
BARRY GLASSMAN
HARFORD COUNTY EXECUTIVE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 15, 2015

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Harford County Seeking Public Input on HarfordNEXT: A Master Plan for the Next Generation

BEL AIR, Md., (April 15, 2015) - County Executive Barry Glassman welcomes public input as his administration begins updating the county's Master Plan, a public policy guide affecting the quality of life in Harford County. The update, entitled HarfordNEXT: A Master Plan for the Next Generation, will guide county decisions through the year 2035 on land use, public facilities, economic development, natural resources, historic preservation, transportation and public health.

"HarfordNEXT is an opportunity to shape Harford County's future, not only for ourselves but for our next generation," said County Executive Glassman. "I invite all citizens to share their ideas. My administration plans an inclusive and transparent process including public meetings and a new online forum to encourage community engagement."

Unlike previous Master Plan updates, HarfordNEXT will be organized around several themes that incorporate one or more component elements of the plan, such as the Natural Resources Element Plan, Priority Preservation Area Plan, Historic Preservation Plan and Transportation Plan.

“Rather than ask citizens to fit their ideas into these separate elements, the themes are designed to reflect the comprehensive way in which people think about and use public services and public space,” said Department of Planning and Zoning Director Brad Killian.

More information about the themes, an overview of the planning process, and access to the public forum are available now by clicking the HarfordNEXT button on the homepage of the county website www.harfordcountymd.gov

The public forum can also be accessed directly by computer, phone or other mobile device via <http://www.harfordcountymd.gov/opentownhall>. Feedback provided online will inform county planners as they draft HarfordNEXT. Forum topics will also change periodically to promote related discussions.

Public input for HarfordNEXT can also be sent via email to P&ZHarfordNext@harfordcountymd.gov, by calling 410-879-2000, or by mail to the Department of Planning & Zoning, 220 S. Main St., Bel Air, MD 21014.

A public education and input meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 29, from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the Chesapeake Dining Hall on the campus of Harford Community College. County Executive Glassman will offer opening remarks about HarfordNEXT, followed by an overview of the process by Planning and Zoning Director Killian. Attendees will then be invited to share their feedback in roundtable discussions led by county planners.

Citizens who cannot attend the meeting are welcome to provide input through the online forum and by any of the other available means.

The Department of Planning and Zoning will also be reaching out to the newly established Community Advisory Boards to arrange presentations where practicable. All citizens are welcome to attend the Community Advisory Board meeting in their area: <http://www.harfordcountymd.gov/CAB/>

Expected to be at least one year in development, HarfordNEXT will be subject to final approval by the Harford County Council. State law requires comprehensive plans to be updated at least once every ten years.

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