sewerage (the Master Plan). The Master Plan and any proposed amendments must be consistent with the General Plan. For capital project planning and the orderly extension of facilities, the Master Plan delineates service priority areas within the Planned Service Area (PSA). The County also implements a Water and Sewer Capacity Allocation Program that assigns priorities for new connections to the public water and sewer systems during the development plan review process to ensure demand does not exceed the available system capacity. At times, a developer may want service to a property earlier than specified by the Master Plan and is willing to construct planned facilities in advance of the County's capital project construction schedule. If the proposed development is an orderly extension of the system and is consistent with the General Plan and Subdivision and Land Development Regulations, the County grants a service priority area change so the development can occur. These service priority area changes are reflected in the annual updates to the Master Plan.

Prior to the provision of public water or sewer service, a property in the PSA must enter the County's Metropolitan District. All properties in the Metropolitan District are subject to fees, assessments, and charges that are dedicated to the Enterprise Fund, which pays for the construction, operation, maintenance, and administration of the public water and sewer systems. Maintenance of the existing water and sewer systems is an ongoing concern as portions of each system reach the design life of 50 years.

The County's Capital Budget and ten-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP), the Metropolitan District entry process, the development plan review process, and the Water and Sewer Capacity Allocation Program ensure the orderly expansion of the public water and sewer system. Through the self-sustaining Enterprise Fund, the County pays the construction costs for major facilities in the public water and sewer system and the developer pays the cost for the system extension to their individual development.

Table 10-1: Implementation Matrix

Policy and Implementing Actions	Lead Agency	Timeframe (Mid-Term five-year, Long-Term six+ years, Ongoing)
INF-4 - Minimize loss of life, loss of property, and injury due to fire or medical emergencies.		
1. Construct and staff new and replacement fire stations in the Capital Improvement Program. Renovate and rehabilitate existing fire stations as appropriate to ensure the continued provision of efficient service.	**DFRS**	Ongoing
2. Continue to construct underground cisterns to support fire suppression in the Rural West. Determine strategic placement locations for water-holding cisterns that allow for improved water supply access and shortened distance for tanker trucks shuttling water for firefighting operations in the Rural West.	**DFRS**	Ongoing
3. Provide funding to replace fire and rescue vehicles when needed.	**DFRS**	Ongoing
4. Complete a strategic plan for the fire department that anticipates future year fire station needs based on the type, location, pattern, and intensity of development envisioned on the Future Land Use Map.	**DFRS** Elected Officials OOB	Mid-Term
5. Consider opportunities to provide shared-use facilities in some locations of the County to provide fire stations where they are most needed and thereby create equitable access, similar to the Merriweather District Fire Station.	**DPW** DFRS DPZ	Ongoing
INF-5 - Maintain and expand Howard County's park and open space system and recreation facilities and programs to keep pace with future growth and ensure safe, convenient, and equitable access to residents.		
1. Establish land acquisition goals for parks and open space in the Howard County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP), and prioritize parks and open space acquisition within communities with low park equity.	**DRP**	Mid-Term
2. Establish countywide goals and priorities in the LPPRP for recreation facilities and programs that are accessible to all residents.	**DRP**	Mid-Term
3. Build partnerships within county government and with other organizations across the County to efficiently share resources.	**DRP** All Agencies Non-profit Partners	Ongoing
4. Use flexible designs for parks and open space in more urban areas, such as plazas, pocket parks, and amphitheaters.	**DRP**	Ongoing
5. Partner with other county departments to link parks, open space, and recreation facilities to surrounding communities through transportation improvements.	**DRP** OOT DPZ	Ongoing

Table 10-1: Implementation Matrix

Policy and Implementing Actions	Lead Agency	Timeframe (Mid-Term five-year, Long-Term six+ years, Ongoing)
INF-6 - Continue to invest judiciously to maintain and enhance county facilities and assess county agency space needs against the County's portfolio of spaces.		
1. Use the Capital Improvement Program to evaluate and prioritize county building renovations.	**DPW**	Ongoing
2. Establish county space standards and evaluate the efficiency of county space usage. Assess future county agency needs for space.	**DPW**	Ongoing
3. Determine whether it is in the County's best interest to continue all or some leases. Consider opportunities to purchase leased space or construct new office and/or mixed-use spaces.	**DPW**	Ongoing
4. Determine whether it is in the County's best interest to continue to own or surplus various properties. Consider finite land supply and potential future costs of acquisition as part of such evaluation.	**DPW**	Ongoing
INF-7 - Partner with the Howard County Library System to provide training and resources needed in the community.		
1. Evaluate the need for additional library capacity in the County to serve planned population and program growth. Provide necessary expansion of resources via additions or new facilities within the Planned Service Area.	**HCLS**	Mid-Term
2. Enhance the design of existing and any future libraries to both optimize the delivery of service at each library branch and help create a civic focal point. Where feasible, integrate libraries with other complementary public or private facilities.	**HCLS** DPW Private Partners	Long-term
INF-8 - Continue to support ~~the Howard Community College's expanding abilities to provide higher education for county residents and workers,~~ and partner with entities that provide critical services, programs, and infrastructure such as higher education and health care facilities.		
1. Continue the County's commitment to fund expansion of the Howard Community College (HCC) to accommodate enrollment and program growth. Support the HCC in obtaining funding from the State of Maryland and others to invest in the campus.	**HCEDA**	Ongoing
2. Continue to work with the Howard County Economic Development Authority, the private sector, and other institutions of higher education to meet workforce development and re-training needs, especially in science and technology-related fields.	**HCC** HCEDA OWD Private Partners	Ongoing
3. Continue to expand non-credit course offerings and cultural programs that promote life-long learning and enhance community life.	**HCC**	Ongoing
4. Continue to support and partner with organizations that play a critical role in the health care delivery system, such as hospitals, to ensure there is adequate capacity.	**HCHD**	Ongoing