



Garrett County Government Department of Community Development
Planning & Land Management Division

203 South Fourth Street, Room 208, Oakland, Maryland 21550
garrettcountrymd.gov/community-development/planning-land-management

Garrett County Planning Commission Minutes April 2, 2025

1. **Call to Order-** Tony Doerr called the regular meeting of the Garrett County Planning Commission to order at 1:30 pm on April 2, 2025, in the County Commissioners Meeting Room in the Garrett County Courthouse.
2. **Attendance-** Commission members: Tony Doerr, Tim Schwinabart, Larry Tichnell, Liz Georg, and Julie Friend. Planning staff: Chad Fike and Siera Wigfield.
3. **Approval of Minutes-** The previous meeting minutes were approved as presented.
4. **Reports of Officers-**None.
5. **Deep Creek Watershed Zoning Appeals Cases-**
 - None
6. **Major Subdivisions:**
 - **Grand View Estates Commercial Subdivision-** Submitted by Mountain Horse, LLC. The property (Map 8, Parcel 282) is located along Zion School Road in a Town Residential land classification. The Planning Commission unanimously voted to approve the subdivision.
7. **Girod Waiver Request:** One behalf of Benjamin and Emmanuel Girod, surveyor Michael Wolf requested a waiver from the Mobile/Home Manufactured Home Park Requirements found in Article 11 of the Subdivision Ordinance. Specifically, the request was for a waiver from the design standards in this section and to allow this existing trailer park to have a density greater than 3 acres per unit as required in the Agricultural Resource Land Classification. The property is designated Map 14, Parcel 233 and is located along Old Morgantown Road West. The Planning Commission unanimously voted to approve the waiver request.
8. **Transportation Priority Letter.** Senior Planner Siera Wigfield presented a draft of the Garret County 2025 Transportation Priorities. The draft letter is attached to these minutes. After discussion the Commission unanimously voted to approve the draft of the letter and forward it to the County Commissioners for their final consideration.
9. **Garrett County Pathways and Connections Initiative.** Ms. Wigfield updated the Planning Commission on the study results for the MD 135 Pedestrian & Bicycle Pathways Concept Design and the Oakland to Herrington Manor Trail Feasibility Study.
10. **Adjournment** – Chairman Tony Doerr adjourned the meeting at 2:05 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Chad Fike, Assistant Director

The Honorable Paul J. Wiedefeld
Maryland Transportation Secretary
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, Maryland 21076

RE: GARRETT COUNTY 2025 TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIES

Dear Transportation Secretary Paul J. Wiedefeld,

Garrett County extends its thanks for MDOT's pivotal role in our transportation advances. We present our strategic projects for FY 2026-2031 CTP consideration, building on our collaborative success to meet our evolving needs. As we continue to build on this foundation, we are pleased to present our updated priorities for consideration in the FY 2026-2031 Consolidated Transportation Plan (CTP). This letter not only reflects our appreciation for the progress achieved thus far but also underscores the critical need for continued collaboration to address the evolving transportation needs of Garrett County.

We appreciate MDOT's support for Garrett County projects:

- **Rec Trails Funding for Fork Run Intermediate Trails**

Aligned with Chapter 725 standards and our persistent efforts to improve local transportation infrastructure, we respectfully present our carefully selected priority projects for MDOT's evaluation in the upcoming CTP cycle. These projects, chosen through extensive collaboration with county officials, municipalities, and community stakeholders, are designed to meet the collective needs of Garrett County. Each initiative represents a crucial step toward enhancing safety, accessibility, and connectivity, furthering economic development, and supporting environmental sustainability. Our dedication to closely collaborating with MDOT and SHA is unwavering, as we strive for the impactful realization of these projects on our community.

We are committed to working with MDOT SHA to ensure the successful implementation of this project.

1. US 219 North Extension to Pennsylvania Stateline

Garrett County and the Town of Grantsville request funding for right-of-way acquisition and design for the 1.5-mile segment of US 219 North between Old Salisbury Road and the Pennsylvania Stateline. This project will enhance regional connectivity, improve freight and passenger access, and support economic growth. Coordination with PennDOT is ongoing, with environmental review completed and ready for advancement.

2. US 219 Safety Improvements near Trader's Landing

Garrett County requests MDOT/SHA to continue its support by allocating design and construction funding for safety improvements along US 219 near Trader's Landing, from the US 219 bridge to Trader's Landing. The project aims to enhance safety for pedestrians and motorists through restriping, intersection improvements, and active transportation features to address heavy traffic and safety concerns. Following a collaborative stakeholder meeting with in 2022, where MDOT SHA and Garrett County presented an overview of the current conditions and multiple options for safety improvements, in collaboration with stakeholders the project's scope has been refined. We request Design and construction to proceed with these critical safety improvements, enhancing the well-being of both pedestrians and motorists in this key area of our community.

3. **Grantsville Sidewalk Extension on Alt US 40 to River Road**

The Town of Grantsville, in partnership with Garrett County, seeks funding for the design and construction of a sidewalk extension along Alt US 40 to River Road. The 2020 Grantsville Sidewalk Feasibility Study confirmed the project's viability, including a concept plan proposing approximately 1,450 feet of 5-foot-wide pedestrian pathways along the north side of US 40 ALT. The project aims to enhance pedestrian connectivity between the Town of Grantsville, the Spruce Forest Artisan Village, and other key community destinations, with minimal structural impacts and manageable increases in impervious area. An additional 525 feet of sidewalk extension was also planned, bringing the total estimated cost to approximately \$1.73 million, at the time of the study. The project will benefit from technical assistance provided through the FHWA's Thriving Communities Program, which will help Garrett County, and the Town of Grantsville move this effort forward. In addition to our request to MDOT to advance this project, the County and Town intend to apply for discretionary grants. Securing funding for this project will promote pedestrian safety, enhance walkability, and support tourism and local economic development.

4. **Garrett County Transit Operating & Capital Funding**

Garrett Transit Services (GTS) requests funding for new fixed-route services under the 5307 program and increased 5311 funding to maintain out-of-county medical transportation. Additional capital funding is sought for preventative maintenance, generator replacement, vehicle replacements, facility security upgrades, and infrastructure improvements to enhance operational efficiency and resilience.

5. **US 219 Oakland Bypass**

Garrett County, alongside the Town of Oakland, continues to request design and engineering funding for the US 219 Oakland Bypass, this 2.4-mile bypass, extending from north of Oakland to MD 135, as a pivotal project for our community's future. This initiative is not just about rerouting traffic; it's about fostering a safer, more vibrant Oakland by alleviating downtown congestion and enhancing the area's appeal for economic development and tourism. The bypass is integral to our comprehensive transportation strategy, which includes the Oakland Pathways SS4A application. Our goal is to ensure these projects complement each other, enhancing connectivity without hindering the bypass's future development.

We are requesting MDOT to move this project forward in a way that respects community input and leverages the bypass's potential to improve safety, stimulate economic growth, and preserve Oakland's unique character. Your continued partnership is crucial to realizing the vision of a connected, thriving Garrett County.

6. **MD 135 Shared Use Path**

Garrett County, in partnership with the Town of Oakland, requests funding to advance the MD 135 Shared Use Path project by developing spot designs to connect local schools and Broadford Park. The study for this project is expected to be completed in May 2025. Funding through discretionary funding is sought to maintain progress and move toward implementation. By enhancing connectivity and providing safer pedestrian and bicycle access, this project will significantly benefit students, park visitors, and the community at large.

7. **Oakland to Herrington Manor State Park Trail**

Garrett County, in partnership with Garrett Trails, requests funding for engineering and right-of-way acquisition for the Oakland to Herrington Manor State Park Trail. The feasibility study is scheduled for completion in May 2025, with findings expected to include the need for a bridge to complete the route. The County is applying for funding opportunities to build upon the momentum of the ongoing study and advance toward implementation. Improved connectivity between Oakland and Herrington Manor State Park will enhance recreational opportunities, support tourism, and contribute to broader regional trail network goals.

8. **Loch Lynn Trail Accessibility Enhancements**

Garrett County, in partnership with the Town of Loch Lynn Heights, respectfully requests funding from the Recreational Trails Program for the "Loch Lynn Trail Accessibility Enhancements" project. This initiative aims to retrofit and re-deck the existing boardwalks along the .75-mile Loch Lynn Community Trail to ensure ADA compliance and enhance accessibility for all users. The project will focus on removing barriers such as bollards and adding bump-outs for mobility devices, thereby promoting inclusivity, and ensuring that the trail remains an asset for educational exploration and recreational enjoyment. With an estimated total project cost of \$165,000, our immediate goal is to secure design funding to lay the groundwork for these critical improvements. This project not only addresses the need for maintenance and safety enhancements but also aligns with our commitment to environmental stewardship and community well-being.

9. **Broadford Bike System Skills Park**

Garrett County is seeking funding through the Recreational Trails Program and Bikeways to further develop the Broadford Mountain Bike Trails by adding a Skill Park. This enhancement will provide a dedicated area for riders of all

ages and skill levels to practice and improve their technical skills, promoting recreation, tourism, and outdoor education in the region. Expanding the Broadford trail system with a Skill Park will enhance the overall user experience and attract more visitors to Garrett County.

10. Garrett CALM (Community Awareness & Local Monitoring)

Garrett County is requesting funding to support the Garrett CALM (Community Awareness & Local Monitoring) project, which aims to enhance traffic monitoring and safety by deploying additional portable radar speed signs and creating a system to aggregate traffic count and speeding data. The initiative includes developing a public-facing traffic safety dashboard, providing a tool for residents to report speed concerns, and improving enforcement coordination through GIS-integrated analysis tools. Garrett County is requesting funding to support the Garrett CALM project, which focuses on enhancing traffic monitoring and safety through the deployment of portable signs and services to aggregate traffic count and speeding data. These resources will improve the County's ability to assess traffic patterns, identify high-risk areas, and implement appropriate safety measures. Funding is sought to advance this initiative and promote safer roadways across the region.

Funding was sought for FY2026 from the Maryland Highway Safety Office to advance this technology-driven approach to improve traffic safety, transparency, and data accessibility across the County. This carries out our implementation of the 2024 Local roadways safety plan.

11. MD 135 to Intersections Safety & Local Roadway Approach Designs

12. Crellin Sidewalk Replacement

13. Broadford Lake Accessible Fishing Path

Garrett County and the Town of Oakland request funding for to design and construct a ADA accessible fishing path, along the shore of Broadford Lake. This initiative seeks to create a walkway leading from the existing parking area to a new dock, enhancing fishing access for all anglers. The path will provide safe, direct access to key fishing areas on Broadford Lake, leveraging existing parking without the need for expansion. This project emphasizes our dedication to inclusive recreation, ensuring all anglers can fully enjoy Broadford Lake's resources.

Attached, you will find the supporting project information for each of our priority projects. We value the opportunity to collaborate with MDOT and are committed to efficiently moving transportation projects forward to serving the needs of our constituents.

Sincerely,

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
GARRETT COUNTY**

GARRETT COUNTY

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Ryan S. Savage, Commissioner

Donald E. Dawson, Mayor, Town of Deer Park

S. Larry Tichnell, Commissioner

Spencer R. Schlosnagle, Mayor, Town of Friendsville

**GARRETT COUNTY GENERAL
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Emily Newman-Edwards, Mayor, Town of Grantsville

Senator Michael W. McKay, District 1

Robert L. Reckart, Mayor, Town of Kitzmiller

Delegate James C. Hinebaugh, Jr., District 1A

Larry Friend Mayor, Town of Loch Lynn Heights

MUNICIPAL ELECTED OFFICIALS OF

Donald W. Sincell, Mayor, Town of Mountain Lake Park

Andrew Sauder, Mayor, Mayor, Town of Oakland

Enclosures:
Project Summary Table and Maps

Cc:
David Cotton, Maryland Department of Planning
, Office of Planning and Capital Programming, Maryland Department of Transportation
Linda Zerbee Puffenbarger, District Engineer District 6 State Highway Administration
_r State Highway Administration
Sean Varsolona, State Highway Administration
Tyson Byrne, Manager, Regional Planning, Office of Planning and Capital Programming, Maryland Department of Transportation
Travis Johnston, Director Office of Local Transit Support, Maryland Transit Administration
Kevin Null, Administrator, Garrett County
Siera Wigfield, Senior Planner, Garrett County
_ Director of Public Works:
Josh Spiker , Director of Garrett Trails
Chrisopher Mullett. President Garrett County Community Action
Cody Kroll, Director Garrett Transit System

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