

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS****February 21, 2023**

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County Executive Dr. Calvin Ball  
Howard County Government  
3430 Court House Drive  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

**COLUMBIA COUNCIL**

RE: Town Center Community Association Board: FY 24 HOCO Budget Priorities

Lin Eagan

Dear County Executive Dr. Ball,

Thank you for your continued service to our community and all you do for the County, its residents and its groups and organizations.

The Board of the Town Center Community Association (TCCA) is asking for budgetary support for various community projects for the village of Town Center in FY2024. TCCA's priorities and requests for the FY2024 County Budget are recapped below:

1. **Partially Fund an Elevator**: Historic Oakland is Town Center's community building and has hosted many events over the years including Juneteenth, Kwanzaa, Town Center HOA Meetings, craft shows, weddings, vintage car shows and much more. The upper level of Historic Oakland is ***not accessible to the mobility challenged***. This level includes a Ballroom (900 SQF), a Board Room (350 SQF) and a Meeting Room (350 SQF). The installation of an elevator will help all those in the community, the County, and the State to enjoy all our events on ALL levels of the building. The historic building completed in 1811, is one of Howard County's oldest buildings and should be ***fully accessible on all levels***. Installing an elevator would resolve this problem.

TCCA is asking that Howard County Government match a State of Maryland grant of \$300,000 to assist in the funding of the elevator. The State grant was secured on behalf of the building owner, Columbia Association, to serve the greater Columbia community for all the events hosted by Historic Oakland each year.

2. **Repave Leaf Treader Road**: Leaf Treader Road has been patched by the County repeatedly over two years and keeps coming back every few months to patch the road. The community would like the entire road repaved, and a new subbase installed that does not keep cracking resulting in multiple potholes.
3. **Repave Vantage Point Road**: the entire road from Little Patuxent Parkway to Water's Edge at the roundabout needs to be repaved. Repeated utility projects and digging on the road over the last eighteen months have resulted in numerous potholes and irregular pavement issues along the entire one-half mile stretch of road. The road is still "rough" even though it has been patched.

4. **Complete the “Walk Audit Projects” Identified by Toole Design:** TCCA supports that Downtown Columbia Partnership (DCP) “Walk Audit Study” that was completed jointly with members of the DCP, the County and the consultant Toole Design. DCP will provide the recommendations to HOCO’s Transportation Department if it has not already done so.
5. **Install Pedestrian Cross Walk:** Put another pedestrian cross walk across Vantage Point Road at either Leaf Treader Road or Smooth Meadow Way. A lot of residents at the Residences at Vantage Point risk their lives crossing the road to the other side. We realize that this was declined before but would ask that you re-evaluate it again maybe closer to Little Patuxent Parkway (the County’s previous response 6/24/2020: *Due to the horizontal curve in the roadway at Leaf Treader, a marked crosswalk is not recommended by our Department of Public Works and Office of Transportation.*)
6. **Trim the Trees Along Vantage Point Road:** The trees are overgrown on sidewalks obscuring pedestrian signage including children playing signage at locations such as in front of the Residences at Vantage Point and near the cross walk at Vantage Point Park. There are also areas along Broken Land Parkway and Little Patuxent Parkway near the Merriweather area where traffic and pedestrian signage is obscured by overgrown foliage which creates a safety hazard.
7. **Reduce Noise and Speeding Around the Columbia Mall and Feeder Roads:** Please work with your HOCO Police and Department of Transportation’s traffic engineers to install or improve traffic calming or slowing techniques around the area. In addition, more traffic enforcement during later hours (fines, etc.) would be appreciated, e.g., 9:00pm - 5:00 am.
8. **Reach Agreement on School Budget:** TCCA appreciates your work with Superintendent Michael Martirano and BOE to reach agreement on the new school budget. We realize there was an increase requested YOY, \$112 million, but would hope that both sides could review priorities to reach a reasonable solution that benefits students, parents and all residents.

Your funding of these requests will keep Howard County as one of the best places in the United States to live, work and play.

Thank you for considering our requests. Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions.

Sincerely,

*Lynn Foehrkolb*

Lynn Foehrkolb  
Chairperson, TCCA Board of Directors

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