

What Will Be the Future of Our County?

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Subject: [HOWARD-CITIZEN] What Will Be the Future of Our County?

FYI,

Five years ago, the Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA, produced a video titled "[Columbia at 50 - A Bridge to the Future](#)" which we were very proud. The video has had nearly 5000 views. After viewing the video, the question is what will Columbia and ALL of Howard County become for the existing and future residents of our County? Will the necessary infrastructure be in place to ensure our quality of life in no way deteriorates because of poor strategic planning? This has to be addressed in the new General Plan known as HoCo By Design. This has to include not only to ensure more than Adequate Roads and Schools but such items as the Hospital, Police, Fire, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Utilities (Electricity / Gas), Storm Water, Sewage, Landfill, etc.

We need to be smart to hopefully have the right ingredients to ensure the aforementioned categories are completely addressed to avoid:

- Such signage as, "Stay Alert - Traffic Congestion Next 3 Miles"
- Schools consisting of nearly 250 portables or trailers at their facilities.
- A Hospital which is unfortunately burden by the incapacity to handle the current population. I recently experienced this and the situation is in dire straits.
- Is our Police, Fire and EMS departments able to handle the current and future workloads?
- Do we have enough power on the grid to handle further development?
- Are we certain that future storm water plans are satisfactory?
- Will we have enough capacity for sewage and not be detrimental to our waterways?
- Do we have enough landfill for trash capacity?

One would only hope that when HoCo By Design is heard by the County Council that members would be asking such questions to ensure their constituents are fully safeguarded for the future.

Stu Kohn
HCCA President