Central Maryland
Transit Development Plan

Endorsed by Howard County Council,
May 7, 2018
A RESOLUTION endorsing the Central Maryland Transit Development Plan as a guide for future transit development in Howard County and in the Central Maryland region.

Introduced and read first time April 2, 2018.

By order Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

Read for a second time at a public hearing on April 16, 2018.

By order Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted, Adopted with amendments, Failed, Withdrawn, by the County Council on May 7, 2018.

Certified by Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing law; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing law; Strike-out indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment.
WHEREAS, Howard County is a Locally Operated Transit System (LOTS) subject to Federal and State rules and regulations pertaining to Maryland’s LOTS; and

WHEREAS, these rules and regulations require that Howard County has a Transportation (Transit) Development Plan (TDP) that is endorsed by local elected officials; and

WHEREAS, the TDP is an important document that is used in many transit-related planning documents such as the County’s Annual Transportation Plan, Asset Management Plan, Fleet Management Plan, and grant applications; and

WHEREAS, Howard County, together with Anne Arundel County, Prince George’s County and the City of Laurel, have each appointed representatives to the Central Maryland Transportation & Mobility Commission which was established to maintain an efficient and effective coordinated regional bus system throughout central Maryland known as the "Regional Transportation Agency of Central Maryland" (or “RTA”); and

WHEREAS, Howard County and Anne Arundel County have combined resources, with the support of the Maryland Transit Administration, to develop a Central Maryland TDP to serve as a guide for future transit development in central Maryland; and

WHEREAS, the TDP preparation process included an extensive amount of public and stakeholder input and involvement; and

WHEREAS, Howard County desires to and is taking steps towards implementing the TDP; and

WHEREAS, the TDP is a plan that does not obligate or commit Howard County to implement each of the TDP’s specific recommendations, and
WHEREAS, additional public input is required before the TDP’s recommendations for route or fare changes are implemented, and such input may result in changes to the TDP’s specific recommendations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland this 7th day of May, 2018 that the County Council endorses the Central Maryland Transit Development Plan as attached to this Resolution as Exhibit A and incorporated herein.
# Table of Contents

**Executive Summary**

**Chapter 1: Introduction**
- Introduction .......................................................................................... 1-1

**Chapter 2: Review of Demographics and Land Use**
- Introduction .......................................................................................... 2-1
- Population Profile .................................................................................. 2-1

**Chapter 3: Public and Stakeholder Input**
- Introduction .......................................................................................... 3-1
- RTA Fixed-Route Rider Survey ............................................................... 3-2
- RTA Paratransit Rider Survey ................................................................. 3-15
- Community Input ................................................................................... 3-26
- Survey Comparison ................................................................................ 3-36
- Public Meetings and Stakeholder Input ................................................ 3-40

**Chapter 4: Existing Services**
- Overview of Existing Transit Services ................................................... 4-1
- RTA-Existing Services ........................................................................... 4-2
- Paratransit Service ................................................................................. 4-85
- Facilities .................................................................................................. 4-101
- Other Transit Services ........................................................................... 4-104
- Other Area Transportation Providers ..................................................... 4-140
- Pedestrian/Bicycle Access ..................................................................... 4-152
- Existing Fleet .......................................................................................... 4-153
- Organization-Regional Transportation Agency ...................................... 4-167

**Chapter 5: Alternatives**
- Development of Alternatives ................................................................. 5-1
- Anne Arundel County ............................................................................. 5-1
- Howard County ...................................................................................... 5-15
- Prince George’s County/City of Laurel .................................................. 5-29
- Regional Service .................................................................................... 5-31
- General Paratransit (GPT) Options ....................................................... 5-37
- Summary .................................................................................................. 5-38
Chapter 6: Transit Plan

Introduction to the Transit Plan ................................................................................. 6-1
Anne Arundel County ................................................................................................. 6-5
Howard County ........................................................................................................... 6-43
Prince George’s County/City of Laurel ................................................................. 6-88
Regional Service ....................................................................................................... 6-94
Phased Implementation .............................................................................................. 6-111
Capital Plan .................................................................................................................. 6-124

Chapter 7: Future Transit Development

Introduction .................................................................................................................. 7-1
Bus Rapid Transit - BRT ............................................................................................... 7-1
Bridge Columbia East-West Transitway Concept ....................................................... 7-6
Downtown Columbia Circulator .................................................................................. 7-11
Downtown Columbia Transit Center .......................................................................... 7-12
Shared-Mobility Services ......................................................................................... 7-13
Arundel Mills-BWI Marshall High-Frequency Shuttle .............................................. 7-14
Anne Arundel County Preferred Transit Network ..................................................... 7-16
Conclusions .................................................................................................................. 7-17

Appendix A: Stakeholder Agencies Interviewed
Appendix B: Onboard Rider Survey
Appendix C: Onboard Rider Comments
Appendix D: Paratransit Rider Survey
Appendix E: Paratransit Survey Comments
Appendix F: Community Survey
Appendix G: Community Survey Comments
Appendix H: Community Suggestions and Comments
Appendix I: Summary of all Comments Collected
Appendix J: Stakeholder Input – New Services
Appendix K: Stakeholder Input – Existing Services