



Howard County Council

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COUNCILMEMBERS

Christiana Rigby, Chair
District 3
Deb Jung, Vice Chair
District 4
Opel Jones
District 2
Liz Walsh
District 1
David Yungmann
District 5

General Plan Work Session #8 Minutes – Approved

Hybrid Meeting (Virtual and In-Person Meeting)

Video Streamed on <https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/watch-us>

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

6:30 p.m.

Chair Rigby opened the meeting at 6:31p.m.

Councilmembers present: Chair Christiana Rigby, Vice-chair Deb Jung; Liz Walsh, Opel Jones, and David Yungmann

Staff Present:

Michelle Harrod, Council Administrator; Isaiah Anderson, Executive Assistant; Theo Wimberly, Administrative Manager; Lynne Blume Rosen, Legislative Analyst; Owen Kahn, Legislative Analyst; Craig Glendenning, County Auditor; Gary Kuc, County Solicitor; and Amanda Mihill, Assistant County Solicitor.

Agenda

1. County in Motion (Chapter 4) and Route 1 Transportation

Presentation HCBD Core Team

The Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ) HoCoByDesign (HCBD) Core Team presented an overview of the HoCo By Design General Plan County in Motion (Chapter 4) and Route 1 Transportation, including the following topics:

- the components of the transportation system;
- implementing documents pertaining to Chapter 4 and Route 1;
- maintaining transportation assets to ensure system viability and user safety and accompanying funding challenges;
- the Equity Emphasis Areas Sector in the Complete Streets Policy;
- mobility and access to all modes of travel in the County;
- future of the transportation system and impact of rapidly evolving technologies, including connected and autonomous vehicles and micro-mobility technologies;
- impact of transportation policies on climate change and air quality;
- equity considerations;

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- transportation investment priorities;
- vision for Route 1 Corridor Plan;
- project delivery and regional transportation coordination;
- slow progress on delivery of projects due to project complexity and issues relating to right of way acquisition, permitting, and construction; and
- importance of maintenance to the operation and safety of the transportation system.

Council Member Q&A

The HCBD Core team responded to questions from the Council on the following topics:

- how to accomplish shared parking between activity centers and how to calculate shared parking;
- County transportation plans for Maple Lawn and Downtown Columbia and supporting efforts by Foursquare;
- County transportation investment priorities and Map 4:2: Significant Transportation Investment Map;
- how Map 4:2 differs from the priorities for Walk Howard and Bike Howard;
- challenges regarding the development of projects on Route 1 on or adjacent to State owned land;
- efforts of the Office of Transportation and the Economic Development Authority to coordinate with the Maple Lawn Homeowners Association and the Maple Lawn commercial entities;
- Flash Plan for bus service to Maple Lawn, the Applied Physics Lab, and downtown Columbia;
- schedule for the functional plan for transit development; improvements on Route 1 corridor to include extension of RTA;
- micro transit grant for on demand services and inclusion of electric vehicles in the project;
- the percentage of residents who drive cars and who ride transit;
- future transit options other than cars and the desire of County residents, particularly younger residents, to reduce the need for cars;
- desire for safe access to local places, including schools, that are approximately two mile trips and the importance of scooters and e-bikes for short trips;
- the need to reduce the number of cars going in and out of the County and the use of rapid transit to cut down on the number of trips via FLASH;
- status of bringing FLASH to Howard County; the Office of Transportation is actively pursuing an MOU with Montgomery County with early calendar 2026 being the goal;
- lack of census tract data on Map 4:1 and other maps lack census track data or have outdated sources of data;
- sources of data for equity emphasis areas and how these numbers are updated; and
- an amendment to add BWI to the County in Motion chapter to discuss relevant issues regarding BWI.

2. Implementation (Chapter 11)

The HCBD Core Team gave a presentation on Chapter 11: Implementation and gave concluding thoughts on the development process of HCBD.

The HCBD Core team responded to questions from the Council on what tools and incentives the government has to achieve tangible results; the financial need and benefit for new development and how it compares to other communities; the County's five year report on the implementation matrix for the PlanHoward 2030; and how HCBD incorporates future plans by reference.

Chair Rigby closed the meeting at 8:45p.m.

General Plan
Work Session 8 Agenda – Participants

HCBD Core Team

Lynda Eisenberg
Brian Shepter
Jessica Bellah
Mary Kendall
Kristin O'Connor
Kate Bolinger
Sarah Latimer
Matt Noonkester

OOT - Bruce Gartner, David Cookson
DPW/Transportation – Amah Binde, Kris Jagarapu, Abdul Akbari
DPZ/Research – Jeff Bronow

Phillip Dodge – Downtown Columbia Partnership