

Amendment 97 to Council Bill No. 28 -2023

BY: Liz Walsh

Legislative Day 11
Date: October 2, 2023

Amendment No. 97

(This Amendment makes the following changes to HoCo by Design Chapter 9 and Chapter 11 to:

Chapter 9: Supporting Infrastructure - *Adds a new Implementing Action to INF-4 Policy Statement to the APFO Committee examine APFO with respect to the County's Hospital; and*

Chapter 11: Implementation - *Adds a new Implementing Action to INF-4 Policy Statement to the APFO Committee examine APFO with respect to the County's Hospital.)*

1

2

3 In the *HoCo By Design* General Plan, attached to this Act as Exhibit A, amend the following
4 pages as indicated in this Amendment:

5 • Chapter 9: Supporting Infrastructure: page 24.

6 • Chapter 11: Implementation: page 55.

7

8 Correct all page numbers, numbering, and formatting within this Act to accommodate this
9 amendment.

10



Providing fire suppression in the Rural West—located outside of the County’s Planned Service Area—presents specific challenges for response teams because public water and fire hydrants are not available near buildings or structures. As a result, fire engines are dependent upon nearby fire ponds, strategically-placed 30,000-gallon cisterns, and a continuing rotation of water-carrying fire engines or tanker trucks to replenish their water supply using temporary, on-site dump tanks set up by the fire department during an incident. This system can be manageable for smaller, more isolated fires but becomes problematic for fires that involve multiple or larger structures.

In 2022, there were 34 water supply cisterns serving the Rural West. Since 2008, long-term plans have called for up to 100 cisterns in the area to support a sufficient water supply system. Construction of the full cistern system will continue through 2040 and beyond.

Competition for land in some areas of the County will increase dramatically as new facilities and services are identified to serve nearby development. HCDFRS should consider station designs that minimize overall size requirements, leverage co-location requirements, and focus design to efficiently meet specific requirements of future needs. HCDFRS should also assess prototypes used in the County after they are built, ensure stations are functioning as they were intended, and determine if design elements from one station may be appropriate for other projects.

INF-4 Policy Statement

Minimize loss of life, loss of property, and injury due to fire or medical emergencies.

Implementing Actions

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.
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.
3. Provide funding to replace fire and rescue vehicles when needed.
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.
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.
6. [Direct the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance \(APFO\) committee to develop recommendations as to the applicability of APFO to local emergency response and in-patient care facilities.](#)

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	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
6. Direct the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO) committee to develop recommendations as to the applicability of APFO to local emergency and in-patient care facilities.	Elected Officials	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	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	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.		
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