

# GHC's Annual Pre-Legislative Luncheon

The Greater Hagerstown Committee  
Welcome's  
State Delegation Members



MARYLAND  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

# Comments from Delegation Chair on Upcoming Session



**Senator  
Paul Corderman**  
(R)  
District 2



**Senator  
Mike McKay**  
(R)  
District 1



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



**Delegate  
Matthew Schindler**  
(D)  
District 2B



**Delegate  
Will Valentine**  
(R)  
District 2A



**Delegate  
Terry Baker**  
(R)  
District 1C



**Maryland**

# GHC's Annual Pre-Legislative Luncheon

Questions or  
Comments On  
State Issues?



Maryland





# 2026 Community Coalition Agenda Items:

## Transportation Projects:

- Widening of I-81 Phase 3 and 4 Design Funding - **\$TBD (@ \$10M (3) + \$15M (4))**
- Fair and Balanced Ch. 30 Transportation Project Prioritization Formula & Ranking Process
- Air Traffic Control Tower (Hagerstown Regional Airport) - **\$11M**
- County Transit Program Expansion - **\$23M Project (Mainly Federal Funds w State Matches)**
- Rt 11 Bridge Relocation and Replacement Pel Study
- I-70/MD-65 Interchange

## Capital Projects:

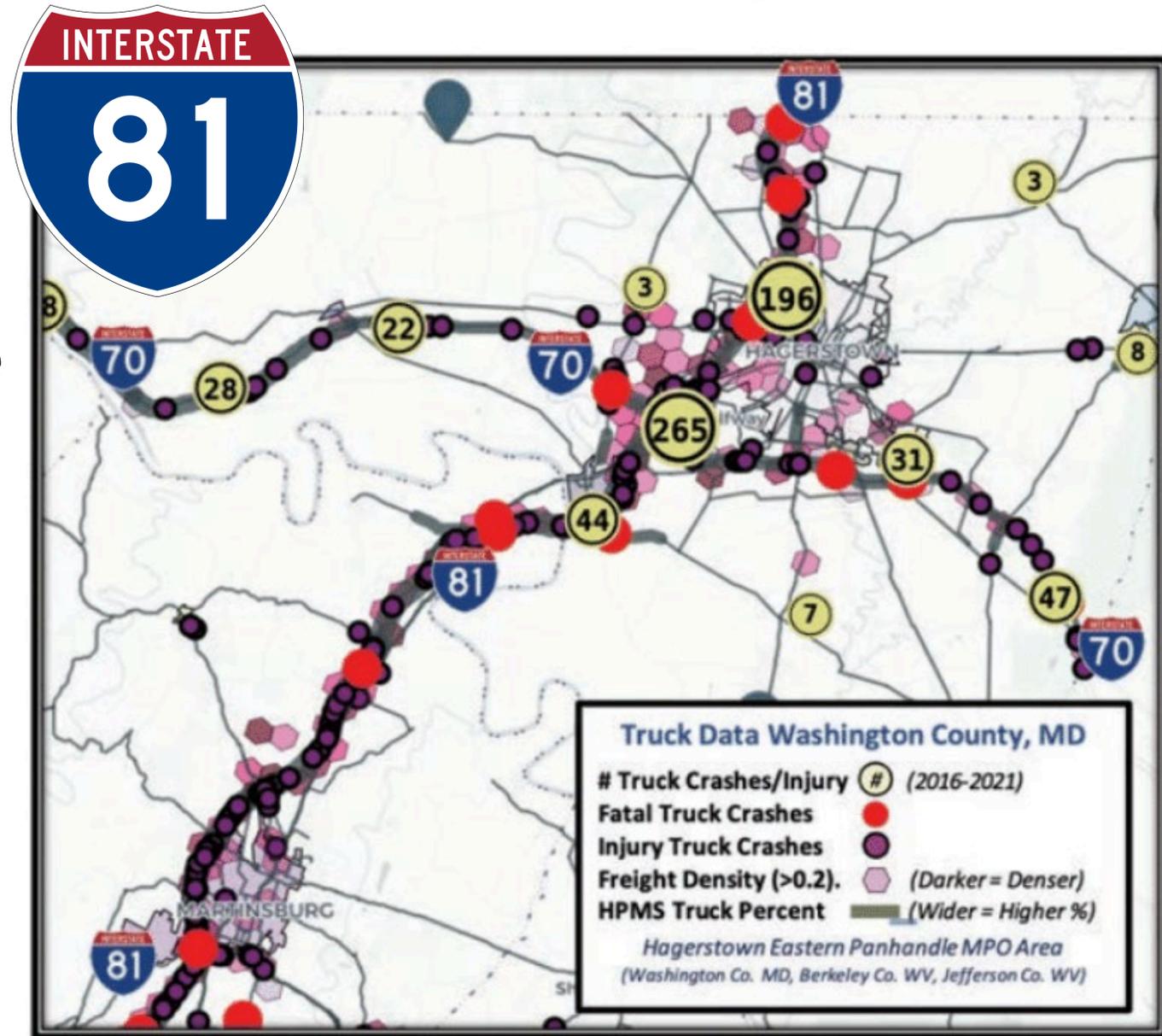
- New Downtown Visitors Welcome Center - **\$1.5M**
- Hagerstown Community College's Scholar Drive Re-Routing - **\$2.67M** (*Community College Capital Grant Program*)
- Smithsburg Sewer Pump Station Upgrades and Replacements - **\$3.5M**
- Public Safety Training Building Phase 3 (High Bay Training Facility) - **\$2.5M**
- Williamsport Library Capital Project - **\$675K in Design Funding**
- Washington County Museum of Fine Arts Capital Campaign - **\$1.5M**

## Legislative Requests:

- Property Tax Exemption For Hagerstown Field House
- Extend George C. Edwards Funding for Western Maryland - **\$10M/year**
- Lift Cap on Funding of MD Heritage Area Funding - **\$6M Cap to \$12M Cap (Gov decides Amt)**

# I-81 Widening: #1 Project for 25+ years

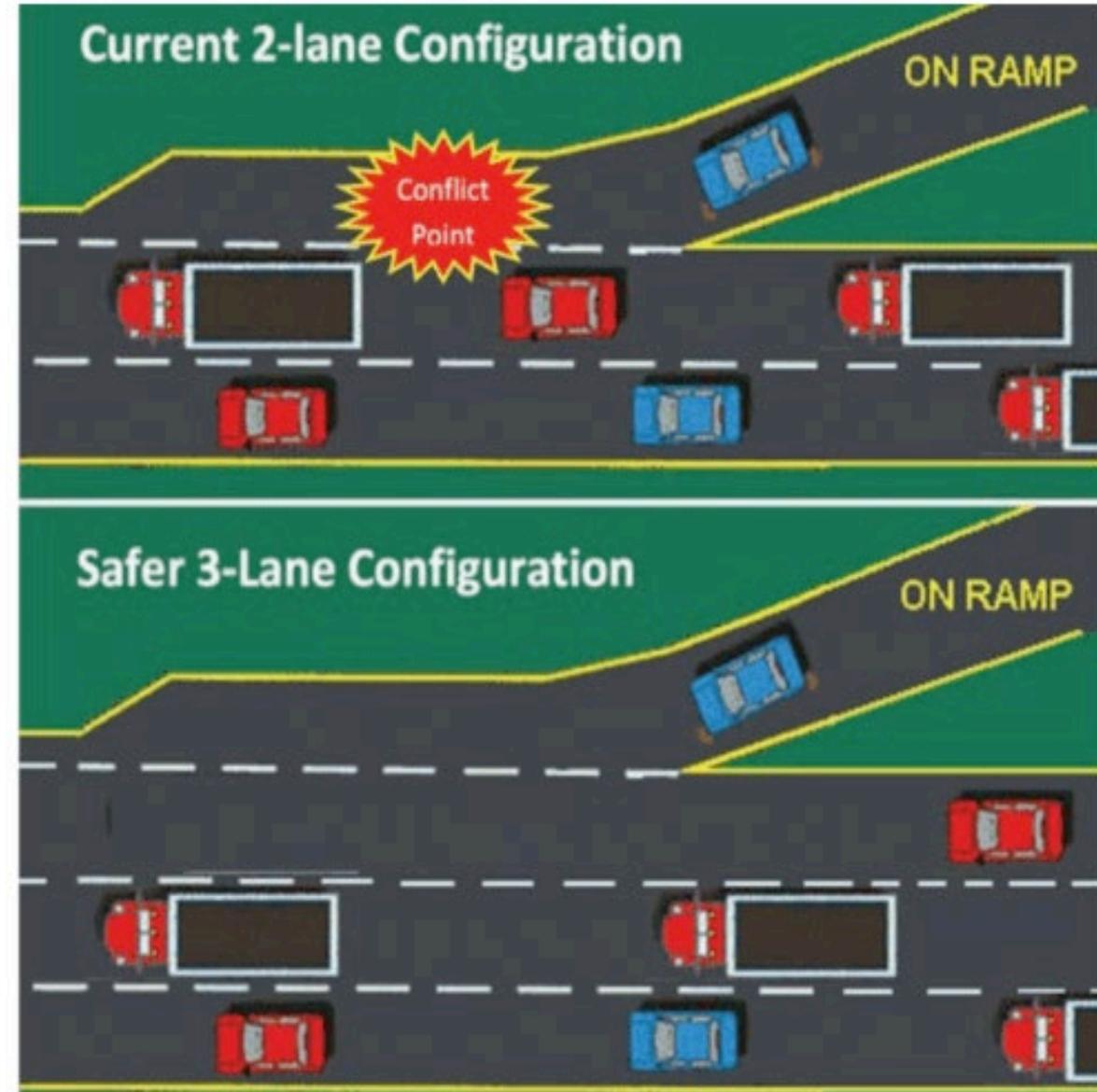
- 2025 MD CTP restored money taken in 2024 for Phase 2 construction. 2026 CTP \$0 dollars
- Need design & engineering money for Phases 3 & 4 so we are ready for construction when Phase 2 is finished (2030)
- **3 people die each year on I-81**  
**14 fatalities/11 Crashes 2021-25**  
*(Only 1 fatality 2018-2021)*
- 20,000+ trucks per day use I-81 in MD and it's growing rapidly
- Over 1 out of 3 vehicles on I-81 are Tractor Trailers.



# I-81 Widening: #1 Project for 25+ years

- **I-81 has 10 Exits across 12 miles creating numerous car/truck conflicts**
- **Our region has 40M of warehouse space recently built or under construction which can generate 24,000 trucks/day**
- **In Draft 2026-31 CTP, MD Drivers will contribute \$34.2B to the MD Transportation Trust Fund (\$24B state fees, \$10.2B Federal Fuel Tax), but CTP only has \$7.5B for capital road projects (about 22%)**
  - *2025-30 CTP drivers contributed \$31B. Only \$6.8B for roads/bridges)*

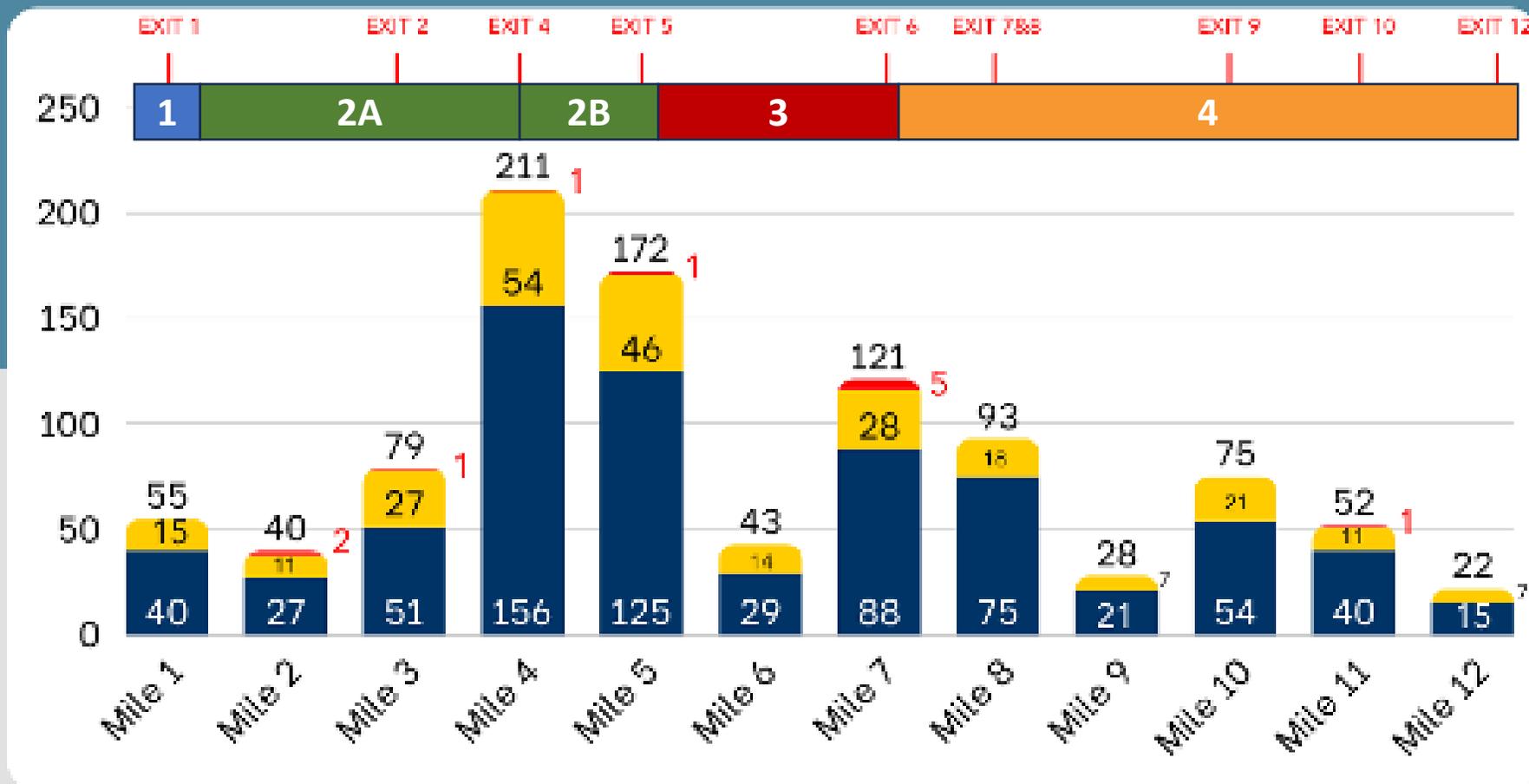
**Please Help Us Save Lives!**





# CRASH BREAKDOWN

## JAN 2021 – SEPT 2025



Crashes

(Not resulting in Injury or Fatality)



Injury Crashes

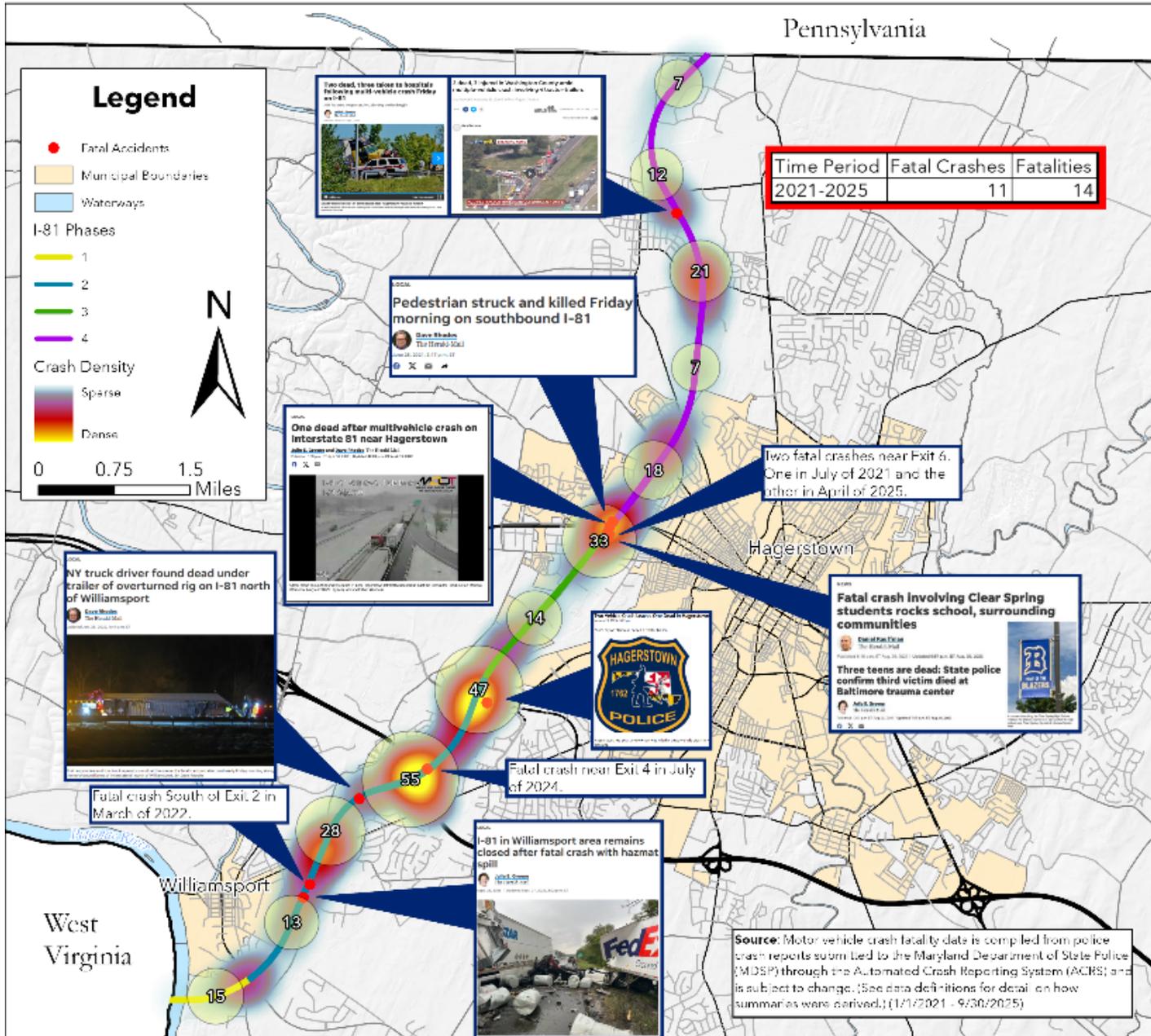


Fatality Crashes

(11 Fatal Crashes that resulted in 14 Fatalities)

Source: Motor vehicle crash fatality data is compiled from police crash reports submitted to the Maryland Department of State Police (MDSP) through the automated Crash Reporting System (ACRS) and is subject to change. (See data definitions for detail on how summaries were derived.)

# Interstate 81 Crashes Resulting in Injury or Fatality



**Washington County Division Of Emergency Services's Post**

Washington County Division Of Emergency Services  
September 17 at 4:40 PM · 📍

🚨 **Traffic Alert:** I 81 Southbound near the 6 mile marker is closed due to a multi vehicle collision involving multiple tractor-trailers. Emergency crews are on the scene, and the roadway is expected to remain closed for an extended period of time. Motorists are advised to avoid the area and use alternate routes.

**Hagerstown, MD – Multi-Vehicle Crash on I-81/MM 6 Causes Injuries**

Hagerstown, MD (September 16, 2025) — A major multi-vehicle accident occurred on Interstate 81 southbound near the 6-mile marker in Hagerstown, Maryland, on Friday, September 12, 2025. The crash involved multiple tractor-trailers and passenger vehicles, resulting in several injuries and significant traffic disruption. Authorities are investigating the cause of the collision, which occurred during the morning rush hour. The roadway was closed for several hours as emergency services worked to clear the scene and provide medical attention to those involved.

**Seven-vehicle crash involving multiple tractor-trailers shuts down I-81 for five hours**

**HM** HERALD-MAIL MEDIA **Keith Demko**  
 Sept. 18, 2025, 9:42 a.m. ET





## **Fair and Balanced Chapter 30 Transportation Project Prioritization Formula and Ranking Process**

**Overview:** The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) is updating its Chapter 30 project prioritization process for evaluating surface transportation projects seeking funding

through the Consolidated Transportation Plan (CTP). The goal is to improve transparency and consistency in how projects are scored and ranked statewide. Washington County supports a transparent and data-driven system but has concerns that the draft framework may disadvantage rural highway projects by scoring highways and transit under one model. The proposed weighted categories (Safety, Accessibility & Mobility, Climate & Environment, Social Equity, Economic Competitiveness, and Sustainability/Land Use) must better reflect regional differences, rural infrastructure needs, and economic priorities to ensure fair comparison and statewide equity.



## **Fair and Balanced Chapter 30 Transportation Project Prioritization Formula and Ranking Process**

***REQUEST:*** Support legislation or administrative changes ensuring the Chapter 30 project scoring system:

- Evaluates rural roads and bridges fairly alongside urban transit projects
- Allows scoring by mode (not one formula for roads/bridges and transit) and regional weighting that reflects local priorities
- Provides state technical or funding assistance for required feasibility studies

**For more information on highway projects contact:**

Scott Hobbs, Director Washington County Engineering

240.313.2407 or [shobbs@washco-md.net](mailto:shobbs@washco-md.net)



## Chapter 30 Update Pilot Results + Your Input

Stakeholder Meeting #

September 4, 202



Draft – work in progress – subject to revision





## MDOT PILOT PROJECTS

- Top 10 Ranking Projects (with rank)
- Middle 27 Ranking Projects
- Bottom 10 Ranking Projects (with rank)

## Washington County

Measure		Benefit	Weighted Benefit	Out of
Safety	F+I Crashes	3.53	0.42	12
	F+I Crash Rate	0.10	0.01	12
Access. & Mobility	Access to Jobs	8.26	0.83	10
	Non-SOV Trips	0.00	0.00	10
Environ-ment	GHG Emissions	0.01	0.00	7.7
	Criteria Pollutants	0.00	0.00	6.3
Equity	Disadvantaged Access to Jobs	11.83	0.99	8.3
	Disadvantaged F+I Crashes	2.46	0.14	5.6
Econ. Devel.	Person Hours of Delay	55.94	3.92	7
	Land Productivity	2.77	0.19	7
Land Use	Sustainable Land Use	0.00	0.00	14

**DRAFT, PRE-DECISIONAL, SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

## **Air Traffic Control Tower** (Hagerstown Regional Airport)



**Project Overview:** The Hagerstown Regional Airport (HGR) urgently needs a new Air Traffic Control Tower (ATCT) to support its expanding airline, business, and defense operations. The current 1973 tower is outdated, unsafe, and too short to provide proper airfield visibility. A replacement tower would ensure safe and efficient control of air traffic while covering Camp David.

**The Need:** HGR remains low on the FAA's replacement list and ineligible for federal funding. The current tower suffers from severe structural deterioration, outdated systems, and ADA noncompliance, posing safety and operational risks. State investment is needed to advance the project before the FAA land lease expires in 2027.

**Current Status:** A new siting and design study is underway and will finish by December 2025, providing 30% design and cost validation. The new tower will be located just north of the current site, with ownership and operations transferring to HGR/Washington County once complete.

## **Air Traffic Control Tower** (Hagerstown Regional Airport)

### **Benefits:**

- Meets critical air safety and visibility standards
- Supports Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) and aerospace innovation
- Serves as a National Strategic Asset for Camp David airspace protection
- Enables HGR to manage growing passenger growth (+268% since 2020)
- Safeguards hundreds of regional aerospace jobs and defense contracts

***REQUEST:*** Washington County requests \$11 million in State capital funding for design and construction of the new ATCT. State bond funds could be programmed over multiple fiscal years to complete the project. Upon completion, HGR will assume ownership and ongoing operational costs.

For more information on this project contact:

Neil Doran, Director Hagerstown Regional Airport at (240) 313-2764 or [ndoran@washco-md.net](mailto:ndoran@washco-md.net)



## County Transit Program Expansion

**Overview:** Washington County recently received a \$2.8M Federal BUILD grant to complete final design of a new administrative, maintenance, and transit vehicle storage facility

in Washington County at their existing site within the City of Hagerstown, just 1 mile from the downtown core. This expansion will enable Washington County Transit (WCT) to add additional routes to meet the demands of the growing Hagerstown-area population and a burgeoning industrial and logistics job base by providing safe, reliable, and community responsive transit services. Upgrading and expanding WCT's existing transit facility will provide new fleet storage, enhance and modernize the agency's maintenance operations, add additional administrative space for new staff, and make environmental improvements on the site. **Total construction cost is estimated at \$23.3M.**

# County Transit Program Expansion



Proposed Facility Expansion

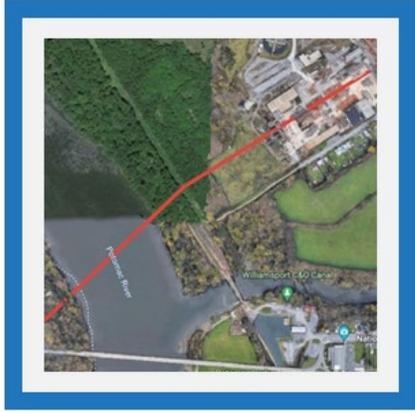
**REQUEST:** State partner with Washington County Transit to provide their on-call consultant for engineering, design, and environmental review, and jointly apply for federal funding to construct the expansion of the Washington County Transit Facility in downtown Hagerstown.

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

Andrew Eshleman, Director Of Public Works at Washington County  
(240) 313-2203 or [aeshleman@washco-md.net](mailto:aeshleman@washco-md.net)



Washington County Transit (WCT)  
Operations & Maintenance Facility  
1000 West Washington St. Hagerstown, MD



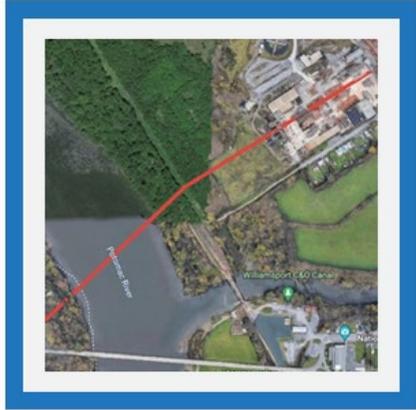
## **US Route 11 Bridge Relocation**

**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 prefers relocating the bridge North to bypass local roads and MDOT commissioned a PEL study in 2023 to provide details on the feasibility of the bridge's relocation. That PEL study should be completed by the end of this year and the Town plans to review the results with MDOT officials next session.

## US Route 11 Bridge Relocation



**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 of Williamsport at (301) 223 –7711 or [crooney@williamsportnm](mailto:crooney@williamsportnm)





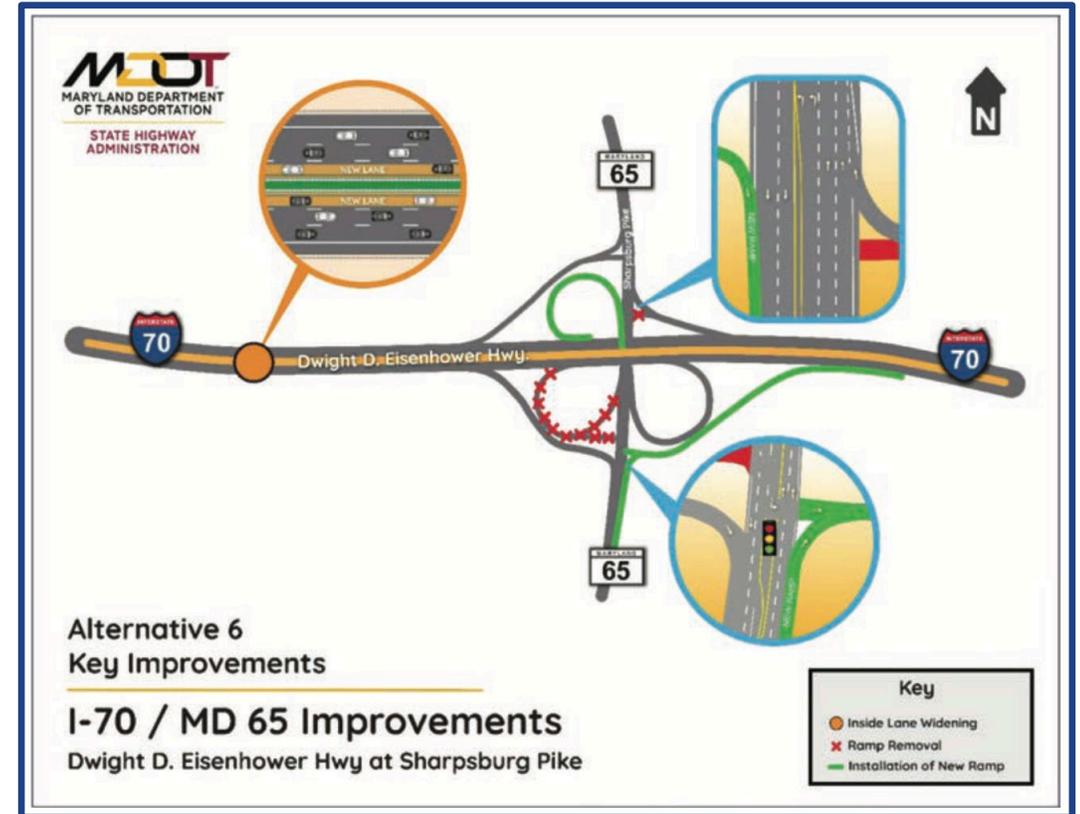
## **Interstate 70 @ Maryland 65 Corridor**

**Overview:** Improvements to the interchange of Interstate 70 and MD 65 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, safety enhancements, and scheduled I-70 bridge replacements. Construction for the bridge deck and superstructure replacement and widening of I-70 dual bridges over MD65 and CSX Railroad is complete. MDOT SHA announced at the 2025 MDOT Tour Meeting that there is no new money for the partial cloverleaf in the 2025 CTP. The project will provide capacity as well as improve efficiency and safety by eliminating multiple stop conditions on MD 65 and weave/merge conditions on I-70.

# Interstate 70 @ Maryland 65 Corridor

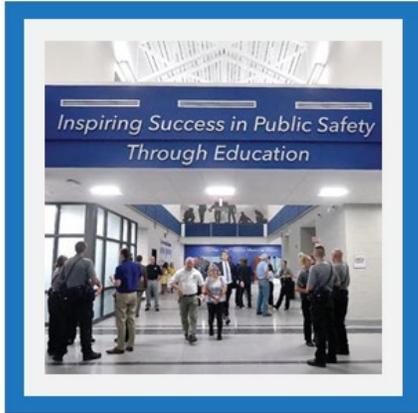


**REQUEST:** REQUEST: State begin the design stage, and program construction funding for improvements into MDOT's Consolidated Transportation Plan.



For more information on highway projects contact:  
Scott Hobbs, Director Washington County Engineering  
240.313.2407 or [shobbs@washco-md.net](mailto:shobbs@washco-md.net)

## **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).

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



**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.

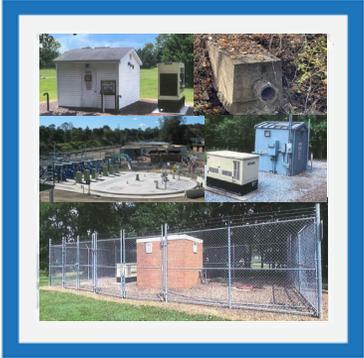
***REQUEST:*** Support the County's effort to develop the Public Safety Training Center through Phase 3 including a \$2.5 Million investment to bridge the gap between requested funding and local funding for construction of the High Bay Training and Storage Building.

**For more information:**

Zachary J. Kieffer, County Attorney

(240) 313-2203 or [zkieffer@washco-md.net](mailto:zkieffer@washco-md.net)

# Smithsburg Sewer Pump Station Upgrades and Replacements



**Background:** Smithsburg's three sewer pump stations (Chip's Meadow, Henrietta, and Smithsburg High School) are 50 years old with outdated and worn equipment. RK&K Engineering Services has been contracted for critical upgrades. Servicing Smithsburg and

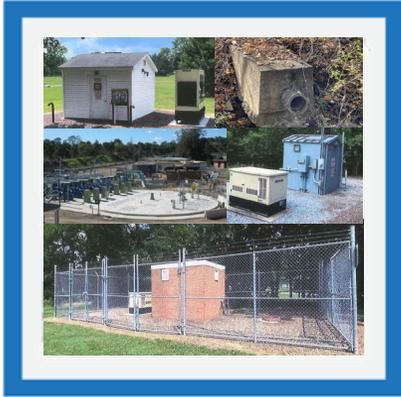
County residents, the project received \$137K from County ARPA funds, \$234.4K from Town ARPA funds, and \$50K budgeted funds to cover engineering costs.

## **Need:**

- Severely worn components 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.

**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.

# Smithsburg Sewer Pump Station Upgrades and Replacements



## 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.

***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.*

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

Donald L. Souders, Mayor Town of Smithsburg (301) 824-7234 or [dsouders@townofsmithsburg.org](mailto:dsouders@townofsmithsburg.org)



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

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

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



### 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 (301) 991-0521 or [dan@visithagerstown.com](mailto:dan@visithagerstown.com)

## 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.

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
- Sustains tourism jobs statewide.

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

***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 (Formerly \$6M) 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 (301) 991-0521 [dan@visithagerstown.com](mailto:dan@visithagerstown.com)



## **Field House Real/Personal Property Tax Exemption**

**Background:** The Hagerstown Field House, a \$24+ million indoor sports complex owned by the City of Hagerstown, opened in 2024 on the former Municipal Stadium site. Operated by Eastern Sports Management (ESM), the facility expands local recreation

and drives sports tourism across the region. The venue features basketball, volleyball, futsal, and field hockey courts, with a fitness center and community spaces, hosting year-round tournaments that boost city/county/state economies.

**Need:** Although the Field House is city-owned, its operation by a for-profit management company makes it taxable under state law. For FY26, ESM owes \$206,324 to the City and \$178,268 to the County in property taxes. Comparable Maryland facilities such as Grove Stadium (Frederick) and Ripken Stadium (Aberdeen) have received similar tax exemptions through legislative action. The proposed exemption would keep the facility financially sustainable, aligning with precedent for public-private partnerships supporting local recreation and tourism.

## **Field House Real/Personal Property Tax Exemption**

### **Benefits:**

- Draws 27,600+ out-of-town visitors annually,
- Generates \$6.2 million in annual local spending (\$1.4M lodging, \$4.8M retail, dining, and travel)
- Supports 43 direct jobs and ~7 indirect community jobs
- Creates \$1.5M in annual payroll (\$30.5M over 20 years)



***REQUEST:*** The City requests legislation for the purpose of exempting the Hagerstown Fieldhouse from all real and personal property taxes of both the City of Hagerstown and Washington County Government. This property would remain exempt from taxes as long as the building is owned by the City of Hagerstown and is used primarily for public social, recreational, and entertainment purposes.

**For more information on this project contact:** Scott Nicewarner,  
City of Hagerstown Administrator at (301) 766-4168 or [SNicewarner@hagerstownmd.org](mailto:SNicewarner@hagerstownmd.org)

## **Extend Geroge C. Edward Funding for Western MD**



**Project Overview:** The Senator George C. Edwards Fund was established to drive economic growth and revitalization in Western Maryland, supporting projects in Washington, Allegany, and Garrett Counties. Since its creation, the Fund has become a cornerstone of regional investment, helping bridge financing gaps and advance transformative local initiatives that strengthen communities and create jobs.

**Need:** In just two years, the Fund awarded \$37 million in grants, leveraging \$290 million in total investment and creating over 1,150 jobs (Washington County Received \$14M in grants). These investments fueled infrastructure, workforce training, housing, and historic redevelopment, positioning Western Maryland for sustainable growth. Continued funding is essential to preserve this momentum and prevent setbacks on projects critical to the region's competitiveness.

## **Extend Geroge C. Edward Funding for Western MD**

**Current Status:** As the state prepares the FY2026 budget, maintaining the Fund's annual allocation is vital to keep projects moving and attract private investment. Without continued support, Western Maryland risks losing progress on key economic and community revitalization initiatives.

**Benefits:** Leverages public–private partnerships and regional investment, Expands job creation, housing, and workforce opportunities, Strengthens infrastructure and innovation capacity, Promotes balanced statewide economic development

***REQUEST: Continue state funding for the George C. Edwards Fund at \$10 million per year to sustain economic growth, job creation, and community development across Western Maryland.***

**For more information contact:**

Jake Shade, Executive Director George Edwards Fund at [jshade@lockhousegroup.com](mailto:jshade@lockhousegroup.com)



## **Williamsport Library Capital Project**

**Project Overview:** Washington County Free Library is using state capital funds through the **County Library Capital Project Grants Program** to begin the design phase of a new library in Williamsport. The current facility, built in 1936 and later expanded

is outdated and fails to meet modern operational and accessibility standards. The Williamsport branch was identified in the 2017 Master Facilities Plan as needing the most significant work of all county branches. In 2023–2024, it was closed for nine months due to moisture and mold issues, including toxic mold. Despite remediation, the underlying causes remain unresolved, making future outbreaks inevitable. The building also has poor parking access, forcing patrons—especially families with small children—to navigate busy streets to enter safely.

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

Jenny Bakos, Exec. Director of Washington Co. Free Library at (301) 739-3250 or [jbakos@washcolibrary.org](mailto:jbakos@washcolibrary.org)

## **Williamsport Library Capital Project**

**Current Status:** The Washington County Free Library has submitted a funding request to the Maryland State Library Agency, which will evaluate and forward justification to the Department of Budget and Management for inclusion in the State's public library capital funding program.

### **Benefits**

- Provides a safe, healthy, and ADA-compliant facility
- Expands programming and collection space
- Adds five community meeting rooms and a teen game room
- Includes a 2,900 sq. ft. community room for events and programs
- Improves parking and accessibility
- Reduces energy costs through modern design

***REQUEST: The Washington County Free Library requests \$675,000 in FY27 State funding for the design phase of a new Williamsport Library.***





## **HCC Scholar Drive Re-Routing**

**Project Overview:** About six years ago, Washington County built a bridge over Antietam Creek to connect Eastern Blvd. with Robinwood Dr., bisecting Mount Aetna Park and creating a new route that funneled traffic to HCC's rear entrance.

Anticipating a major traffic increase, HCC included a rerouting plan in its 2020 Campus Master Plan to divert vehicles away from heavily used parking areas and improve safety for students and staff. While most project funding has been secured, pandemic-related cost increases created a shortfall. HCC has set aside its local match in reserves but needs \$2.67 million in State funds through the Community College Capital Grant Program to complete the project.

**Current Status:** The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC) ranked the Second Entrance Drive Widening Project 16th of 17 projects on its FY27 capital priority list. The ranking reflects MACC's established evaluation methodology, and the project has already received initial approval.

# HCC Scholar Drive Re-Routing

## Benefits

- Improves traffic flow and campus access for years to come
- Greatly enhances pedestrian and vehicle safety on campus
- Completes a state-approved project delayed by the pandemic
- Ensures long-term infrastructure resilience for HCC

**REQUEST:** HCC and the Washington County Community Coalition request that the General Assembly fully fund the MACC FY27 Capital projects priority list such that the \$2,672,000 for this project is secured.



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

Dr. James Klauber, President of Hagerstown Community College at (240) 500-2234 or [jklauber@hagerstowncc.edu](mailto:jklauber@hagerstowncc.edu)

## Washington County Museum of Fine Arts Capital Campaign



**Project Overview:** The Washington County Museum of Fine Arts in City Park, Hagerstown, is undertaking a \$20 million expansion to create a vibrant arts campus. The project will upgrade the existing museum and transform the adjacent Key Street property into a new Education Center, adding space for teaching, learning, and art-making. The museum is at capacity, limiting classes and exhibitions.

The expansion adds 17,000+ sq. ft., boosting attendance by 25% and providing accessible, ADA-compliant entries, improved galleries, and expanded space for education and storage.

**Current Status:** The Key Street property was purchased in 2022, and a capital campaign launched to raise \$12 million in philanthropic support. Over \$7 million has been secured, including \$2.25 million from the State of Maryland. The museum is working with Cooper Robertson (architecture) and OLIN Studio (landscape design) and expects to break ground in 2026–2027.

# Washington County Museum of Fine Arts Capital Campaign

## Benefits:

- Establishes a fully staffed education department serving all ages.
- Expands community impact and workforce pathways through arts education.
- Creates a transformative arts campus and boosts regional tourism.
- Generates an estimated \$5–7 million economic impact.
- Increases capacity for school groups, clubs, and visitors by 25%.

**17K+**

Square feet of new interior space

**25%**

Anticipated increase in visitors

**\$5-7m**

Estimated regional economic impact

***REQUEST:*** We ask for \$1,500,000 in State funding assistance to support PHASE 1 architectural services, renovation, and adaptive reuse of the Key Street stie into a new EDUCATION CENTER. This includes a restoration of funding promised by the State of Maryland in 2023 but rescinded in 2025.



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

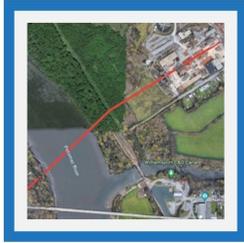
Sarah Hall, Executive Director of Wash. Co.Museum of Fine Arts at (301) 739-5727 or [sjhall@wcmfa.org](mailto:sjhall@wcmfa.org)

# 2026 Community Coalition Agenda

## Transportation:



Widening of I-81



US Route 11 Bridge Relocation



Air Traffic Control Tower (HGR)



County Transit Expansion

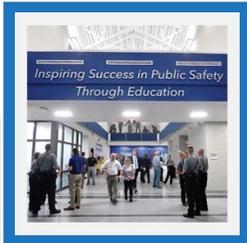


I-70/MD-65

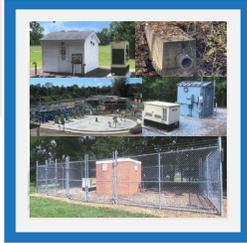


Fair & Balanced Transportation Ranking Process

## Health and Public Safety:



Public Safety Training Building: Phase 3



Smithsburg Sewer Pump Station Upgrades & Replacements

## Education:



Williamsport Library Capital Project



HCC Scholar Drive Re-Route



Washington County Museum of Fine Arts Capital Campaign

## Tourism/Community Revitalization:



Lift the Cap on MD Heritage Area Funding



CVB's New Visitors Center



Field House Real/Personal Property Tax Exemption

## Economic Development:



Extend George C. Edward Fund for Western MD

# WCCC Day in Annapolis and Legislative Reception

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

**2026**  
**Day in Annapolis:**  
**Tuesday**  
**January 27, 2026**

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



**Free**  
**Maryland Flag Blanket**  
**to the first 100**  
**General Assembly Members!**

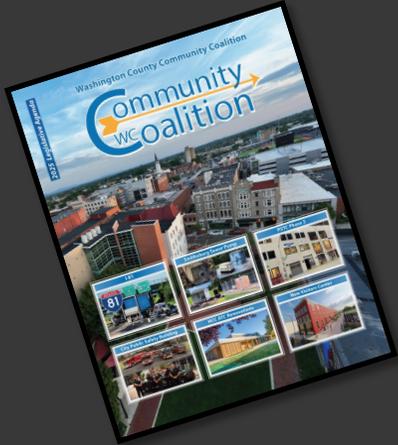


# Special Thank You!



A Catalyst for  
GROWTH  
& PROGRESS

Greater Hagerstown Committee



## WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY COALITION MEMBERS

Washington County Government  
City of Hagerstown  
Hagerstown Community College  
Friends of the Washington County Free Library  
Visit Hagerstown (Local Convention & Visitors Bureau)  
CHIEF (Hagerstown/Washington County Industrial Foundation)  
Washington County Chamber of Commerce  
Town of Williamsport  
Town of Smithsburg  
The Greater Hagerstown Committee



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.



Thank You and Enjoy the Holidays



*Next GHC Monthly Meeting*

*Friday, November 21<sup>st</sup>*