

Fiscal Year 2027 Capital Budget

Planning Board Public Hearing
February 19, 2026



Role of the Planning Board

Why is the Planning Board involved?

Section 16.900.j.3.i – Recommendations on capital programs and capital budgets: **Each year the Planning Board shall review the proposed capital program and any new or substantially changed capital projects, pursuant to law. It shall prepare comments and recommendations on the impact of the proposed capital program on the County general plan and the growth of the County and submit these comments and recommendations to the County Executive, with a copy to County Council.**

General Plan Overview

The County's new General Plan, HoCo By Design (effective Dec 19, 2023)

- establishes a clear, **long-range vision on how and where the County will develop and grow** as it adjusts to evolving economic, environmental, and social conditions over the next 20 years.
- focuses most **future commercial and residential growth into activity centers**, areas targeted for mixed-use, compact redevelopment while prioritizing community character in other areas of the County, strengthening the County's commitment to environmental preservation and conservation, and creating opportunities for diverse housing choices, such as missing middle housing and accessory dwelling units.
- reaffirms the County's **commitment to multi-modal transportation, open space, agriculture, historic preservation, exceptional community facilities**, such as schools and community centers, and a great quality of life for all, including current and future residents.

General Plan Overview

HoCo By Design, Chapter 9: Supporting Infrastructure

- states that “infrastructure in Howard County supports the daily needs of the community and delivery of essential services... **Maintaining and enhancing the County’s infrastructure is critical to meet existing demands and support future opportunities for growth and conservation.**” (page INF-3)
- supports **maintaining existing infrastructure** when and where needs arise to avoid larger and more costly repairs in the future.” (page INF-3)
- supports **County master plans** for recreation and parks, human services, schools, community college, water and sewer, solid waste, libraries, police and fire stations, and public facilities which **guide the identification of new capital projects and maintenance needs funded in the CIP.**” (page INF-9)

FY2027 Project Presentation Order

What are the FY2027 Projects?

Seven (7) new capital projects have been requested for inclusion in the County Executive's proposed FY 2027 Capital Improvement Budget and provide comments and recommendations on the impact of the proposed capital program on the County's general plan and the growth of the County

Community College Projects

M-0551 Outdoor Sports Complex - Project Manager: Howard Community College (HCC)

M-0552 Duncan Hall Renovations - Project Manager: HCC

M-0553 Hickory Ridge Building Renovations - Project Manager: HCC

Fire Project

F-5984 Fire Station 16 - Project Manager: Department of General Services (DGS)

General County Projects

C-0384 Community Solar Benefitting LMI Households - Project Managers: Office of Community Sustainability (OCS), DGS

C-0385 Support Services Agreement Fund - Project Manager: Department of Public Works (DPW)

Road Construction Project

J-4254 North Laurel Complete Streets - Project Managers: Office of Transportation (OOT) and DPW

Projects and Noticing

What are the noticing requirements?

County Code Sec 22.403

- public notice of capital projects
- public hearing by Planning Board

Code Sec 22.403 (3)

- advertising guidance for the hearing
- ### Code Sec 22.403 (3) (i)
- publish once a week for two successive weeks in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the County

Section 1.107 In the Planning Board Rules of Procedure

- advisory authority duties and noticing in at least 2 newspapers

Notice of Public Hearing

The Howard County Planning Board will hold a public hearing on new and substantially modified capital projects included in the County Executive's proposed FY2027 Capital Improvement Master Plan. The hearing is scheduled for **February 19, 2026 at 7:00 PM** in the Bancker Room, of the George Howard Building, 3430 Courthouse Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043. The hearing can be attended virtually by registering at <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/boards-commissions/planning-board>. Registration for virtual participation must be completed prior to 7:00 pm on **February 18, 2026**. For additional information, please visit the Planning Board website at the link above. This notice is provided as required by Section 22.403(b)(3)(i) of the Howard County Code. A brief description of the proposed new and substantially modified capital projects is provided below.

NEW CAPITAL PROJECTS

COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROJECTS
M0551-FY2028 OUTDOOR SPORTS COMPLEX
M0552-FY2029 DUNCAN HALL RENOVATIONS
M0553-FY2032 HICKORY RIDGE BUILDING RENOVATIONS

GENERAL COUNTY PROJECTS
C0384-FY2027 COMMUNITY SOLAR BENEFITTING LMI HOUSEHOLDS
C0385-FY2027 SUPPORT SERVICES AGREEMENT FUND

FIRE PROJECTS
F5984-FY2027 FIRE STATION 16

ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS
J4254-FY2027 NORTH LAUREL COMPLETE STREETS

A more detailed description of the proposed capital projects is available in electronic format for review by the general public beginning February 5, 2026, between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM at Planning and Zoning, 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043, Howard County Library System & Howard County websites at <https://hclibrary.org> and www.howardcountymd.gov/boards-commissions/planning-board. A sign language interpreter may be requested at least seven days in advance of the above meeting by calling the Department of Planning and Zoning at 410-313-2350 (voice) or use Relay at 7-1-1, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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Community College Project

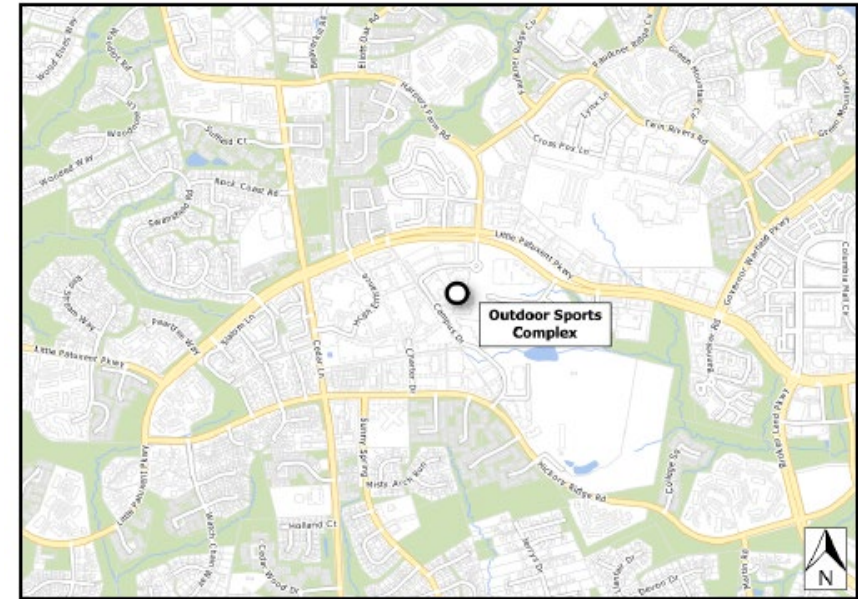
M0551-FY2028 OUTDOOR SPORTS COMPLEX

Project Description: Modify and reconfigure the Howard Community College's (HCC) outdoor practice areas for installation of new baseball and softball fields to serve the intercollegiate teams as well as the recreational users of the college. The outdoor facility will consist of four competition fields, plus lighting, field control areas, equipment storage, pedestrian paths, and parking.

General Plan Consistency:

INF-8- Continue to support and partner with entities that provide critical services, programs, and infrastructure such as higher education and health care facilities.

INF-8.1 - Continue the County's commitment to fund expansion of the Howard Community College (HCC) to accommodate enrollment and program growth.



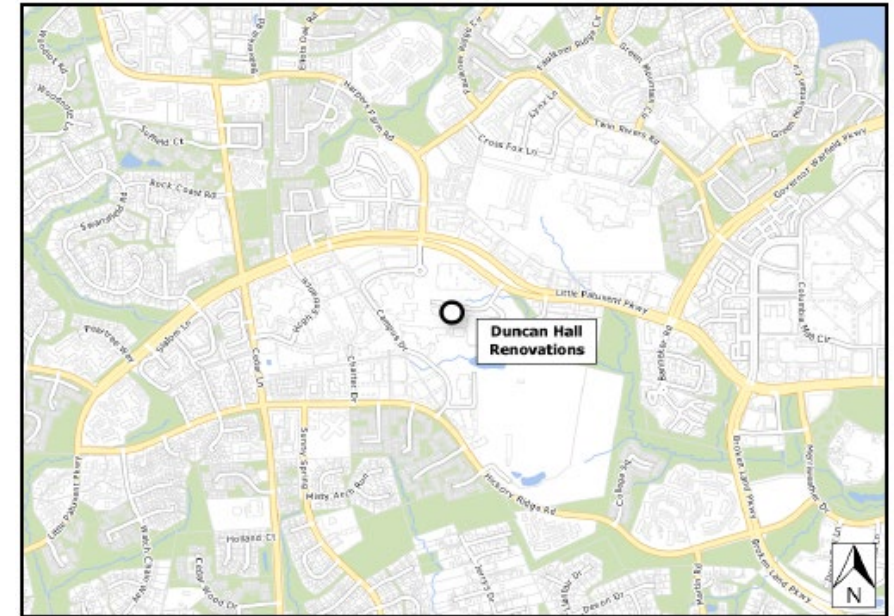
Community College Project

M0552-FY2029 DUNCAN HALL RENOVATIONS

Project Description: Renovate and reconfigure spaces in the existing building of 105,035 gross square feet and 61,820 net assignable square feet to accommodate the Workforce, Career, and Community Education programs into the campus core. The comprehensive renovation will include instructional layouts, mechanical systems, and energy efficiency upgrades.

General Plan Consistency:

INF-8, INF-8.1, INF-8.2, EP-8, EP-8.1 EP-8.2.

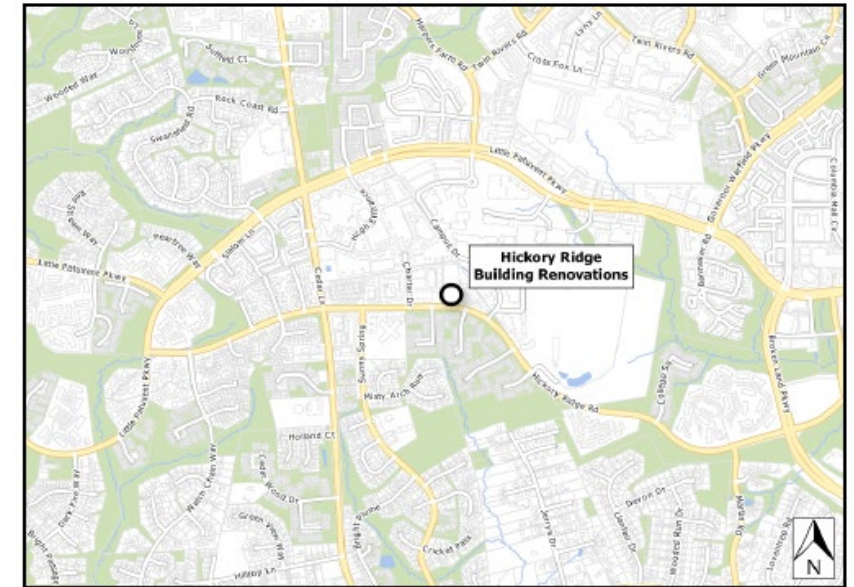


Community College Project

M0553-FY2032 HICKORY RIDGE BUILDING RENOVATIONS

Project Description: Renovate and reconfigure spaces on the campus of Howard Community College's (HCC) in an existing building of 60,000 gross square feet and 41,238 net assignable feet. The Hickory Ridge building was constructed in 1982 as an office building and was converted into an instructional space. The modifications will create a dedicated secure site on campus for high school students and public school administration while upgrading the building systems and infrastructure.

General Plan Consistency: INF-8, INF-8.1, EP-8 EP-8.2



Fire Project

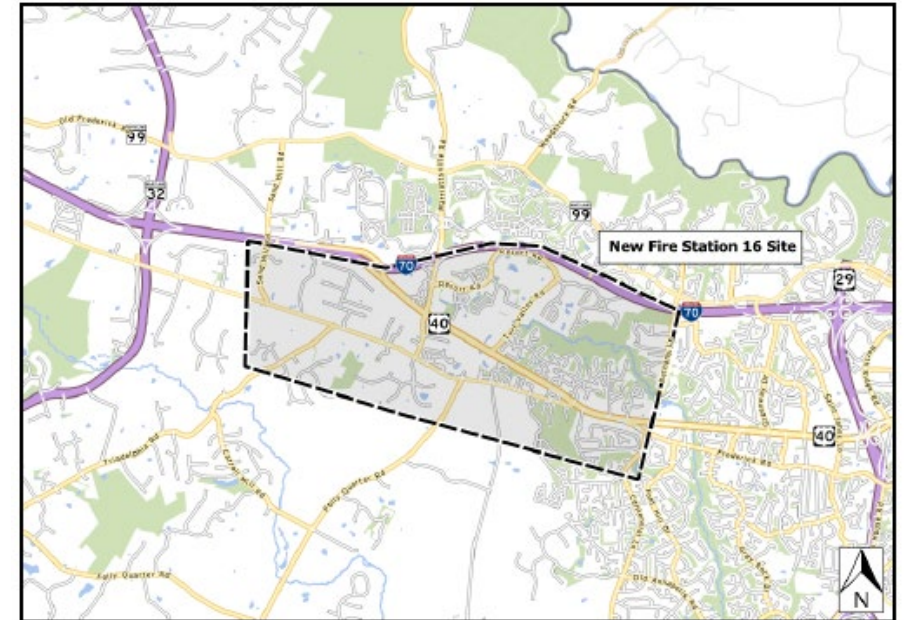
F5984-FY2027 FIRE STATION 16

Project Description: A project to build a new three (3) bay Fire Station (Fire Station 16) in the West Ellicott City area.

General Plan Consistency:

INF-4- Minimize loss of life, loss of property, and injury due to fire or medical emergencies.

INF-4.1- Construct and staff new and replacement fire stations in the Capital Improvement Program.

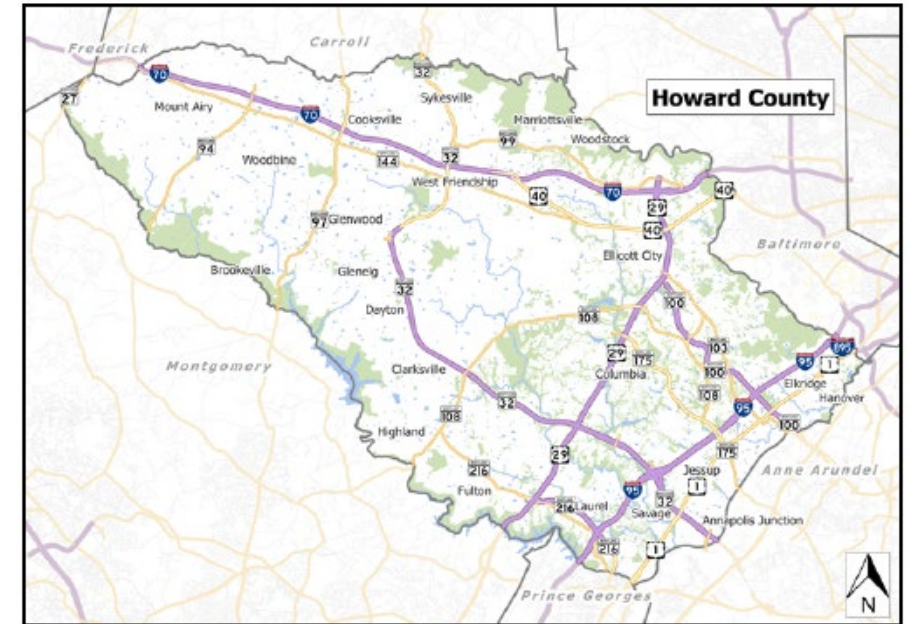


General County Project

C0384-FY2027 COMMUNITY SOLAR BENEFITING LMI HOUSEHOLDS

Project Description: Develop community solar projects on County-owned property, including 4 canopies over parking lots and one ground mount at Carrs Mill landfill. The County will serve as the developer. State grant funds and federal tax incentives will help fund the project. Bonds also are requested that will be repaid after the project is built using funds from sale of the electricity to residents. The project will provide a minimum discount of 25% off the BGE rate for electric bills for LMI households, with half of the electricity generated at Carrs Mill landfill going for free to low-income households selected by the state.

General Plan Consistency: EH-2, EH-2.5

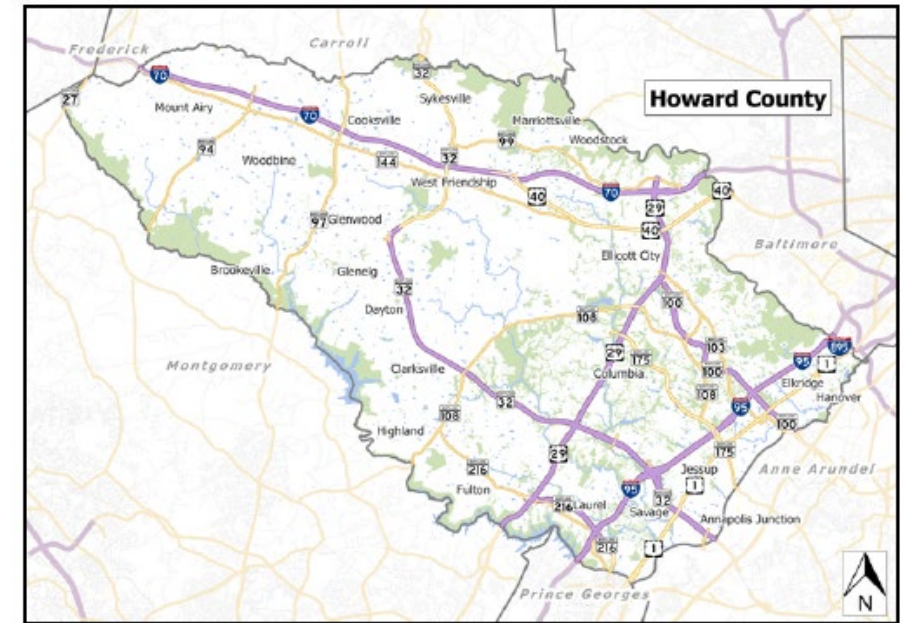


General County Project

C0385-FY2027 SUPPORT SERVICES AGREEMENT FUND

Project Description: Funds Howard County's participation in partnerships with governmental and other surrounding jurisdictions and agencies, whereby the County has entered into partnership agreement(s) to provide support services through management of County consultants and contractors. Agreement partners shall reimburse the County for contracted services and that reimbursement shall be inclusive of a project management support fee. Revenue received shall be utilized to develop asset management and reliability improvements that support the sustainability, resiliency and reliability of DPW infrastructure and related services to county residents.

General Plan Consistency: INF 1-2

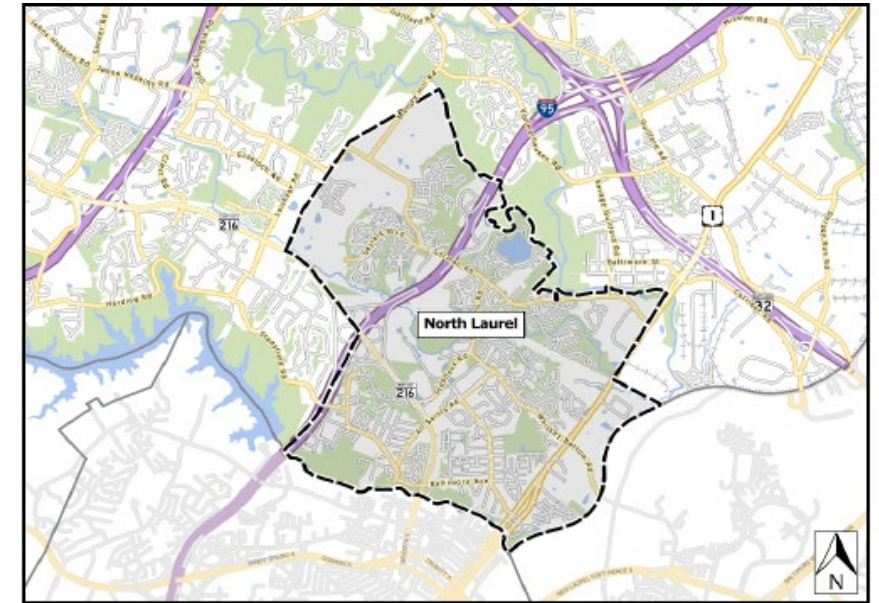


Road Construction Project

J4254-FY2027 NORTH LAUREL COMPLETE STREETS

Project Description: Design and construct Complete Streets improvements in N. Laurel. This capital project will consolidate the existing and planned Complete Streets initiatives in N. Laurel into one standalone project. The project will advance the design of the 2025 Old Scaggsville Pedestrian and Bicycle Facility Feasibility Study, fund the preliminary design for pedestrian connection on MD216 to Prince George's County line, construct the crossing improvements at Whiskey Bottom at Kings Grant, construct the WalkHoward segment E/F and bicycle accommodation on Whiskey Bottom Road, construct the sidewalk gap closures at All Saints and Whiskey Bottom Rds, and construct the Complete Street improvements on Gorman Rd.

General Plan Consistency: CIM-2, CIM-5, CIM-5.1.



Summary of Action

The Planning Board shall:

- review the new and substantially changed capital projects to be added to the County Executive's proposed FY 2027 Capital Improvement Budget
- provide comments and recommendations on the **impact of the proposed capital program on the County general plan and the growth of the County** (per Sec16.900.j.3.i).

Next Steps

Submit comments and recommendations on the new projects presented tonight to the County Executive, with a copy to County Council by **Friday, February 27th**.