## GHC's Annual Pre-Legislative Luncheon

The Greater Hagerstown Committee
Welcome's
State Delegation Members





## **Comments from Delegation Chair on Upcoming Session**



Delegate
William Wivell
(R)
District 2A (Chair)



Senator
Paul Corderman
(R)
District 2



Delegate
Brooke Grossman
(D)
District 2B



Delegate
Will Valentine
(R)
District 2A



Senator
Mike McKay
(R)
District 1





Delegate
Terry Baker
(R)
District 1C





## G.H.C. presents...







## **Washington County Community** Coalition's 2025 Legislative **Session Agenda Summary**







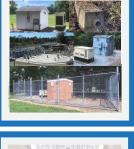


































## **2025 Community Coalition Agenda Items:**

### **Transportation Projects:**

- Widening of I-81 Phase 2
- Rt 11 Bridge Relocation and Replacement

### **Capital Projects:**

- New Downtown Visitors Welcome Center
- Hagerstown Community College's Advanced Technology Center
- Smithsburg Sewer Pump Station Upgrades and Replacements
- Public Safety Training Building Phase 3 (Propane Firefighting Props)
- New Circuit Court House
- City of Hagerstown New Public Safety Office Complex

### **Legislative Requests:**

- Drug House Ordinance Legislation
- Lift Cap on Funding of MD Heritage Area Funding

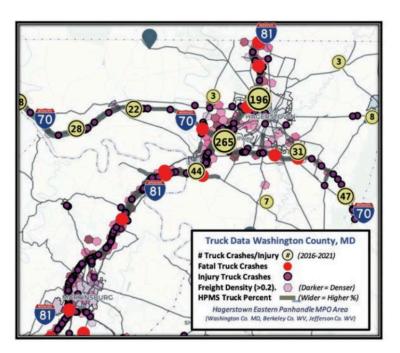
#### **Transportation:**



## Widening of I-81

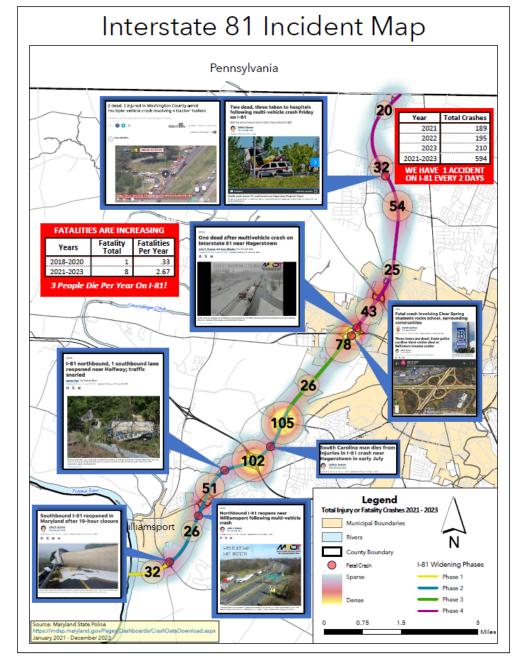
#### **Key Safety Concerns:**

- Maryland's I-81 section has unsafe merging and weaving due to 10 interchanges in 12 miles.
- High truck volumes (34% of daily traffic) exacerbate risks.



- Fatalities on I-81 in Maryland have risen sharply, averaging 3 deaths annually from 2021– 2023.
- Congestion and truck-related crashes occur every 2 days on average.

## **2025 Community Coalition Agenda**



### **Transportation:**

### **2025 Community Coalition Agenda**

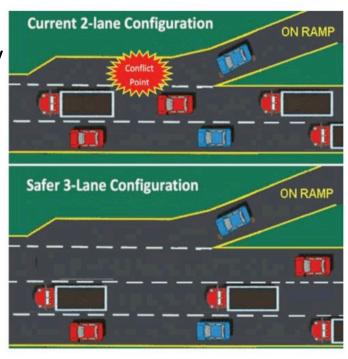


## Widening of I-81 (continued)

#### **Key Safety Concerns:**

- 20,000 trucks per day use I-81 in MD and it's growing rapidly
- Currently, over 1 out of 3 vehicles on I-81 are Tractor Trailers
- I-81 has 10 Exits across 12 miles creating numerous car/truck conflicts
- This year MD Drivers will contribute \$21B to the MD
   Transportation Trust Fund but CTP has only \$1.4B in state funding for state capital projects. (2023 CTP drivers contributed \$19B.
   Only \$2.2B of state funding for roads/bridges)

REQUEST: Restore funding to complete the engineering/design for Phase 2 (\$1.5M) in the FY25 CTP and reinstate Phase 2 construction funding as soon as possible. Allocate preliminary engineering funding for Phase 3 (\$9.5M) and Phase 4 (\$14.5M) in the next CTP to finish widening I-81 to the Pennsylvania line. In addition, plan for construction funding for the remainder of this project.



For more information on highway projects contact:

Scott Hobbs, Director
Washington County Engineering
747 Northern Avenue, Hagerstown, MD 21742

240.313.2407 Email: shobbs@washco-md.net



#### **INEQUITY IN TRANSPORTATION FUNDING:**

Based on FY 2025-2030 Draft MD Capital Improvement Plan

Only Includes State Revenues/Expenses

#### Trucks/Cars



#### What Drivers Contribute:

\$21.2 Billion

Motor Fuel Taxes	\$ 8,100,000,000
Vehicle Titling Tax	\$ 7,000,000,000
Registration & MVA Fees	\$ 6,100,000,000
TOTAL	\$ 21,200,000,000

#### **Funding Going to Roads/Bridges:**

\$ 1.30 B Capital State

\$ 2.33 B Capital Local

\$ 2.31 B Operational

**\$ 5.93 B TOTAL** 

#### **Light Rail/Buses**



#### **What Transit Riders Contribute:**

**\$ 0.62 Billion** 

Fares & Fees

#### **Funding Going to Transit**

\$ 2.31 B Capital \$11.51 B Operational \$13.82 B TOTAL



#### Aviation



**Funding Going to Airports** 



\$2.1 Billion

Flight Activities, Rent and User Fees, Parking, and Concessions \$ 0.33 B Capital

\$ 1.48 B Operational

**\$ 2.81 B TOTAL** 

Maritime/Port

**What Port Users Contribute:** 

**Funding For Ports** 



\$0.34 Billion

Port and Terminal Operation Fees and Rent

**\$ 1.15 B Capital** 

\$ 1.48 B Operational

**\$ 2.63 B TOTAL** 

**Corporate Income Tax** 

**\$2.50 Billion** 

**Other State Funds** 

\$1.80 Billion

**Bonds** 

\$3.00 Billion



#### **INEQUITY IN TRANSPORTATION FUNDING:**

Based on FY 2025-2030 Draft MD Capital Improvement Plan

## **Federal Aid**



\$8.00 Billion

### \$4.01 B Roads/Bridges

\$2.31 B Transit Capital Funding

\$0.95 B Transit Operational Funds

\$3.26 B Total Transit Funds

\$0.13 B Port Capital Funding

**\$0.31 B Aviation Capital Funding** 

\$0.02 B Other Funding (TSO)

- Nearly all Federal Aid comes from the Federal Fuel Tax (drivers)
- Much of federal money comes to the state by way of matching funds.
- Road/Bridge projects qualify for a 70+% match, while Transit projects only qualify for a 50% match
- Current allocation policy favoring transit over roads for state funds leaves federal money "on the table" by using state money to leverage a lessor amount of federal money.
- \$1B of state funding spent on a transit projects generates \$333M less federal money.

### **Transportation:**

### **2025 Community Coalition Agenda**



## **US Route 11 Bridge Relocation**

**Project Overview**: The US Route 11 Bridge spans the C & O Canal, Riverbottom Park, and the Potomac River in Williamsport, MD, connecting Washington County to eastern West Virginia. Built in 1909 and last overhauled in the 1980s, the nearly 1,800-foot bridge now requires significant rehabilitation or replacement due to its deteriorating condition. It currently handles over 15,000 vehicles daily, a significant increase from its 2009 traffic assessment.

Safety Issues and the Need for the Project: The US 11 Bridge is in poor condition, with sinking footers and structural deterioration. Frequent accidents on I-81 reroute traffic through town streets, damaging infrastructure. The town would prefer the bridge to be shifted North to bypass town streets and MDOT commissioned a PEL study in 2023 to provide details and the feasibility of the bridge's relocation. That PEL study should be completed by the end of this year and the Town hopes to discuss the study results with MDOT officials next session.

Benefits of the Project: The project will improve pedestrian safety, traffic flow, and reduce traffic impact on the Town Center. It supports \$30 million in enhancements to the C & O Canal Park, boosting tourism and economic development, and will promote growth in southeastern Washington County.

**REQUEST:** Town of Williamsport will be seeking pre-authorized funding to support outcomes for this project pending recommendations of a fully completed PEL study by SHA.

For more information on this project contact:

Dr. Chad P. Rooney, Town Manager

Town of Williamsport

2 North Conococheague Street

Williamsport, MD 21795

(301) 223 –7711

crooney@williamsportmd.org

### **2025 Community Coalition Agenda**



## **Circuit Court Replacement**

**Project Overview**: The existing courthouse, located at 95 West Washington Street in Hagerstown, is a historic building constructed in 1872, with an annex added in 1963. The building is nearly 150 years old and faces significant space constraints, security deficiencies, and limitations in functionality. A new courthouse would address these issues by providing a safer, more efficient facility, with separation of inmates and criminal defendants from other court participants, and full ADA compliance. The historic structure would be repurposed as part of the project.

#### **Need for the Project:**

- The new facility would improve safety by addressing security concerns that cannot be resolved in the current courthouse.
- The tragic loss of Circuit Court Judge Andrew F. Wilkinson in October 2023 highlighted the urgent need for these enhancements, as he was a strong advocate for a new courthouse.
- The existing courthouse was recently dedicated to Judge Wilkinson in recognition of his service.

**Project Status**: The project is currently in the early planning stage and looking at several options. A cost estimate has yet to be determined.

**REQUEST:** Support efforts to secure state capital funding to assist with this project to relocate the Andrew F. Wilkinson Courthouse to a new facility.



#### For more information:

County Attorney with
Washington County Government
100 West Washington Street, Suite 1101
Hagerstown, MD 21740
(240) 313-2203

zkieffer@washco-md.net

### **2025 Community Coalition Agenda**



## **Public Safety Training Building: Phase 3**

**Project Overview**: Construction of a High Bay Training/Storage Building to support the Public Safety Training Center (PSTC). Project provides a local training facility for police, fire, and emergency service personnel in Washington County offering indoor spaces for training in varied conditions and apparatus storage, along with space for Candidate Physical Abilities Testing (CPAT) for firefighters.

**Project Progress**: Phase 1 of the PSTC is complete; Phase 2 (defensive driving track and tactical village) is underway. Phase 3, which includes the High Bay Training/Storage Building and technical rescue props, is in preliminary engineering and expected to be designed by 2026. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2027, with an expected cost of \$5 million (funding dependent).



#### **Safety Considerations:**

• The High Bay Building will provide controlled environments for training, ensuring safety while presenting realistic, high-risk scenarios in spaces similar to our many warehouses.

**REQUEST:** Support the County's effort to develop the Public Safety Training Center through Phase 3 including a \$2.5 Million investment to bridge the gap between requested funding and local funding for construction of the High Bay Training and Storage Building.

For more information:

Zachary J. Kieffer

County Attorney with Washington County Government 100 West Washington Street, Suite 1101 Hagerstown, MD 21740 (240) 313-2203

zkieffer@washco-md.net

## **2025 Community Coalition Agenda**



## **Drug House Ordinance Legislation**

**Background**: Repeated illegal activity in neighborhoods creates significant quality-of-life issues and anxiety for residents. Current state laws are insufficient to address persistent issues caused by negligent property owners or managers. The City is working on drafting an ordinance based on one currently used in Martinsburg, WV, and has meetings scheduled with members of our delegation later this month. The ordinance would require any person who owns, manages, or controls a property and who encourages or permits such illegal activity on the property to abate the nuisance or tenants of the property within 30 days or face fines and/or other penalties. More details should be available before the start of session.

**Need**: Empower law enforcement with additional tools to address illegal drug activity and repeated nuisance issues across all municipalities and unincorporated areas of Washington County. Reduce the burden of repeated calls for service, which strain law enforcement resources and negatively impact property

**Benefits**: Encouraging property owners and managers to prevent and address illegal activity promotes stricter tenant screening, helping to avoid recurring problems. This approach frees up law enforcement resources for broader public safety efforts while enhancing security and quality of life in high-crime neighborhoods and reducing the potential for properties to become hubs for illegal activities.

**REQUEST:** REQUEST: Provide a mechanism for local government to place harsher penalties towards property owners who allow a property to be used for prostitution, illegal gambling, illegal possession, storage, delivery of, or trafficking in controlled substances or other illegal drug activity where the property is used for two or more offenses or incidents within any 12-month period OR the offense for which the property is used is punishable by imprisonment for one year or more.

## For more information on this project contact:

Scott Nicewarner
City of Hagerstown Administrator
1 East Franklin Street
Hagerstown, MD 21740
(301) 766-4168

SNicewarner@hagerstownmd.org

### **2025 Community Coalition Agenda**



## **City of Hagerstown Public Safety Complex**

**Background**: HPD operates from a 100-year-old former train station unsuitable for modern law enforcement. HFD HQ has temporarily moved from its historic Market House to leased space that is not designed for fire operations. Two fire halls in South Hagerstown are over 75 years old and inadequate for current needs.

**Need**: A joint public safety center is required to provide modern facilities for HPD and HFD. Relocation will improve efficiency, coverage, and operational effectiveness for both departments.

**Current Status**: HPD's facility cannot accommodate modern needs, and HFD HQ must find a permanent location within 5–7 years. Feasibility studies are needed to guide site selection and planning.

#### **Benefits:**

- Provides data for strategic decision-making on site selection, investments, and operational efficiencies.
- Evaluates infrastructure, zoning, and response times to optimize accessibility and functionality.
- Identifies potential risks, operational costs, and growth opportunities to ensure long-term suitability.
- Engages stakeholders for community input and fosters collaboration with other public safety agencies.

**REQUEST:** Support Hagerstown's effort to conduct a site analysis and market analysis (SAMA) study for a public safety center to house the operations of HPD as well as HFD and potentially 3 engines and equipment, including consideration of State bond financing to aid in delivering this project to our citizens. Amount of Funding Requested: \$250,000

#### For more information on this project contact:

Scott Nicewarner
City of Hagerstown Administrator
1 East Franklin Street
Hagerstown, MD 21740
(301) 766-4168

SNicewarner@hagerstownmd.org

### **2025 Community Coalition Agenda**



# **Smithsburg Sewer Pump Station Upgrades and Replacements**

**Background**: Smithsburg's three sewer pump stations (Chip's Meadow, Henrietta, and Smithsburg High School) are nearly 50 years old with outdated and worn equipment. Previous improvements addressed some issues, but safety risks and environmental hazards remain. RK&K Engineering Services has been contracted for critical upgrades.

#### Need:

- Severely worn components (impellers, motors, piping) and lack of security for generators and electric panels.
- Facilities fail to meet modern safety standards, exposing employees to dangerous conditions.
- Environmental risks from exposed discharge pipes.
- Jointly servicing Smithsburg and Washington County residents, the project has received \$137K from County ARPA funds, \$234.4K from Town ARPA funds, and \$50K budgeted funds to cover engineering costs.

**REQUEST:** Smithsburg is requesting financial assistance to help offset the projected \$4 million needed for these vital upgrades. These improvements are essential to ensure the long-term functionality of the wastewater infrastructure, enhance safety for workers, and accommodate future growth in Smithsburg and Washington County.

**Current Status**: \$1.7M invested in water and sewer infrastructure for FY24 from various sources, including ARPA funds. Tours of the stations have been conducted to emphasize urgency. RK&K Engineering is progressing with plans for upgrades.

#### Safety:

- Existing facilities pose significant risks to workers, requiring cranes and manual labor to access pumps.
- Planned upgrades will modernize the facilities, meet safety standards, and reduce reliance on unsafe practices.

For more information on this project contact:

Donald L. Souders, Mayor Town of Smithsburg 21 West Water Street Smithsburg, MD 21783 (301) 824-7234

dsouders@townofsmithsburg.org

### **Education:**

### **2025 Community Coalition Agenda**



## **HCC Advanced Technology Center**

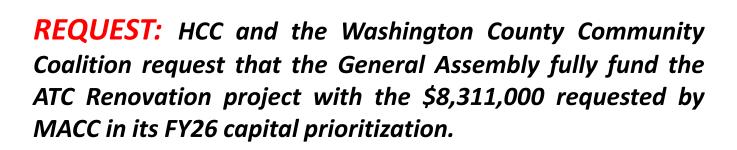
**Background**: Built in 1967 as HCC's original gym, the Advanced Technology Center (ATC) now houses key programs like computer science, cybersecurity, and electronics technology.

**Need**: Renovation costs have risen from \$10M to \$14.7M due to inflationary impacts. The building suffers from severe disrepair, including outdated systems, ADA non-compliant lighting, accessibility issues, and a leaking roof.

#### **Current Status:**

- Maryland General Assembly has appropriated \$1.2M for design and construction over two years.
- The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC) prioritizes ATC as #6 out of 14 projects.
- HCC advanced design using local funds to ensure the project is shovel-ready, but full state funding
  is overdue.

**Benefits**: Renovation will modernize the building, improve flexibility, and enhance programs vital to high-wage/high-demand fields in Washington County and Maryland.



#### For more information on this project contact:

Dr. James Klauber President at Hagerstown Community College 11400 Robinwood Drive Hagerstown, MD 21742 (240) 500-2234 iklauber@hagerstowncc.edu

### **Tourism/Community Revitalization:**

### **2025 Community Coalition Agenda**



## CVB's New Visitors Center (Antietam paper building)

**Background**: Visit Hagerstown operated a downtown visitor center for 20 years but has been without one since 2020, following its closure during the pandemic.

**Need**: A new visitor center is planned near key attractions, including a new stadium, event center, parking deck, Arts and Entertainment District, Cultural Trail, and City Park—ideal for showcasing Washington County's experiences and driving visitor spending.

**Current Status**: Operational funding is available in Visit Hagerstown's budget. A \$1M grant for interpretive exhibits is secured through state and Appalachian Regional Commission funds, but construction funding is still needed.



#### **Benefits:**

- Centralized information on attractions, lodging, dining, shopping, and entertainment.
- Enhances the local economy by inspiring exploration and visitor spending.
- Strengthens tourism impact through accessible, high-value resources.

**REQUEST:** Visit Hagerstown is requesting \$1.5 million in Capital Improvement Funds to construct a new Washington County, Maryland Visitor Welcome Center.

For more information on this project contact:

Daniel P. Spedden, President Visit Hagerstown 16 Public Square Hagerstown, MD 21740 (301) 991-0521 dan@visithagerstown.com

### **Tourism/Community Revitalization:**

### **2025 Community Coalition Agenda**



## Lift the Cap on MD Heritage Area Funding

**Background**: Governed by MHAA and administered by the Maryland Historical Trust, the program funds preservation and heritage tourism in 13 designated areas, including Washington County's Civil War-focused Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area.

**Need**: An \$8M annual gap between grant requests and available funds limits projects and risks historic resources. Inflation further erodes grant spending power.

**Current Funding**: \$6M distributed annually, including \$100K per heritage area for management, \$50K for marketing/mini-grants, and \$600K for state grant management. Local funding hasn't increased in nearly 30 years.

#### **Economic Impact**:

- \$7 ROI for every \$1 invested.
- Annual heritage tourism has \$2.4B impact.
- Generates \$319.8M in state/local taxes annually.
  - Sustains tourism jobs statewide.

## **REQUEST:** Legislation is needed to lift the cap on Heritage Area funding and make some adjustments to limits within the program.

- Authorize transferring up to \$12M from Program Open Space to the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) Financing Fund.
- Clarify and set MHAA administration grants at \$300K with a 20% match, extending the same match requirement to all other MHAA grant types (currently confusing, as statute references 50%, but practice requires 100%).
- Adjust administrative costs to "up to 7%" of funds transferred, increasing MHAA's funding from \$600K (10% of \$6M) to \$840K (7% of \$12M) to support staffing and higher grant activity.

#### For more information on this project contact:

Daniel P. Spedden
President of Visit Hagerstown
16 Public Square
Hagerstown, MD 21740
(301) 991-0521

dan@visithagerstown.com

## **2025 Community Coalition Agenda**

#### **Transportation:**



Widening of I-81



**US Route 11 Bridge Relocation** 

#### **Education:**

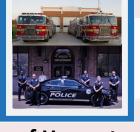


**HCC Advanced Technology Center** 

#### **Health and Public Safety:**



**Circuit Court** Replacement



**City of Hagerstown Public Safety Complex** 



**Public Safety Training Building: Phase 3** 



**Drug House** 



**Ordinance Legislation** 



**Smithsburg Sewer Pump Station Upgrades and Replacements** 

#### **Tourism/Community Revitalization:**



Lift the Cap on **MD Heritage Area Funding** 



**CVB's New Visitors Center** (Antietam paper building)

## **WCCC Day in Annapolis and Legislative Reception**

Food, Craft Beer/Wine, 30+ Local Vendors showcase all that is great in our community

2025
Day in Annapolis:
Wednesday
January 22,2025

Reception:
Governor Calvert
House
4:30 pm to 7:00pm













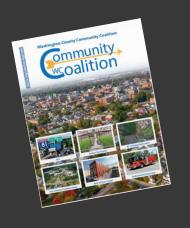






## Special Thank You!





#### 



We appreciate and thank all state and local Elected Officials and Coalition members for their work, support, and advocacy efforts for projects and initiatives that better this community. **Special December Event:** 





Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>
Bowman Family Milestone Barn
5:30pm 8:30pm

**RSVP TODAY** 

EMAIL Erin with the name of your guest at GHCAdmin@greaterhagerstown.org



## Thank You and Enjoy the Holidays

# NO GHC MONTHLY MEETING IN NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER!

**Next Meeting:** 

Friday, January 31st, 2025 from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.





