

The logo features a stylized illustration of three wheat stalks at the top left, with the words "Howard County" in a large, bold, serif font. Below this, the words "Internal Memorandum" are written in a smaller, italicized serif font, separated from the main title by a thin horizontal line.

Howard County

Internal Memorandum

SUBJECT: Council Testimony and Fiscal Impact Statement
Supporting an Application – Eastern Howard County Enterprise Zone designation

TO: Brandee Ganz
Chief Administrative Officer

FROM: Jennifer Jones, CEO
Howard County Economic Development Authority

Lynda Eisenberg, Director
Department of Planning & Zoning

DATE: August 21, 2024

The Howard County Economic Development Authority (HCEDA), along with the Department of Planning & Zoning, express their support for Council Resolution No. _____, which authorizes Howard County to apply to Maryland Department of Commerce for an Enterprise Zone designation for certain parcels in eastern Howard County.

Enterprise Zones have a tremendous impact on communities throughout our state, serving as a catalyst for growth and revitalization. Businesses operating within an Enterprise Zone may be eligible for a tax credit towards their state income tax filings based upon the number of new jobs created, and a tax credit on their local real property taxes based upon their overall capital investment into a property.

The proposed Eastern Howard County Enterprise Zone focuses on two target areas in *HoCo By Design* - the Route 1 Corridor and the Columbia Gateway District. *HoCo By Design* recognizes the opportunity and necessity of thoughtful redevelopment in Howard County to meet our growing community needs. Enterprise Zones provide an important tool to advance this effort.

The Route 1 Corridor is expected to remain a significant employment corridor in the County for the next 20 years. *HoCo By Design* and its companion *Route 1 Corridor Plan: A Plan for Washington Boulevard*, both adopted in 2023, emphasize the uniqueness of the Corridor as well as the importance of attracting public and private investment and spurring redevelopment that will enhance its attractiveness and economic value.

Currently an employment center with large office and industrial buildings and surface parking lots, Columbia Gateway is envisioned as an iconic model for sustainable and innovative

redevelopment and infrastructure projects, making it an exciting new focal point for the Baltimore-Washington region.

This Enterprise Zone application includes 2,054.5 acres of commercial, manufacturing and industrial properties that could benefit from this important designation.

Fiscal Impact

The fiscal impact is not quantifiable at this time because the County does not have any Enterprise Zones at present. However, the state does publish an Enterprise Zone Tax Credit Report for all Counties ([Evaluation of the Enterprise Zone Tax Credit \(maryland.gov\)](http://maryland.gov)). The State reimburses local jurisdictions 50 percent of the revenue lost as a result of offering businesses located in its zone the property tax credit, subject to approval in the State's annual budget.