



The Comprehensive Planning Process

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Updating the Comprehensive Plan

- **State requirements**
- **Process**
- **Resources**
- **Timeframes**



State Requirements

- **Scope - expanding**
- **6 Year updates - challenging**

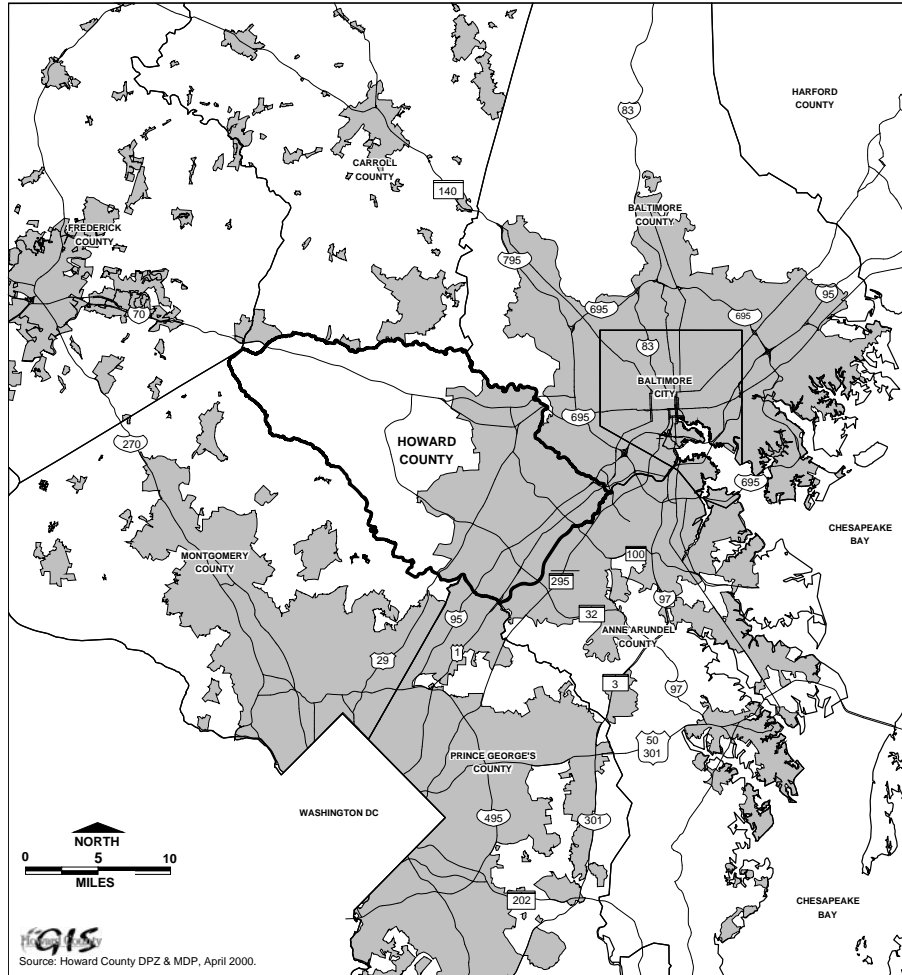


Plan Update Process

- **Technical Research:**
 - Existing conditions, trends & projections
 - Problems & opportunities
 - Potential strategies & tools
- **Coordination:**
 - Other County agencies
 - Municipalities
 - Adjoining counties (States)
 - Regional organizations



Plan Update Process



Source: Howard County DPZ & MDP, April 2000.

Howard County MARYLAND General Plan 2000

Legend

 PRIORITY FUNDING AREAS

Note: The Maryland Department of Planning has not yet completed its analysis of all of the areas shown.

Map 2-2
Regional Priority
Funding Areas



Plan Update Process

- **Drafting the plan**
 - Scale, complexity
 - Multiple writers, editors, graphics, desktop publishing, website
- **Revisions based on stakeholder feedback**
- **Public Participation**
 - Huge and evolving task (web)
 - Critical point for citizens to influence growth management policies
 - Challenge to educate citizens
 - Challenge to attract, sustain attention



Resources

- **Planning staff – skill sets, other work**
- **Other County agencies – other functions**
- **Consultants – orienting, managing**
- **State agencies – limited technical assistance**



Timeframes

- **Comprehensive Plan sets Policies and Strategies**
 - Research & drafting – 1 + years
 - Review & adoption – 1 + years
- **Implementation**
 - Regulations; capital projects; sub-area & functional plans; new programs; etc.
 - Monitoring progress & refining tools



Timeframes

- **State required 6 year update**
 - **Steals time and resources from implementation**
 - **Lengthen time frame, adding mid-cycle assessment?**