

The Town of New Market



July 4, 2026

TO: New Market Town Council, New Market Planning Commission, & New Market Civic Partnership
FROM: Pat Faux, Town Planner
RE: **Input Requested on State Required Renewal Application for New Market Sustainable Community District**

Dear All,

You are receiving this notice because you - as a member of the Town Council, the Planning Commission, the New Market Civic Partnership, and town staff – are part of the “Workgroup” responsible for developing and implementing the town’s 5-year Sustainable Community District Action Plan. It is time to prepare our third 5-year Plan and apply to the state for renewal of our Sustainable Community designation. Our application is due in October and Town Council approval is required. We need your input.

The purpose of the 5-year Action Plan is to communicate town needs and to identify projects we hope to accomplish in the next five years that require or benefit from certain state assistance initiatives. The projects we identify must be located within our district. Here is a link to the district map on the town website: https://www.townofnewmarket.org/sites/g/files/vyhlf6386/f/uploads/town_of_new_market_sustainable_community_map_2022.pdf. Here is a link to our expiring 5-year Plan: <https://dhcd.maryland.gov/Pages/PageNotFound.aspx?requestUrl=https://dhcd.maryland.gov/Communities/Approved%20Sustainable%20Communities/NewMarket.pdf>

Approval of a five-year plan/designation unlocks competitive access to a "toolkit" of state grants and financial and technical incentives that have been established to help revitalize older neighborhoods through sustainable economic, environmental, and social projects.

<https://dhcd.maryland.gov/Communities/Documents/dn/Benefits-3-2.pdf>

The current state "toolkit" includes resources for:

- Infrastructure improvements
- Historic preservation
- Housing production and rehabilitation
- Vacancy reduction
- Multimodal transportation improvements
- Economic development programs

Current Grant programs include:

- **Maryland Façade Improvement Program (MFIP):** Provides funds to local governments for programs to improve the exteriors of commercial properties located within Maryland’s Sustainable Communities.
- **Community Legacy Program:** Provides local governments and nonprofits with funding to strengthen neighborhoods through business retention and housing improvements.
- **Strategic Demolition and Smart Growth Impact Fund:** Helps clear and repurpose abandoned, vacant, or underutilized properties.
- **Neighborhood Business Works:** Offers financing for small businesses and developers expanding in revitalizing areas.

(Note: the grants we receive from the state's Public Open Space grant program (POS) and Legislative Bond Initiatives are separate from this program)

Our updated Action Plan must be consistent with the Town Master Plan and other existing community plans. Attached is a link to the draft master plan update that was recently posted on the town website: [New Market, MD](#) This document, now under review for the Planning Commission and the community, includes a chapter of vision and goals and a detailed chart of recommended Plan Implementation Actions.

For the past 10 years we have primarily utilized this program to fund the highly successful Façade Grant Program that is managed on the Town's behalf by the New Market Civic Partnership. This town program has helped preserve and revitalize a significant number of residential and commercial buildings in the Sustainable Community District and the Historic District.

What should the town do over the next five years? Should we continue the façade grant program? Should we seek funds to improve public parking and make improvements to the new Town Hall site? Are there other important initiatives that would require one of the state grants above? In offering project suggestions please identify who would be responsible for overseeing project applications and implementation.

Thank you. Please email your thoughts and recommendations to Pat Faux at faux@fauxgroup.com.