

Council Resolution 224-2025 Fiscal Analysis

Introduced: November 3, 2025

Fiscal Manager: Irene Wang

Legislative Intent: This legislation proposes to amend the Howard County Scenic Roads Inventory by adding a portion of Old Frederick Road, specifically from Rogers Avenue to the Baltimore County line, and by extending the existing Scenic Road designation of Main Street in Ellicott City from the edge of the Historic District, including Frederick Road, to Route 40. The intent of these amendments is to preserve and recognize the scenic and historic value of these road segments in accordance with the provisions of the Howard County Scenic Roads Act.

ANALYSIS

Fiscal Impact:

According to the Department of Public Works (DPW), the designation of these road segments as Scenic Roads does not automatically result in new County costs, signage, or infrastructure upgrades. However, the designation introduces procedural requirements that may affect future projects along the designated corridors. Specifically:

- Any future improvements or alterations to the designated roads must protect the scenic character of the roadway. These projects are subject to additional design review and require approval from the Public Works Board (PWB). DPW reports that in past cases, this process has resulted in redesigns and multi-year delays.
- While no additional staffing is currently anticipated, DPW notes that redesigns required to meet scenic road criteria may require additional project funding.
- DPW identified two potential external funding sources that may support scenic road preservation:
 1. [National Road Scenic Byway Program \(U.S. Department of Transportation\)](#)
 2. [Maryland Department of Transportation \(MDOT\) Transportation Alternatives Program \(TAP\)](#)

Other Notes:

DPW stated that the potential for increased tourism or changes in property values as a result of the designation is unknown. DPW also states that while some individuals may consider scenic designations in travel or appraisal decisions, no specific fiscal impact has been identified.

The Department of Planning & Zoning has not yet provided a response regarding whether this designation would require additional staff or resources. This section will be updated upon receipt of their input.