

Board of County Commissioners

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2018 Freedom Community Comprehensive Plan Implementation Efforts Underway

Westminster, MD, Saturday, January 12, 2019 – The Carroll County Board of County Commissioners adopted the 2018 Freedom Community Comprehensive Plan in October with several implementation steps outlined on page 2 of the plan. Many of the priority implementation steps are underway, including:

- Completion of the update to the county's Zoning Code within 18 months of adoption of this plan:
 - One of the largest efforts in plan implementation is the adoption of the Zoning Code to reflect the desire and direction of both the Freedom Community Comprehensive Plan as well as the County Master Plan. The Board of County Commissioners and staff worked diligently on this effort in work sessions over the past weeks with more sessions planned in the future.
- Encourage and engage a citizens' community advisory group:
 - The Department of Planning encourages the formation of citizen community advisory groups. Though the department does not staff advisory groups, we are happy to attend regularly scheduled meetings and report on the latest updates of the planning department.
- Review and revise development review requirements to ensure consistency with county plans:
 - Maryland state law requires the review of development plans be consistent with comprehensive plans. After reviewing the county's process, Carroll County's development review process already ensures this requirement is satisfied.
- Conduct a comprehensive traffic study for the Freedom area:
 - The county is also preparing to embark on a countywide transportation master plan. A traffic study for the Freedom area will be part of this effort.

CARROLL COUNTY

The Americans with Disabilities Act applies to the Carroll County Government and its programs, services, activities, and facilities. Anyone requiring an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or who has a complaint should contact The Department of Citizen Services, 410.386.3600 or 1.888.302.8978 or MD Relay 7-1-1/1.800.735.2258 or email ada@carrollcountymd.gov as soon as possible but no later than 72 hours before the scheduled event.

- Update the Carroll County Water and Sewer Master Plan:
 - The update of the water and sewer plan is in the final stages of adoption by the Board of County Commissioners. As with the plans mentioned above, this document reflects this same direction and desire not only by the county, but by the eight municipalities as well.
- Encourage participation on Planning Commission by citizens in the Freedom DGA:
 - Carroll County actively seeks public participation on its boards and commissions across the county. Boards and commissions are listed on the county website with an open invitation for any citizen to apply. Staff and elected officials promote these opportunities in the community.
- Implementation of this plan and future updates to the plan should reflect the realities of the county Community Investment Plan (CIP):
 - All capital projects undertaken by the county are subject to budgetary realities. All future projects recommended by this plan will always be in agreement with the CIP.

For additional information about these Freedom planning efforts or other planning related items, please contact the Carroll County Department of Planning at 410-386-5145 or at ccplanning@carrollcountymd.gov.

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