

Sustainable Community Review Team

Comments

Town of Boonsboro

Overall, the action plan demonstrated a correlation between its strengths, weaknesses, strategies, and desired outcomes.

As is customary with all reviews of Sustainable Communities renewal applications, the interagency review team would like to take the opportunity to share with you the following comments.

Please respond and revise your applications based upon the comments below regarding your community's *Transportation Action Plan*

1. Walkability is listed in both strengths and weaknesses, **please specify which parts of town are walkable and which are in need of improvement within the strengths and weaknesses.**

2. **Please specify outcome 2 strategy A**
 - *“Strategy A: Encourage expansion of existing Washington County transit schedule to include stops in Boonsboro.”* Please add in information or action items to this outcome on how you will specifically encourage the expansion
 - Example rephrasing:
 - “Cultivate conversations with Washington County to encourage additional stops in Boonsboro”
 - “Hold public outreach to gain understanding of the communities desire for public transit.”
 - Implementation partners: Washington County, Boonsboro residents

3. **Please clarify outcome 1 strategy B regarding sensors for biking and walking**
 - *Strategy B: Boonsboro is already pedestrian friendly but it can be improved to the benefit of public health and downtown economic vitality by relatively inexpensive measures that celebrate walking and/or biking. Pedestrian and bike sensors can be added at key locations to record the number of pass-by trips to encourage walking and biking. Walking or biking groups can be established. Walk or Bike to School days can be organized throughout the year.*
 - Example rephrasing:
 - “Engage in a study regarding walking and biking in the town. Add pedestrian and bike sensors to key locations in order to gain an understanding of the number of pedestrian and bicycle trips taken in the town”
 - “Promote walking and biking by identifying or establishing walking/biking groups, and establishing occasional walk/bike to school days.”

The suggestion comments below require no response or revision at this time.

Environmental

- Town should continue in finding innovative ways to help the environment and community by continuing 'green' project related efforts. Review team notes that projects such as adding electric car charging stations will help achieve green goals the town may set.
- Review team recommends the town consider promoting existing trails and look to create trails in and around the town for connectivity.

Economy

- Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) applauds the goal of downtown revitalization through zoning code revisions. MDP also suggests revisions of zoning codes in targeted areas continue to be examined and improved for flexibility in future planning cycles.

Housing

- Review team suggests incentivizing owners, in lieu of fines, as a way to help improve properties. Recommendation to continue to plan in accordance with new state efforts to maintain affordable living standards for both current and future residents.

Quality of Life

- Suggestion that the town seek out alternative transportation mechanisms to assist in expanding accessibility (ie. rideshares, micromobility)

Local Planning

- Review team recommends the town continue to pursue a capital improvement project list - "CIP" lists could include both current and future projects and should be updated to indicate completion status and overall readiness of projects. A sample "CIP" list can be sent to the town as guidance if needed/requested.