

Community WC Coalition

Washington County Community Coalition

Urban Revitalization



The Maryland Theatre

Tourism



National Road Heritage Museum

Celebrating Leadership



Thomas Kennedy Memorial

Highway Improvements



Fatal Crash 6/29/16

Legislator's Packet



Washington County Community Coalition

Coalition Partners:

- Washington County Government
- City of Hagerstown
- Washington County Public Schools
- Town of Williamsport
- Washington County Library System
- Visit Hagerstown (Convention & Visitors Bureau)
- Washington County Chamber of Commerce
- CHIEF (Washington County Industrial Foundation)
- Greater Hagerstown Committee

History:

In 2005, local leaders formed the Washington County Community Coalition, an advocacy group with a two-fold mission: First, we lobby Annapolis on issues important to Washington County. Second, we educate State leaders and policy makers on the priorities, activities, and strengths of our community.

To be successful, the Coalition understands that it must go to Annapolis with “one voice.” To build this consensus, we debate the issues among ourselves and select only those on which all the Coalition partners agree. We go to Annapolis, then, with a unified message and an increased chance for success.

Once the issues are chosen and the agenda is set, the Coalition works with a team of professional lobbyists led by John Favazza of Manis Canning & Associates. The lobbying team uses our consensus agenda to develop a coordinated plan of action.

Beyond the set agenda, the Coalition uses the lobbyist as a “trip-wire” – an early warning system to alert community leaders of legislative threats to Washington County. Armed with the information, and working with our lobbyists, the Coalition partners can often resolve issues before they become problems.

Process:

The process to develop the Coalition’s agenda begins with a series of meetings to which the entire leadership of all of the Coalition partners is invited. The group begins in the summer with brainstorming sessions designed to identify issues important to our community. Over the course of several meetings, the partners trim down the list and agree on a manageable set of The Coalition’s partners research the agenda items, identify specific requests, and prepare white papers or fact sheets for the lobbyists to use as educational materials.

Program:

- Strategic lobbying program is developed for the community including priority projects and a “Watch List” of local issues of concern
- Community Leaders attend a “Day in Annapolis” during the General Assembly session to lobby State leaders on community initiatives.
- “Meet and Greet” legislators throughout the session at various special events.
- Coalition holds a legislative reception to project the “brand” of Washington County as a future area of prosperity for MD
- The Coalition receives year-round advocacy updates from our lobbyists. Lobbying team tracks and reports on local legislation. Community leaders receive advice and help as new issues or initiatives develop.

For more information contact:

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paul@hagerstown.org

Agenda For 2018 Legislative Session

• I-81 Widening Improvements

Phase 1 is currently underway to widen I-81 to 6 lanes from the Potomac River Bridge to Exit #1 in Williamsport. In addition, the State has allocated \$5M for the engineering and design of Phases 2 through 4, and applied for the new Federal INFRA grant to provide a significant portion of the construction funding for Phase 2, which would widen I-81 an additional 3.5 miles to the I-70 interchange. SHA's revised cost estimate for I-81 Phases 2, 3, and 4 is a total of \$291M. The INFRA grant application requested \$46M for Phase 2 – total project cost \$82M. ***We are asking the State to identify funds to construct Phase 2 in conjunction with a INFRA grant award, and create a 10-year plan to finish the widening of I-81 to the Pennsylvania line.***

• I-70/Rt. 65 Interchange Improvements

Improvements to the interchange of Interstate 70 and MD65 are needed to enhance safety, improve congestion, and increase capacity in the fastest growing retail and residential area in the County. The proposed interchange improvements include construction of a partial cloverleaf that will utilize the existing southeast loop ramp and install a new northwest loop ramp. SHA announced at the 2017 MDOT Tour Meeting that the planning phase of the project was being finalized and the proposed alternative moving forward to the design phase will be the partial cloverleaf that was recommended by the County. The construction is estimated by the County to cost approximately \$40 million and will provide capacity for years to come. It will also improve efficiency and safety by eliminating multiple stop conditions on MD 65 and improve the weave/merge conditions on Interstate 70. ***We are requesting that the State complete the planning stage, begin the design stage, and program construction funding into MDOT's Consolidated Transportation Plan.***

• Urban Improvement Project (UIP) in downtown Hagerstown

Washington County, in partnership with the City of Hagerstown, Washington County Public Schools, Maryland Theatre, University System of Maryland at Hagerstown (USMH), and private business, is supporting several key projects to revitalize Hagerstown's urban core. Projects include the expansion and renovation of the Maryland Theatre (\$13.3M), expansion of an educational complex to support Washington County Public Schools and USMH (\$22.1M for BISFA expansion), and an outdoor plaza (\$2.2M). These public/private partnerships will provide performance space, concession space, and income producing space for the theatre; space for offices, classrooms, dining areas, student housing, STEM Labs for education partners; and new commercial office space. In addition, these projects will be a catalyst for new investment in the surrounding areas, creating housing, jobs, increased tax base, and foot traffic in the urban core. The stakeholders have either secured or received commitments for \$24.6M in the form of capital & legislative bond bills, IAC school construction funding, community legacy and other State and Federal capital funding programs. ***We are asking for the State's continued support of these projects to assist in revitalizing Hagerstown's Urban core.***

• Thomas Kennedy Memorial Park

The Thomas Kennedy Center is dedicated to celebrating Hagerstown-Washington County's State Legislator Thomas Kennedy's tireless efforts in advancing religious liberty and inclusiveness in 19th Century Maryland. A memorial park is planned that will include a statue and plaza project located in current green space on East Baltimore Street across from the Congregation B'nai Abraham synagogue. The park will be dedicated to the ideals of religious freedom and tolerance and will be a cultural and educational attraction for visitors throughout the region. ***We are requesting the State support the funding request by the Thomas Kennedy Center for the construction of a Thomas Kennedy Memorial Park in Hagerstown.***

• NPS Headquarters/Visitors Center in Williamsport

Town of Williamsport has identified a key property they wish to acquire as part of their continued revitalization efforts - former site of Miller's Lumber Company. The town has been working with the NPS C&O Canal administration to provide this site for the relocation of employees from five offices to a consolidated, efficient location which is visible to the Cushwa's Basin on the canal near the Conococheaque Aqueduct. One vision for

this site would include this new office building, as well as a premier visitor center and much needed parking for the growing number of canal visitors. This convenient location would capitalize on recent canal investments underway that will soon provide the only location in North America for visitors to experience all the aspects of a working canal – ride across a working aqueduct, under a lift bridge, through a working lock, and ride/walk along a renovated towpath. If successful, 32 new jobs will move to Maryland as a result of this relocation effort with an annual payroll of more than \$2 million, and 76 positions will remain in Washington County with an annual payroll of about \$5 million. The Town of Williamsport seeks funding to assist with this project including \$850,000 in the current year in order to acquire this unique property.

• **Boonsboro National Road Museum**

The Town of Boonsboro is requesting \$100,000 in State funding (Bond Bill) to assist with the production of museum exhibits to complete the National Road Museum in Boonsboro, MD to be opened in late 2018. The museum will serve as a first-rate destination for tourists along the National Road, which was the first improved highway project in the USA, improving the economy and preserving the heritage of Boonsboro and Washington County, MD. **We are asking the State to support this bond bill request.**

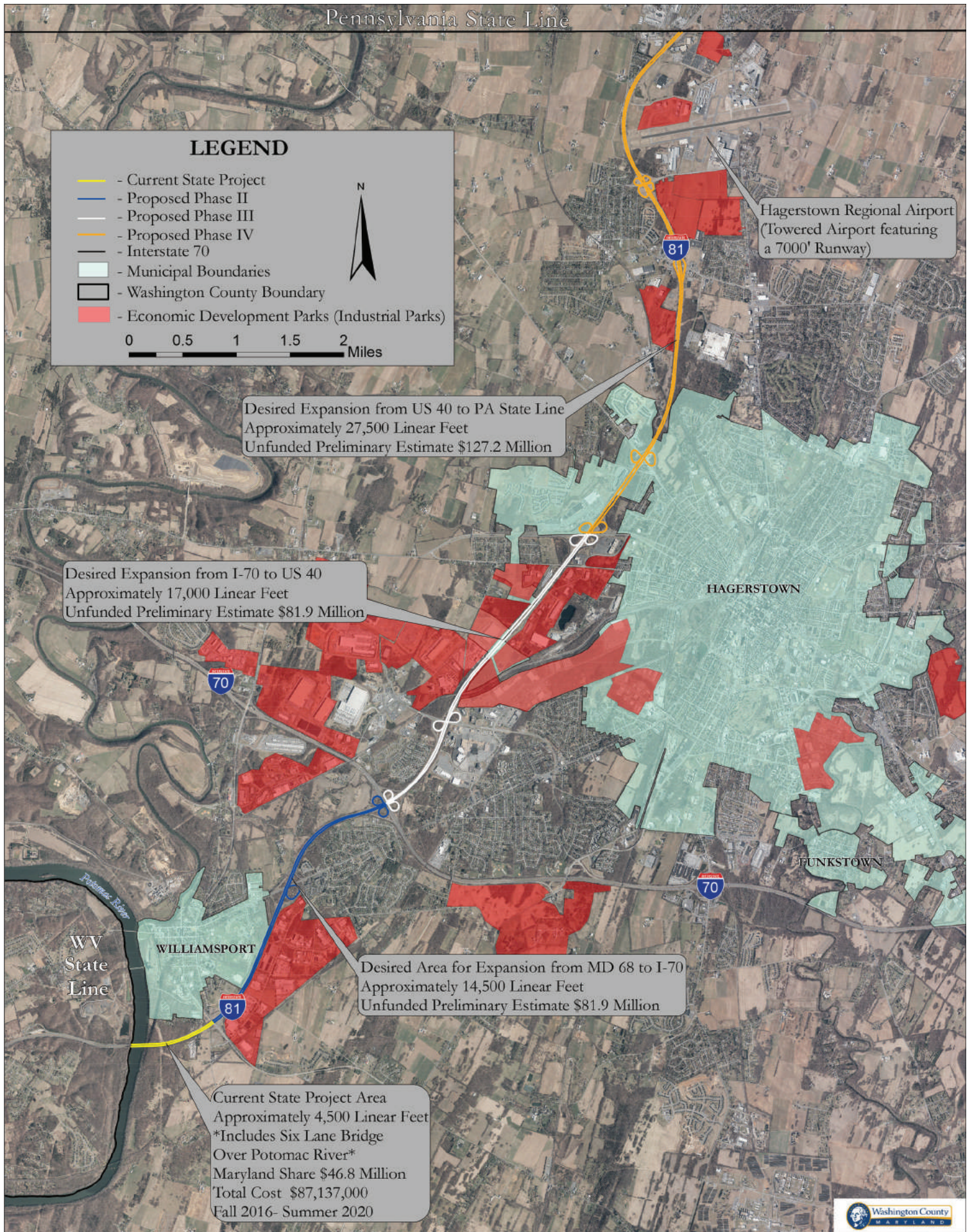
• **Funding for a Mobile Crisis Team and 24/7 Walk-In Mental Health Clinic**

In 2016 legislation SB551/HB682 was passed requiring the State to develop a strategic plan that included a look at mental health crisis centers and mobile crisis team services. The MD Behavioral Health Administration hired a consultant to look at this issue. There is a wide continuum of mental health services that make up an optimal crisis service system for any jurisdiction. However, the consultant recommended that, at a minimum, each county have a crisis team and 24/7 walk-in services. Current local mental health providers in our county are only open normal business hours and may not be able to take immediate appointments. It can sometimes be days or weeks to get into a provider. When families have a crisis, often the only place to go is our Meritus Hospital's Emergency Room (which is the 2nd busiest ER in the state for mental health issues). At this point funding for these types of requests have not been identified at the State level, but efforts are underway by the Behavioral Health Administration(BHA) to find funding to see that each county has minimum crisis services. BHA asked county core service agencies to submit requests for the services they need – prompting our CSA to request funding to expand their existing Mobile Crisis Team from 1 to 3 people and set up a 24/7 walk-in clinic to serve those in crisis until they can be forwarded to existing service providers in the county. The Coalition is asking the State to identify funding for the Behavioral Health Administration to assist counties in fulfilling minimum mental health service needs.

2018 Watch List:

- USMH Operational Funding (need additional operating funding with new programs coming FY'18-'19)
- Gaming Revenue Protection
- Shifting of Liabilities from State to Localities
- Highway User Revenue Restoration
- HCC Operational Funding and Capital funding
 - o We support funding requested by Hagerstown Community College for the new Center for Business and Entrepreneurial Studies (CBES) as well as increased operating funding for community colleges
- State funding of K-12 education
 - o Impact of Kirwan Commission
 - o Impact of 21st Century School Construction Commission
- Joint Commission Report on Integration of Local Mental Health Authorities
 - o The Behavioral Health Administration is in the process of studying how core service agencies (like our Mental Health Authority) should be integrated into a county's system of mental health care. Interviews around the state are taking place, and a consultant will be making recommendations to BHA on a course of action. We will be monitoring this study to see how any recommended changes may impact our County's system of care and give input where needed.

Priority Interstate 81 Widening



Widening of I-81 (Maryland Veterans Memorial Hwy)

Washington County Community Lobbying Coalition

Project:

To widen 11 miles of Interstate 81 in Maryland, from Phase I in Williamsport (MD 68) to the Pennsylvania state line. Planning and studies have concluded that inside widening, of one lane in each direction, is most desirable and efficient.

“The improvement of I-81 to address capacity and safety issues is a priority for state and local governments, and has strong support among elected officials, citizens and local businesses. It is also identified as the number one transportation priority for Washington County.”

Economy

The West Virginia section of Interstate 81 is now 6 lanes through Martinsburg and will soon be 6 lanes across the Potomac River Bridge to Williamsport (MD 68). Pennsylvania has largely widened I-81 to 6 lanes in Chambersburg area as well. The City and County regularly compete with both states for economic development. The interstate has become a hindrance when attracting new interest in the state, as well as keeping longstanding businesses here.

I-81 is a nationally significant freight corridor, aiding commerce in the region and along the east coast.

Locally, it serves foreign trade zones, enterprise zones, and other projected high employment growth area including or regional airport, making it vital to regional commerce and economic development in our community.

Progress:

The project has been proposed in four phases and phase I is now under construction. Phase II is proposed for a USDOT INFRA Grant. Five Million dollars has been budgeted for engineering in MDOT's Consolidated Transportation Plan.

Safety:

I-81 corridor improvements will reduce congestion, especially related to high truck volume, and provide capacity for planned development.

In 2010, SHA reported “The traffic conditions along I-81 have deteriorated as the area has developed. Increased truck traffic and geometrics deficiencies in ramp configurations and acceleration/deceleration lane lengths at the interchanges have created merge and weave problems along the corridor contributing to a high number of crashes. Approximately 34 percent of the vehicles using I-81 are trucks, representing one of the highest rates in the state.”

The 2001 Purpose and Need study concluded that improvements were necessary because, among other reasons, “34 percent of vehicles using I-81 in Maryland are trucks”; “truck related and fatal accidents were significantly higher than the state average.”

The 2010 Local Metropolitan Planning Organization Long Range Plan noted that I-81 is “heavily congested operating with a peak period of Level of Service F in 2008 and is forecasted to become even more congested with an excess demand of over 30,000 vehicles per day in 2035.”

In 2014, the SHA Office of Traffic and Safety reported “significantly higher than statewide” crash categories for dates collected in 2010, 2011, and 2012.

Request

Identify Federal and State funding to complete Phase II and the remaining phases, including the Interchange with Interstate 70. Develop a ten year plan to complete the widening to the Pennsylvania line to keep Maryland safe and competitive on the Interstate 81 corridor.

For more information on highway projects contact:

Scott Hobbs, Director
Washington County Engineering
80 Baltimore St. Hagerstown, MD 21740
240.313.2407
shobbs@washco-md.net

Interstate 70 and MD 65 (Sharpsburg Pike) Washington County Community Lobbying Coalition

Project:

Improvements to the interchange of Interstate 70 and Maryland 65 include capacity and safety enhancements and scheduled Interstate 70 bridge replacements. The proposed interchange improvements include construction of a partial cloverleaf that will utilize the existing southeast loop ramp and install a new northwest loop ramp.

Economy

The area surrounding this interchange has the fastest growing retail and residential area in Washington County.

Progress:

SHA announced at the 2017 MDOT Tour Meeting that the planning phase of the project was being finalized and the proposed alternative moving forward to the design phase is the partial cloverleaf as suggested by the

County. The project has been in the top two priorities for five consecutive years. The most recent public workshop to discuss the alternatives was held on June 21, 2017. The County performed an internal cost estimate based upon SHA awarded Interstate improvements and the cost estimate is approximately \$40 Million. The County's preferred alternative reduces the project limits as well as eliminates a proposed bridge and traffic signals on Maryland 65.

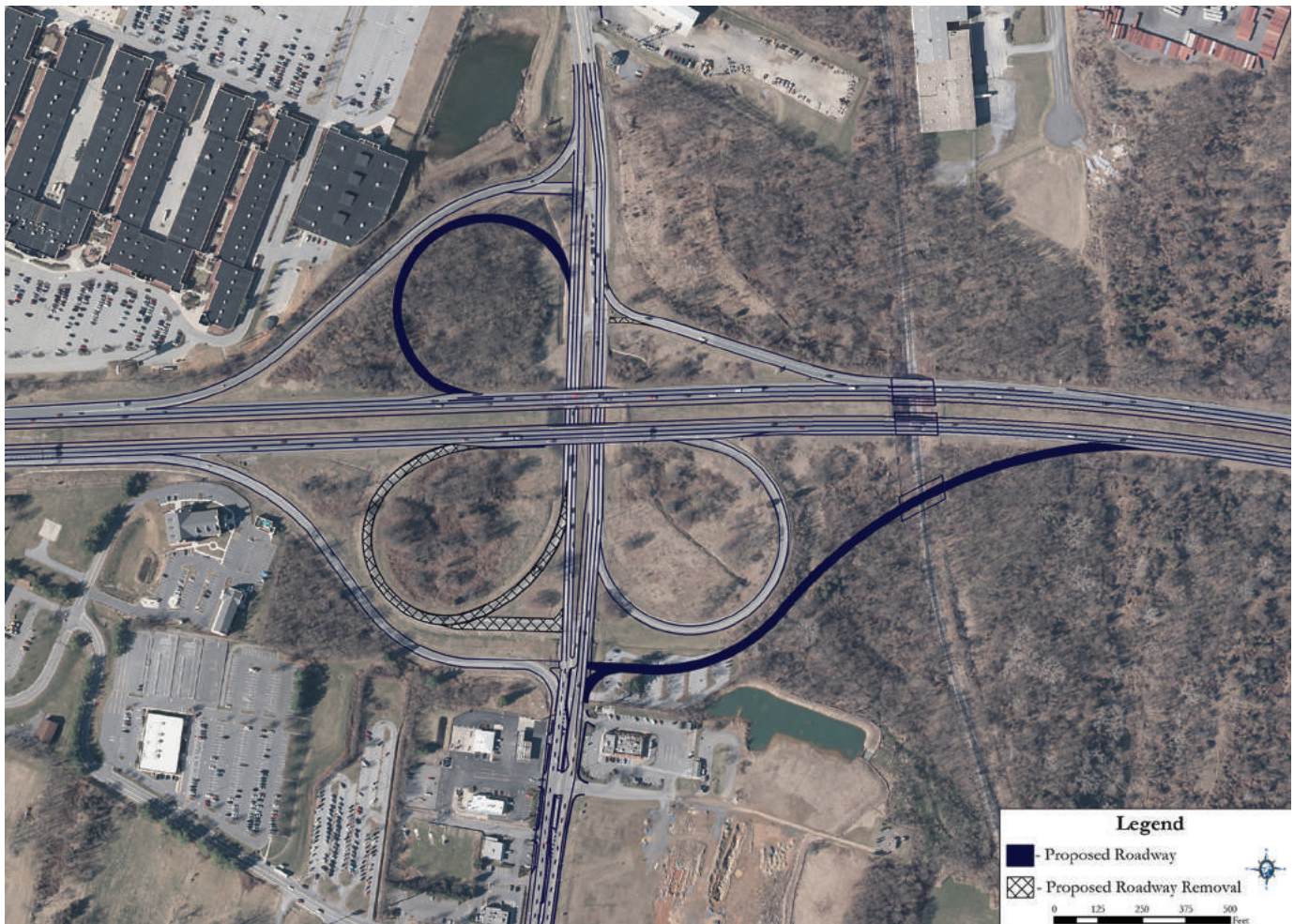
Safety:

The project will streamline traffic at the interchange by eliminating multiple stop conditions while improving the weave/merge conditions on Interstate 70.

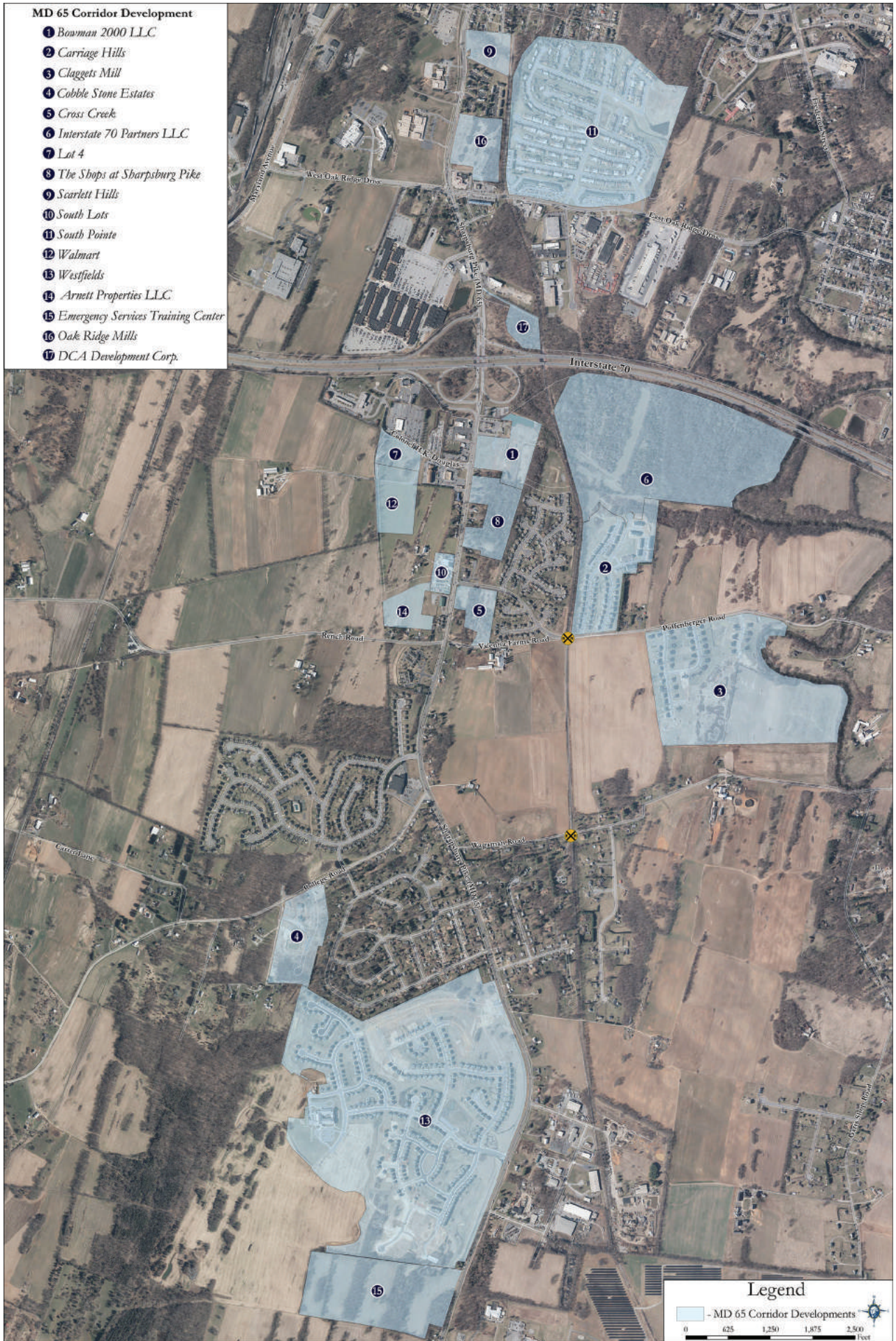
Request

Finalize planning, begin the design, and program construction funding in in MDOT's Consolidated Transportation Plan.

Route 65 / I-70 Innovative Interchange Improvements



Interstate 70 @ Maryland 65 Corridor Developments



URBAN IMPROVEMENT PROJECT



Project:

Washington County in partnership with the City of Hagerstown, Washington County Board of Education (WCBOE), Maryland Theatre, University System of Maryland at Hagerstown (USMH), private development and other stakeholders are supporting the Hagerstown Urban Improvement Project (UIP). The following key projects are essential to successfully achieve revitalization of the Hagerstown urban core.

Expansion and renovation of the Historic Maryland Theatre in the downtown Arts & Entertainment District:

This project will reconstruct the four-story addition in the front of the Theatre that was consumed by fire in 1972. This initiative will create on-site offices for the Maryland Symphony Orchestra, rehearsal, performance and event space for the general public, school system, and education partners, and transform the historic landmark to a Performing Arts Complex. Partnership and collaborative displays with the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts, Convention and Visitors Bureau, Chamber of Commerce are already in progress. The project will include expansion of many customer amenities allowing for improved accessibility and the creation of two concessions areas, box offices, volunteer lounge, merchandise sales areas, restrooms plus the addition of two elevators. Improved flow of the possible 1,500 patrons within the historic auditorium and egress is a main focus of the expansion. In addition, the project will increase the number of available rental spaces from two to seven, for unique event rentals and those complimentary to existing performances. These rental spaces include a VIP suite, conference room, grand lobby, cocktail lounge, rehearsal studio, and multi-functional event space which could be used for private receptions, small performances for an audience of less than 300 and vendor shows. The rehearsal studio and

locker rooms will provide practice space during the 175 days annually when the stage is already occupied, as well as serving as daily classroom space with connectivity to the BOE's building adjacent. These proposed improvements will generate additional income for the non-profit Theatre. Backstage improvements will allow larger more notable performances to be offered and connectivity to both the WCBOE and USMH facilities. The Maryland Theatre expansion and renovation ties in with future program expansions/student housing/business development initiatives proposed by the WCBOE, USMH, and private developers that involve other blighted buildings. The rehabilitation of these buildings will foster job creation, increase the tax base, and result in increased foot traffic in the urban core. Because of a capital campaign, significant private source funding is expected. The projected cost to expand and renovate the Maryland Theatre is \$13,277,000.



URBAN IMPROVEMENT PROJECT



Urban Educational Complex Expansion:

This expansion is being completed in conjunction with the Maryland Theatre and involves the construction of an educational facility by a private developer for the WCBOE. This facility will be located between the Maryland Theatre and the highly successful Barbara Ingram School for the Arts (BISFA). An old blighted structure currently on the property will be demolished to provide a site for the new building. This facility will allow the WCBOE to expand specialized educational programs for public school students in Washington County. Once constructed, the capacity of BISFA and the BOE Component will be 553 students. Based on the current target enrollment at BISFA of 300 students, the new building will allow 253 additional students to enroll in various new programs being considered, as well as the possibility of an expansion to the BISFA program and the housing of USMH programs in the future. The facility is projected to cost \$22,144,000 based on State budgetary guidelines.

USMH Component:

An existing building, located at 55-59 West Washington Street, will be renovated by a private developer to house a new undergraduate Hospitality Management and Tourism program. Tourism is the second largest industry in Washington County and there is a demand for a Hospitality Management and Tourism program. The renovated building will include a commercial kitchen, seating and dining space for 150 people, classrooms, and office space. The second floor of the building will be roughed-in to accommodate proposed future science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs being considered. The building is owned by a private developer who will lease it to USMH. Funding for the lease will be through the USMH operating budget.

USMH also plans to offer graduate level health sciences degree programs in downtown Hagerstown. A former medical facility owned by Meritus Health will be renovated for the proposed health sciences degree programs. Estimated project cost is \$1,750,000. State capital funding is not being requested for this project component.

Plaza:

This component includes improvements to the rear of the project area in downtown Hagerstown to create a multi-use Plaza that ties all the critical components of the project together. The manner of construction will allow vehicular traffic as necessary during designated times, pedestrian movement, and group use for scheduling of public and private events. This gives a multi-faceted approach to the project area, which will expand revenue generating activities while encouraging additional business engagement. In the future, there are plans to construct student housing, shops and outdoor venues. This area is expected to become an additional hub of City Center activity. The expected cost of this component is \$2,350,000. State capital funding is not being requested for this project component.

For more information contact:

James B. Hovis, Chief Operations Officer
Washington County, Maryland
100 West Washington Street Room 1101
Hagerstown, MD 21740
240-313-2043





THOMAS KENNEDY CENTER



The Thomas Kennedy Center is dedicated to celebrating Hagerstown-Washington County’s state legislator Thomas Kennedy’s tireless efforts of advancing religious liberty and inclusiveness in 19th Century Maryland; and teaching how his legacy applies today, regardless of differences that might exist among us in race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, color, orientation, and gender.

Initially, the Thomas Kennedy Center, as a not-for-profit/non-profit entity, will include a statue and plaza project, which will memorialize Thomas Kennedy. The location is in the East Baltimore Street green space, which is a City of Hagerstown park, across the street from the Congregation B’nai Abraham.

The Thomas Kennedy Memorial Park will be dedicated to the ideals of religious freedom and tolerance.

The Thomas Kennedy Center in Hagerstown will be a cultural and educational attraction for visitors from throughout Maryland and beyond. As an educational focal point for students, the new Thomas Kennedy Center will be a public-private partnership, and an example of civic cooperation.

The new Thomas Kennedy Memorial Park itself will be a natural enhancement and extension to Hagerstown’s Downtown, and is located in Hagerstown’s Arts and Entertainment District.



HISTORICAL FACTS ABOUT THOMAS KENNEDY

- 1 A heroic citizen from Washington County, who led the dramatic struggle in the Maryland Legislature from 1818-1826 for full religious liberty of Jewish Marylanders; eventually succeeded in his valiant efforts with the passage of the “Jew Bill,” first introduced as an act to extend to Jews the same rights and privileges enjoyed by all Christians.
- 2 The Thomas Kennedy Award is considered the highest yearly honor bestowed upon a current or past member of the Maryland House of Delegates.

- 3 As a courageous symbol of fighting anti-Semitism as a greater cause of liberty, he maintains worldwide recognition. Among the Jewish community, he is an ongoing source of prideful appreciation not only throughout Hagerstown, but across Maryland and internationally. He is often known as the “Maryland Father of Religious Anti-Discrimination.”
- 4 A devout Christian, poet, proprietor and editor of the Hagerstown Mail, he believed in the removal of a religious prejudice as both an embodiment of his Christian character and his patriotism as an American. (Interestingly, he often said that he had actually never met a Jew in his life, but thought that this type of inclusive citizenship was of extreme importance for Maryland.)

Thomas Kennedy Center

Request:

Provide state funding as requested by the Thomas Kennedy Center to assist with the construction of a Thomas Kennedy Memorial Park in Hagerstown.

For more information contact:

Thomas B. Riford, Executive Director

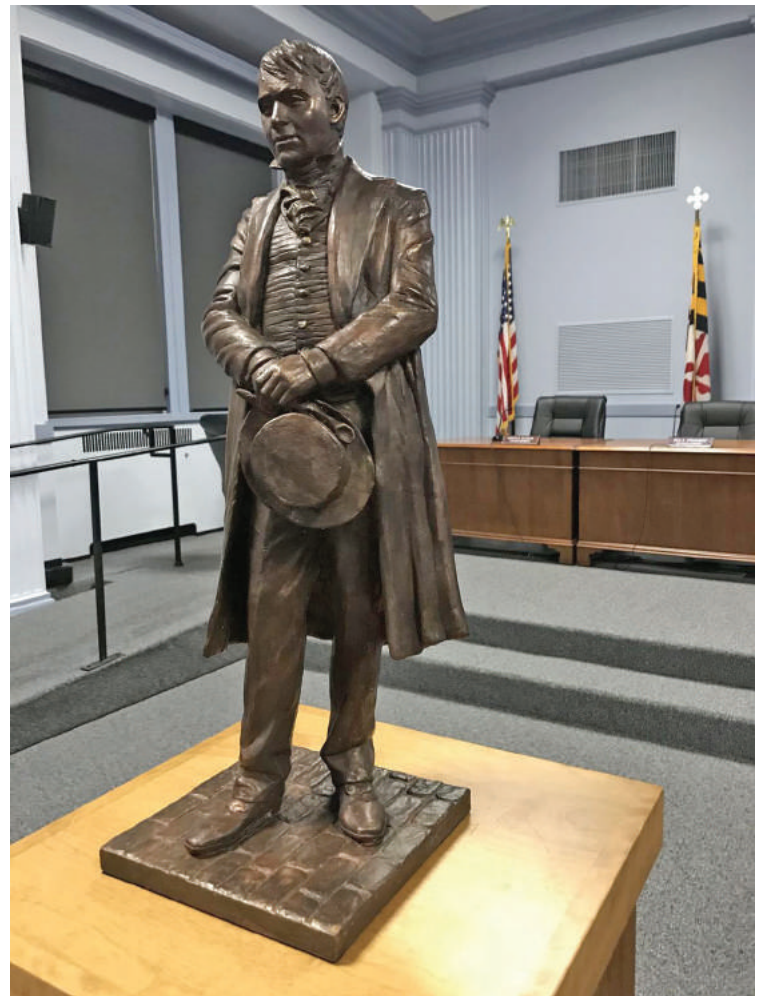
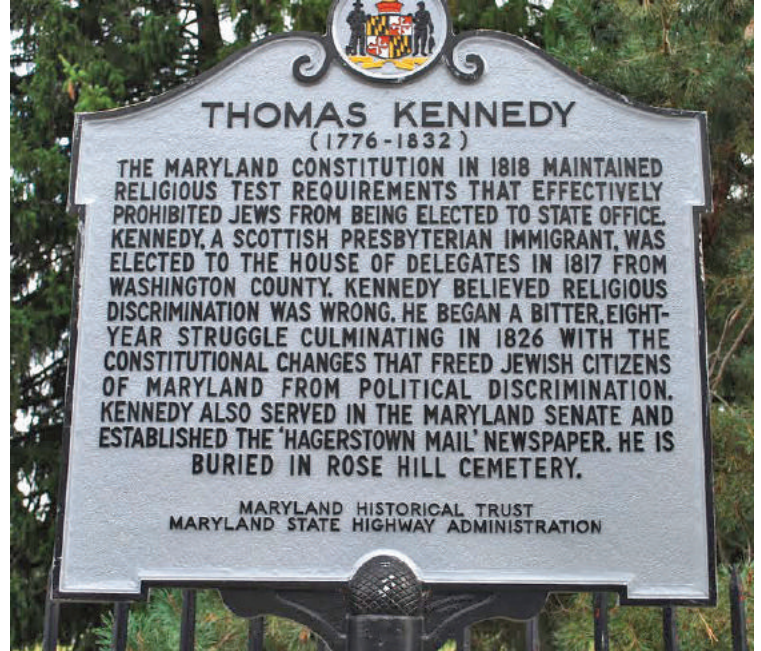
Thomas Kennedy Center

c/o 53 E. Baltimore St Hagerstown MD 21740

301-730-1635

info@thomaskennedycenter.org

www.thomaskennedycenter.org



Maquette (replica) of future 8 foot statue to be erected in the park.

Williamsport's National Park Service C&O Canal Headquarters and Tourism Infrastructure Project

Project:

About 5 million people visit the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park (C&O Canal) each year in search of nature, history, and recreation, making it Maryland's most visited national park. The Williamsport area of the park is significant because it provides a destination for hikers, bikers, and a unique interpretive opportunity for visitors seeking a historic canal experience. Recent investments in the canal's infrastructure has greatly enhanced the visitor experience and led to a rise in tourism to Williamsport. In 2016, approximately 425,000 people visited the C&O Canal in Williamsport (up from 300,000 in 2015), providing \$5.95 million in visitor spending and an overall economic impact of \$7.9 million.

The headquarters of the C&O Canal is currently located at 1850 Dual Highway in Hagerstown, Maryland. They are leasing the property through an agreement with the General Services Administration (GSA) and the property owner. The National Park Service (NPS) would like to relocate the C&O Canal headquarters, as well as four other offices, to a consolidated and more efficient facility closer to the park and historic canal. The current NPS funds are being used for a GSA lease in Hagerstown, and to operate four other NPS office locations. Funding for all of these offices could be combined to fund a new centralized location.

The Town of Williamsport has been working with the C&O Canal administration to provide them a suitable site for this facility. They have identified an ideal location in Williamsport (formerly Miller's Lumber Company) which is visible to the Cushwa's Basin on the canal near the Conococheague Aqueduct. One vision for this facility would also include a premier visitor center and much needed parking for the growing number of canal visitors. This convenient location would allow Williamsport to provide services to as many visitors as possible at the local restaurants and other retail and tourist attractions. The proposed visitor center would also capitalize on the recent canal investments underway that will soon provide the only location in North America for visitors to experience all the aspects of a working canal – ride across a working aqueduct, under a lift bridge, through a working lock, and ride or walk along the renovated towpath. In addition, 32 new jobs will move to Maryland as a result of this relocation effort

with an annual payroll of more than \$2 million, and 76 positions will remain in Washington County with an annual payroll of about \$5 million.

While the local, regional, and national offices of the NPS are very supportive of the proposed project in Williamsport, the NPS must obtain the appropriate federal approvals to undertake any relocation. Williamsport has coordinated with the Governor's office as well as the State's congressional delegation (Sen. Cardin, Sen. Van Hollen, and Congressman Delaney) to assist in this process and advocate for the proposed location. Before Williamsport can make a formal competitive offer to GSA, they must gain control of the site. This will protect this unique location from being sold to another entity and allow Williamsport to make the investments needed to develop a competitive proposal for the C&O Canal headquarters. Even without the headquarters, the site is the ideal location for an expanded parking facility or other amenities that support the visitors of the canal and Williamsport.



Williamsport's National Park Service C&O Canal Headquarters and Tourism Infrastructure Project

Current Status:

Upon request of Williamsport, the Maryland Economic Development Corporation (MEDCO) is assisting with the project, and has entered into a purchase agreement with the property owner which locks in the price of the property (\$1.25M) until September 2018 and requires \$5000/month in extension payments. Williamsport is currently covering these monthly costs. The agreement also allows for an installment purchase of the site with a portion due at closing and the balance of principal to be paid over two years.

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) recently offered Williamsport a \$425,000 grant opportunity to assist with the purchase of the property. They are in the process of reviewing this option. However, as Williamsport is not in a position to take on additional long-term debt, the full amount to purchase the property must be identified before Williamsport can initiate the installment purchase of the site. Additionally, Williamsport received an \$80,000 grant from DHCD which they are currently using to assist with the monthly purchase agreement payments and for other costs associated with site development.

MEDCO and Williamsport are developing a cost analysis for the construction of a building on the proposed site for the NPS. Once complete, they plan to submit an unsolicited offer to GSA to relocate the C&O Canal operations to this location. It is strongly believed that if Williamsport can make an offer that would be cost

neutral or better to GSA, when taking into account the existing funds they currently expend on their multiple NPS locations, GSA may pursue a lease for a centralized location in Williamsport. We expect the project cost evaluation and offer to GSA to be submitted in the first quarter of 2018. The timetable for GSA's approval of an offer is unknown. However once securing the remaining balance for the land, Williamsport will be able to purchase the property, remove the blighted non-historic buildings, and develop a final plan for the site to benefit Williamsport and support tourism at the canal. Should GSA agree to lease a centralized location for the C&O Canal operations, MEDCO or another developer selected by Williamsport, would be utilized to lease a building that would be incorporated onto this location. Williamsport does not want to become the landlord for the building.

Request:

The Town of Williamsport seeks funding to assist with this project, including \$850,000 in the current year in order to acquire this unique property ideally suited for a centralized location for the C&O Canal operations as well as other town uses that support the residents of Williamsport and the growing number of canal visitors. This money, combined with the DHCD grant would cover the sale price and closing costs.



Funding for the National Road Museum in Boonsboro, MD

Washington County Community Lobbying Coalition

Background:



The National Road Heritage Foundation (NRHF) was organized in 2005. Its first project in 2008 was to renovate and preserve the last standing trolley station in Washington County, MD.

The exterior and interior of the station were restored to their original appearance and artifacts, pictures, and period furniture were added. The Trolley Station Museum is open and is now successful project.

The organization's second project is to establish within an adjacent historic structure a National Road Museum to tell the story of the National Road from



Baltimore to St Louis. This road paved the way for hundreds of thousands of industrial immigrants, who's search for a better life, spurred economic growth and help unify our fledgling nation.



When completed, the museum will be the only one in Maryland dedicated to the story of the National Road. The Museum will honor the nation's first federal

highway system intended to expand and populate America's untamed west, and will be a dramatic place for discovery and imagination sparking a passion for American history. This museum will stand next to the last standing Trolley Station Museum in the town of Boonsboro, MD.

The National Road Heritage Foundation Endowment Fund through the Community Foundation of Washington County, MD, Inc. was established in September 2015. The sole purpose of this fund is to ensure the longevity of both museums by providing yearly financial support to assist in the operational costs and improvements.

Progress Report:

Phase 1 – Restoration of Exterior of Museum

- Completed early 2012 - \$66,258.

Phase 2 – Interior of Museum Demolition

- Completed - \$17,500.

Phase 3 – Rehabilitation of Interior of Museum

- Completed - \$150,000 .
- ADA access, HVAC, electric, and finishes.

Prerequisite for Phase 4– Completed - \$29,241.

- At the request of the NRHF, David Guiney of Interpretive Direction LLC conducted a workshop in March of 2014 to obtain ideas for developing a museum plan. Interpretive Direction LLC was hired to create a Visitor Experience Plan and Exhibit Prospectus. In addition, the workshop resulted in creation of the video fly-thru (available on the NRHF website YouTube).

Phase 4 – Rehabilitation of Interior of Museum

- Completed July 10, 2015 - \$100,000.
- Produced exhibits, plans and written design for the production for the exhibits in the National Road Museum.

Phase 5 – Specifications for Exhibit Production

- Currently in process - \$100,000 .
- On July 10, 2017: The creative team is producing pre-production planning and design tasks coordinated with the fabrication schedule.

Phase 5 – Production of Exhibits for the National Road Museum (BOND BILL REQUEST)

- The Foundation has begun to raise funds for the cost of the production of the exhibits.
- The official open date of the National Road Museum will be determined by our successful funding efforts. We are anticipating an open date last quarter, 2018.

Request:

Support Bond Bill for \$100,000 to fund the production of museum exhibits to complete the National Road Museum in Boonsboro, MD to be opened in late 2018.

Funding for a Mobile Crisis Team and 24/7 Walk-In Mental Health Clinic

Washington County Community Lobbying Coalition

Background:

In 2016 legislation SB551/HB682 was passed requiring the State to develop a strategic plan to address crisis service shortfalls in Maryland communities. As a result, The Behavioral Health Administration hired the Maryland Behavioral Health Coalition as a consultant to develop a report on this issue. There is a wide continuum of mental health services that make up an optimal crisis service system for any jurisdiction, and the level of services provided in Maryland vary by county. However, following their state-wide review of best practices, *the consultant recommended that, at a minimum, each county should have a mobile crisis team and 24/7 walk-in services.*

Current local mental health providers in our county are only open normal business hours and may not be able to take immediate appointments. It can sometimes be days or weeks for a person to get in to see a provider. When families have a crisis, often the only place to go is the Emergency Room at Meritus Hospital (which is the 2nd busiest ER in the state for mental health issues). In addition, our local law enforcement is getting inundated with calls that involve people having a mental health crisis. The police are often challenged with properly handling those that they respond to with mental health needs, as well as finding any immediate mental health treatment outside of our local hospital's emergency room.

A 24/7 walk-in clinic would provide families in crisis immediate service and offer law enforcement an alternative to using our local hospital. In addition, not everyone going to the hospital for mental health related issue qualifies for admission. If they are not a danger to themselves or others, they are often ineligible for admission and unable to get the treatment they need. If left untreated, their illness can escalate to the point where law enforcement is needed. An alternative site would be helpful in reducing police calls stemming from mental health issues, as well as, reduce the number of people who are using the ER for short-term problem resolution when the proper linkage to a longer-term

Mobile Crisis Teams would provide a person(s) to be on call and/or ride with officers to assist with getting mental health patients immediate care (when appropriate). Washington County is currently training law enforcement officers in the use of Crisis Intervention techniques and has created a Mobile Crisis Response staff for Mental Health crises – but they only have one staff person. Additional staff is needed to provide 24/7 coverage.

At this point funding to address shortfalls in mental health crisis services has not been identified at the State level. But efforts are underway by the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) to find additional funding to see that each county has the minimum crisis services they need. In order to gauge the level of funding needed, BHA recently asked county core service agencies across the state to submit requests for the crisis services they need. This prompted our CSA, Washington Co. Mental Health Authority, to request funding to expand their existing Mobile Crisis Team from 1 to 3 people and money to establish a 24/7 walk-in clinic to serve those in crisis until they can be forwarded to existing local service providers. Currently, our county does not have a 24/7 walk-in clinic and the only alternative at this time in our local emergency room.

Request:

The Coalition is asking the State to identify funding for the Behavioral Health Administration to assist counties in fulfilling minimum mental health crisis service needs.

University System of Maryland at Hagerstown

Washington County Community Lobbying Coalition

Background:

The University System of Maryland at Hagerstown (USMH), a regional center of the University System of Maryland (USM), opened in January 2005 to provide access to higher education to an educationally underserved population. It is located in the City of Hagerstown's downtown core, which is poised for revitalization. Universities within the USM bring upper-level undergraduate and graduate programs to USMH, and provide the instructors for them. Only universities within the USM offer programs at USMH unless there is a future need which no System institution is able to fill.

Facility:

The Main Building of USMH opened for classes in Spring 2005. It is a state-of-the-art facility that includes computer labs, multiple nursing labs, distance education interactive video networking (IVN) classrooms, a full-service library, group study areas, and student lounges. The City of Hagerstown purchased the original building, once a hotel, in 1994 for \$128,000 and donated the land and building to the University System of Maryland to bring the regional center downtown. Shortly after opening, the City built University Plaza, a gated park next door to the Main Building, which the center uses as campus lawn and event space. The City

contributed more than \$468,000 toward this \$1.5M park with the remainder coming from state and federal funds (Community Legacy Funds, Community Parks & Playgrounds Funds, and an ARC grant).

The City subsequently purchased, and later renovated (2012), an adjacent building using another federal grant. That building, 60 WEST, houses a City-operated downtown small business incubator, and the City leases about half of the building (classrooms and offices) to USMH. The City spent approximately \$400,000 of the grant on USMH's portion to meet its specific needs.

In 2015, USMH collaborated with the City of Hagerstown and a local developer to offer student housing in a newly renovated building located two blocks from the regional center. The City provided financial incentives, and the City and USMH jointly offered some additional incentives that reduced the developer's risk and made it possible to offer affordable rates for students.

The completed project provides housing for eight students. The City and USMH are now seeking a developer through an RFP process for a similar second student housing project that will accommodate 10 additional students and possibly their families (likely students in the planned Physician Assistant program – see below).

Upcoming New Programs and Facilities:

The Agnita M. Stine Schreiber Health Sciences Center, USMH's first named facility, will be the administrative home for future health sciences programs offered at USMH. It is named for the mother of a prominent local philanthropist, businessman and major supporter of USMH. It will be housed at a medical clinic building owned by Meritus Health about two blocks from the USMH Main Building. Meritus will operate a medical practice/clinic on the first floor, and will lease the third and one-half of the second floors to USMH without cost (a significant in-kind contribution) in exchange for USMH paying for the necessary building renovations.

USMH has raised \$1.47 million in cash and pledges as of January 2018 from private and federal government sources to fund the renovations, furnish and equip the clinical labs, classrooms and offices, and establish a scholarship endowment for students enrolled in the



University System of Maryland at Hagerstown

Washington County Community Lobbying Coalition

first program to be offered in the Health Sciences Center: a graduate Physician Assistant program. The state (USM) will be responsible for annual operating costs of the building, estimated at \$100,000/year.

The MS in Physician Assistant (planned for a summer 2019 start), will be a full-time, two-year program with a decided rural practice focus offered by Frostburg State University in collaboration with the University of Maryland - Baltimore. There is strong and growing local, statewide and national demand for PA programs. In fact, this program is expected to be USMH's first program to attract students nationwide.

A new Hospitality and Tourism Management program will begin at USMH in Spring 2018, offered by the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Offering this program will require a commercial kitchen and dining area, classrooms and offices, which the Main Building cannot be renovated to accommodate. Plans are under-way to lease a building across the street from the Main Building that is owned by local developers, and work with them to design and renovate both floors to USMH's needs and specifications.

The building's second floor will house new STEM Labs. University-level STEM programs will be sought that meet workforce development needs, and that complete educational pathways from high school to Associate to finally Bachelor's programs at USMH. Some STEM lectures will be held in future second-floor classroom space, with others in classrooms in the existing Main Building.

Economic Development Impact:

- Between 2003 and 2013 an estimated \$71.8 million in new investment occurred in the area around USMH. Planning began in 2017 for over \$30 million in new investment downtown as part of the Urban Improvement Project.
- New university programs will provide significant economic impact, including the salaries of new faculty and staff, and their housing and consumer spending; new students' discretionary spending; additional housing expenditures by out-of-town students moving to Hagerstown for one of the programs; and program and building expenditures.

Current Data:

- Programs at USMH are offered by six institutions: Frostburg State University; Salisbury University; Towson University; University of Maryland, College Park; University of Maryland Eastern Shore, and University of Maryland University College
- 21 degree programs: 14 UG and 7 GR, including one doctorate; plus two certificate programs
- Fall 2017: Headcount enrollment- 464; FTE's- 131.1
- 282 undergraduate students; 182 graduate students
- FY 2018 state appropriation: \$2.073 million
- More than \$450,000 in locally-raised scholarships have been awarded to more than 175 USMH students since 2009
- As of May 2017: more than 1,900 students have graduated from programs offered at USMH

Trends:

- **Costs** to the State of Maryland have **decreased 36%** per FTE between FY17 and FY06 (USMH's first year of full funding).
- USMH's commitment to downtown revitalization means all classrooms and offices, and all sponsored student housing, are – and will be – downtown.
- A growing number of online students are served at USMH, but are not reflected in the enrollment numbers. For example, online students' use of the library, group meeting areas, and advising services.



The Community's City Center Plan

Take a look at the future of our downtown... This is a 10-year roadmap for eight catalyst projects that will spur development in our City Center. The Community's City Center Plan includes detailed annual steps for making these concepts a reality. It creates at least 875 new permanent jobs, bringing \$125 million in new investment downtown.

This is a public-private partnership, where private developers invest 75% of the cost while funding from all levels of government will cover the rest. The City's consultants, Urban Partners, conclude that all of these projects are feasible based on their economic analysis.

This roadmap is the result of broad community input, with the consultants spending over 130 hours collecting feedback from the community. We appreciate your participation in this project to help move our downtown forward!

HAGERSTOWN



CITY CENTER

1. Office Development and Recruitment:



- Position downtown to compete for new office development using portions of Central Parking Lot
- City partners with a selected, experienced developer through a competitive process
- Estimated 154,000 square-foot new office development across three buildings
- Current parking accommodates first 70,000 square feet; additional office will require new parking deck

2. Maryland Theatre Expansion Project:



- Expand draw of downtown's largest attraction
- Grow from 150 to 225 performance days per year, increasing the audience by 60,000 annually
- Continue necessary improvements to seating and "back of house"
- Create new entrance, offices and performance space

3. USMH Expansion Support:



- Support USMH growth from 500 to 750 students
- Add facilities for culinary arts, tourism and hospitality programs
- Capture student housing opportunities downtown:
- Three upper-floor renovation projects
- 12 units to house 24 students

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT US ONLINE AT HAGERSTOWNMD.ORG



The Community's City Center Plan

4. Hotel/Conference Center and Heritage Center/Commemorative Park:



- Construct 200-room "Upper Upscale" hotel (i.e. Sheraton, Wyndham, Hilton)
- Programmed with adjacent 20,000 square-foot conference center
- Establish Civil War Heritage Center and Commemorative Park

5. Linking City Park and A&E District with Trail & New Housing:



- Construct multi-use trail linking City Park with Public Square
- Add 31 new townhomes along trail in first 10 years (more later)
- Rehabilitate Dagmar Hotel and three other W. Antietam buildings as 85 loft apartments

6. Expanded Downtown Arts/Events Programming:



- Build upon positive atmosphere created by events in downtown Hagerstown
- Coordinate with Maryland Theatre programming
- Utilize Main Street and other new funding sources to expand events
- Establish consolidated events calendar

7. Expanded Operations of the City Farmers Market:



- Expand from 7 to 35 hours per week operation
- Implement private management approach
- Coordinate with existing tenants; recruit needed additional tenants
- Make necessary capital improvements
- Re-brand & promote to capture portion of estimated \$13 million in unmet demand for specialty foods

8. Expanded and Targeted Home Ownership Support:



- Aggressively market downpayment assistance
- Target Neighborhoods 1st support programs
- Target Neighborhoods 1st infrastructure and amenity improvements
- Continue acquisition, rehab and resale program
- Establish annual rental licensing inspections
- Continue excessive nuisance enforcement programs



Washington County, MD Moving Business Forward

Hagerstown Regional Airport infuses millions into the local economy

HGR is a key economic driver for Washington County and the surrounding region

Hagerstown Regional Airport recently completed a study that outlined the airport's economic impact. The study was conducted by Martin Associates and focused on the important role HGR plays in stimulating the local economy. The study analyzed the impact HGR has on revenue, employment, income, and taxes.

Hagerstown Regional Airport is a financially self-supporting airport complex owned and managed by Washington County Government. The study shows that HGR continues to have a significant impact on the local economy. Some of the study's highlights include:

- HGR supports 1,624 jobs – 826 direct jobs, 409 induced jobs, and 389 indirect jobs
- Generates nearly \$98 million in salary and wages
- Over \$10 million in state and local taxes are generated annually
- Local businesses receive nearly \$136 million in sales revenue via airport services and passenger activity.



"This study reaffirms that HGR is a key asset to economic development in the county," stated Phil Ridenour, airport director. "This study will play a vital role in helping to attract both new air service and new aviation related businesses."

HGR includes more than 14 aviation-related businesses. These businesses provide numerous services including aircraft rental, heated hangars, computerized weather, aircraft inspections and aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul. Two flight schools offer discover flights, pilot ground school, and flight training.



Growth Opportunities:

- 175 acres in Mt. Aetna Farms Technology Park zoned for office research and technology development between Hagerstown Community College and Meritus Medical center
- 329 acres at Hagerstown Community College open for innovative public/private partnerships
- 500,000 square feet of private hanger space available adjacent to the airport – much of which is runway accessible and 40 acres of land available for development
- 300 acres with interstate frontage in Friendship Business Park zoned office research, and industry
- 600 total acres with 300 acres of developable open land and 20+ acres of lakes at Cascade Towne Centre at Fort Ritchie offer a unique office and education environment and housing opportunities



Washington County Department of Business Development
100 W. Washington Street Suite 1401 Hagerstown, MD 21740
(240) 313-2280

11 Reasons to bring your business to Washington County

Low cost of doing business

Fast Track Permitting Process

25 full-time jobs
REAL PROPERTY TAX CREDIT

50% of U.S. population within a day's drive



Home to Hagerstown Regional Airport



70% Port of from **Baltimore**



5 Mi Intermodal CSX Facility

\$ Fiscally Responsible
No Tax Increases for the last **18** Years

Diversity in Employment Base



Economic Development Commission in place to help you **SUCCEED**



Pre-existing Structures to Accommodate any size and need

Professional • Advocacy • Open for Business



You're Invited:



Washington County Community Coalition



Washington County Government

City of Hagerstown

Town of Williamsport

Washington County Public Schools

The Greater Hagerstown Committee

Washington County Chamber of Commerce

Friends of the Washington County Free Library

Visit Hagerstown (Local Convention & Visitors Bureau)

CHIEF (Hagerstown-Washington Co. Industrial Foundation)

With Leadership Washington County

Cordially invites the

Maryland General Assembly Members

to a

Legislative Reception

at the

Governor's Calvert House

Wednesday, January 31st

4:30 to 6:30 pm

Enjoy
Great Food
and
Fellowship

Get A Taste
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