

Subdivision Regulation Amendment No.: 16-01  
Concerning: Subdivision Regulations Rewrite  
Draft No. & Date: 3 – 01/06/16  
Introduced: January 12, 2016  
Public Hearing:  
Adopted:  
Effective:  
Ordinance No:

**COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND  
SITTING AS THE DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR THAT PORTION OF  
THE MARYLAND-WASHINGTON REGIONAL DISTRICT WITHIN  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

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Lead Sponsor: Council President Floreen at the request of the Planning Board

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**AN AMENDMENT to:**

All subdivision regulations in the County Code

By deleting all of Chapter 50, Subdivision of Land; and

Replacing Chapter 50, Subdivision of Land

<b>Boldface</b>	<i>Heading or defined term.</i>
<u>Underlining</u>	<i>Added to existing law by introduced Subdivision Regulation Amendment.</i>
[Single boldface brackets]	<i>Deleted from existing law by introduced Subdivision Regulation Amendment.</i>
<u>Double underlining</u>	<i>Added to the Subdivision Regulation Amendment by amendment.</i>
[[Double boldface brackets]]	<i>Deleted from existing law or the Subdivision Regulation Amendment by amendment.</i>
* * *	<i>Existing law unaffected by Subdivision Regulation Amendment.</i>

**ORDINANCE**

*The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland, sitting as the District Council for that portion of the Maryland-Washington Regional District in Montgomery County, Maryland, approves the following Ordinance:*

1           **Sec. 1.** Chapter 50 is repealed.

2           **Sec. 2.** Chapter 50 is replaced as follows:

3           **Chapter 50. SUBDIVISION OF LAND**

4           **Article I. In General**

5           **Division 50.1. Purpose**

6           **Section 1.1. Purpose of Chapter 50**

7           This Chapter provides for the legal division and subsequent transfer of land. The  
8           intent of this Chapter is to facilitate harmonious development and promote the  
9           health, safety, and welfare of the present and future inhabitants of the Maryland-  
10          Washington Regional District within Montgomery County under the General Plan.  
11          In particular, this Chapter provides a means to coordinate new transportation  
12          facilities with other existing and planned facilities and make a determination of  
13          adequate public facilities, land for public use, and the protection of natural  
14          resources and sensitive environmental features.

15          **Division 50.2. Interpretation and Defined Terms**

16          **Section 2.1. Rules of Interpretation**

17          The following rules of interpretation apply to this Chapter.

18          A.     *How to Compute Periods Measured in Months.* If a period of time is  
19                measured in months, the period begins and ends on the same day of a month;  
20                however, if there are not enough days in the final month for this to be  
21                possible, the period ends on the final day of the final month.

22          B.     *How to Compute Periods Measured in Days.* If this Chapter requires or  
23                allows a person to perform an act within a specific time period measured in  
24                days, the person must compute the deadline in the following manner:

- 25                1.     If the period follows an event, count the day after the event as the first  
26                day of the period.

27           2.     Count the remaining number of calendar days in the period; however,  
28                     if the period is 7 days or fewer, omit Saturdays, Sundays, and legal  
29                     holidays.

30           3.     Do not count the last day if it is a Saturday, Sunday, legal holiday, or  
31                     if the office where the person must file a document or perform an act  
32                     is not open during the regular hours of that office on that day.

33    C.     *Requirements to Act by a Specific Date.*

34           1.     If the law requires or allows a person to perform an act by a specific  
35                     date, but the specific date is a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the  
36                     person may perform the act on the next day that is not a Saturday,  
37                     Sunday, or legal holiday.

38           2.     Any action required to be taken within a specific time period is  
39                     measured from the date of a final agency action, or, if a party seeks  
40                     judicial review of the agency action, from the date the court makes a  
41                     final decision.

42    D.     *Signatures.* The signature of a person may be the actual signature of the  
43                     person or a mark that the person has authorized.

44    E.     *Singular and Plural.* The singular includes the plural and the plural includes  
45                     the singular.

46    F.     *Tense.* The present tense includes the future tense.

47    G.     *Use of "Or".* "Or" indicates that the connected items, conditions, provisions,  
48                     or events may apply singularly or in any combination.

49    H.     *Use of "Includes".* "Includes" does not limit a term to the specific examples.

50    I.     *Titles of Articles, Divisions, and Sections.* Titles and captions are not part of  
51                     the law. They only advise the reader of the content of each Article, Division,  
52                     or Section.

53    J.     *Use of "Chapter".* "Chapter" means a numbered section in the Montgomery  
54                     County Code.

55 K. Use of “Section”. In this Chapter, “Section” means section or subsection, as  
56 the context indicates.

57 L. Use of “In Writing”. In this Chapter, written communication includes  
58 electronic communication.

59 **Section 2.2. Definitions**

60 All terms used in this Chapter that are defined in Chapter 59 or Chapter 49 have  
61 the same meanings as the definitions in those Chapters, unless otherwise defined  
62 here. In this Chapter, the following words and phrases have the meanings  
63 indicated.

64 A.

65 Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO): Section 4.3.J of this Chapter,  
66 which specifies that the Board must find that public facilities will be adequate to  
67 support and serve a proposed subdivision before approval.

68 Administrative Civil Penalty: A monetary penalty imposed by the Board after  
69 considering the factors in this Chapter for violating a Board action.

70 Administrative Subdivision Plan: A plan for a proposed subdivision prepared and  
71 submitted for Director approval before the preparation of a plat.

72 Agricultural Land: Land classified in the Agricultural Reserve zone established by  
73 Division 4.2 of Chapter 59; and land in other zones containing at least 25 acres  
74 devoted to an agricultural use as defined in Chapter 59.

75 Applicant, Developer or Subdivider: An individual, partnership, corporation, or  
76 other legal entity and its agent that undertakes the subdivision of land or the  
77 activities covered by this Chapter. The terms include all persons involved in  
78 successive stages of the project, even though such persons may change and  
79 ownership of the land may change. Each term includes the other.

80 B.

81 Board: The Montgomery County Planning Board of the Maryland-National Capital  
82 Commission.

83 Block: Land area bounded by roads, other rights-of-way, unsubdivided acreage,  
84 natural barriers, and any other barrier to the continuity of development.

85 Building Restriction Line: A line designating an area in which development or  
86 building is prohibited by the Board.

87 C.

88 Citation: A document noting a violation of a Board action, seeking to impose a  
89 civil fine or corrective action.

90 Civil Fine: A requirement to pay a predetermined sum of money specified in an  
91 administrative citation for violating a Board action.

92 Commission: The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

93 Council: The Montgomery County Council.

94 County Executive: The Montgomery County Executive.

95 D.

96 Development: The act of building structures and installing site improvements, both  
97 public and private, or the resulting structures and improvements.

98 Development Review Committee: A review committee to whom a plan is referred  
99 under the requirements of this Chapter. The Committee consists of Planning  
100 Department Staff and staff of any County, State, and Federal agency; municipality;  
101 and utility company and meets with applicants to facilitate review of the plan.

102 Developer: see “Applicant”.

103 Development Rights: The potential for the improvement of a tract of land based on  
104 its zoning classification, measured in dwelling units or floor area.

105 Director: The Director of the Montgomery County Planning Department or such  
106 Director’s designee.

107 District or Regional District: The Maryland-Washington Regional District,  
108 established by the Land Use Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

109 E.

110 Easement: A grant or reservation by the owner of land for the use of all or a  
111 portion of the land to others, including the public, for a specific purpose or  
112 purposes. The easement must be included in the conveyance of the encumbered  
113 land. For platting under this Chapter, an easement area is included within the  
114 dimensions and areas of the lots through which the easement may run, and is not  
115 separated from the lot as in the case of a dedicated right-of-way.

116 Easement, Slope: An easement to permit the creation and maintenance of slopes  
117 necessary to stabilize construction or to stabilize lands adjacent to construction.

118 Enforcement Agent: The Director, or the Director’s designee responsible for  
119 determining compliance with a Planning Board Action.

120 Engineer: A professional engineer registered in Maryland.

121 Environmentally Sensitive Area: In this Chapter, environmentally sensitive areas  
122 are limited to: (a) slopes equal to or exceeding 25 percent, wetlands, streams, and  
123 associated buffers as defined in the latest version of the “Guidelines for  
124 Environmental Management of Development in Montgomery County”; and (b)  
125 critical habitats for threatened or endangered wildlife or plant species as defined in  
126 the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 08.03.08, or for species designated  
127 by the Maryland Wildlife and Heritage Service Natural Heritage Program,  
128 Department of Natural Resources as rare, watchlist, or in need of conservation.

129 F.

130 Floodplain: as defined in Chapter 19.

131 Floodplain, 100-year: as defined in Chapter 19.

132 G.

133 H.

134 I.

135 Improvements: Required public or private infrastructure needed to support the  
136 development, including the following: roads; alleys; grading; road pavement; curbs  
137 and gutters; sidewalks; pedestrian ways or paths; bicycle infrastructure, including  
138 bikeshare facilities; water mains; sanitary sewer lines; water supply and sewage

139 disposal; storm drain facilities; curb returns; sidewalk and driveway entrances in  
140 right-of-way; guard rails; retaining walls; sodding; planting; street trees;  
141 monuments; street lights; and stormwater management.

142 *Improvement, Public:* Any improvements located on land dedicated to the public  
143 or within a dedicated right-of-way or public improvement easement.

144 J.

145 K.

146 L.

147 *Licensed Land Surveyor:* A land surveyor who is licensed in the State to “practice  
148 land surveying” as such terms are defined in Maryland Business Occupations and  
149 Professions Code Ann. Section 15-101 (1995 Repl. Vol.), as amended.

150 *Limit of Disturbance Line:* A line designating an area beyond which land  
151 disturbance as defined in Chapter 19 is prohibited.

152 *Lot:* A discrete area of land that is described by a plat recorded in the land records  
153 for which the County Department of Permitting Services may issue a building  
154 permit.

155 *Lot, Ownership:* An area of land shown on a subdivision record plat created only  
156 for the convenience of the owner under Section 7.1.D of this Chapter that reflects a  
157 deed, mortgage, or lease line but does not subdivide the underlying lot.

158 M.

159 *Maryland Coordinate System:* The coordinate system defined in the Annotated  
160 Code of Maryland, Real Prop. §§14-401 through 14-407.

161 *Maryland-Washington Regional District in Montgomery County:* An area defined  
162 by the Land Use Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland as the entire County;  
163 however, subdivision, planning, and zoning matters within the jurisdictional  
164 boundaries of Brookeville, Poolesville, Laytonsville, Rockville, Barnesville,  
165 Gaithersburg, and Washington Grove are governed only by each municipality’s  
166 ordinance.

167 Master Plan: A plan of any portion of the General Plan that may consist of maps,  
168 data, and other descriptive matter that guides the physical development of the  
169 district or any portion of the district, including any amendments, extensions, or  
170 additions by the Commission, indicating the general locations for major roads,  
171 parks or other public spaces, public building sites, routes for public utilities, zones,  
172 or other similar information. Master plan includes a sector plan and any other type  
173 of master plan prepared by the Board and approved by the District Council. See  
174 Land Use Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

175 Mid-Block Right-of-Way: A dedicated or otherwise publicly accessible pedestrian  
176 or bike right-of-way within a block, which may include utilities where necessary,  
177 and from which motor vehicles are typically excluded.

178 Minor Subdivision: Creation of lots through the division, resubdivision, or  
179 assemblage of a lot, tract, or parcel of land, including minor adjustments to  
180 existing lot lines, that does not require the approval of a preliminary plan of  
181 subdivision. For the purpose of applying the State Growth Tier rules, a minor  
182 subdivision is separately defined in Section 4.3.F.3.a.i.

183 N.

184 Notice of Hearing: An administrative notice issued by the Director that notifies an  
185 alleged violator where and when an enforcement hearing will be held by the Board  
186 or the Board's designee to address an alleged violation.

187 Notice of Violation: A notice issued by an enforcement agent that notifies a  
188 recipient of a violation and specifies the remedial action that the recipient must  
189 take to avoid further enforcement action.

190 O.

191 Outlot: An area of land shown on a record plat that must not be occupied by a  
192 building or other structure requiring a building permit.

193 Owner: A person or other legal entity holding a legal title in the land, not including  
194 a mortgagee, lienor, lessee, or contract purchaser.

195 P.



196 Parcel, Unplatted: A contiguous area of land described only in a deed recorded in  
197 the land records and not included on a record plat.

198 Person: An individual, partnership, corporation, organization, other legal entity, or  
199 combination thereof that owns property or otherwise has an interest in a property.

200 Place of Worship: A meeting area for religious practices, including a church, a  
201 synagogue, a mosque, a convent, a temple, or a monastery.

202 Planning Board: see “Board”.

203 Planning Board Action: A final decision on a preliminary plan, site plan, project  
204 plan, sketch plan, water quality plan, or other plan, including all associated terms,  
205 conditions, requirements, and other obligations or limits, made by the Board under  
206 State law and Chapters 50 and 59, including any regulations issued under State or  
207 County law. For the purposes of an enforcement action, a Planning Board Action  
208 does not include a decision made by the Board under Chapter 22A.

209 Plat: A drawing depicting some or all of an approved subdivision, prepared and  
210 submitted under this Chapter, and intended for recording in the land records after  
211 approval by the Board. A plat may consist of one or more sequentially numbered  
212 sheets. See also “Record Plat”.

213 Preliminary Plan: A plan for a proposed subdivision prepared and submitted for  
214 Board approval before the preparation of a plat.

215 Pre-Preliminary Plan: A drawing for a proposed subdivision prepared and  
216 submitted for advice before the submission of a Preliminary Plan.

217 Q.

218 R.

219 Receiving Area: Land designated on the zoning map as qualified for more  
220 development than its base density through the transfer of development rights.

221 Record Plat: A plat of subdivision recorded in the land records under the  
222 requirements of this Chapter.

223 Resubdivision: A change to any lot line created by a previously recorded  
224 subdivision record plat. Resubdivision includes the assembly of recorded lots or  
225 parts of previously recorded lots. A resubdivision is a subdivision.

226 Right-of-Way: Land intended for the passage of people, vehicles, or utilities, as  
227 shown on a record plat. The maker of the plat must dedicate on the plat any right-  
228 of-way involving maintenance by a public agency to public use.

229 Road: Any street, highway, avenue, lane, alley, or viaduct, or any segment of any  
230 of them. Roads must be created by a subdivision plan under this Chapter and be  
231 shown on a record plat, or otherwise be deemed a road by Chapter 49.

232 Road, Centerline of: A line established as a centerline of a road by any State,  
233 County, or other official agency or governing body with jurisdiction and shown on  
234 an officially adopted plan or recorded plat. In the absence of an official centerline,  
235 the Board must establish the centerline.

236 Road Design and Construction Code: Article 3 of Chapter 49 and any regulation  
237 which implements and amends that Article.

238 S.

239 State: The State of Maryland.

240 Stop Work Order: An administrative order issued by an enforcement agent that  
241 requires a person to discontinue any further development, construction, or other  
242 land disturbance activity authorized by a Planning Board Action until a violation  
243 has been corrected.

244 Subdivider: see “Applicant”.

245 Subdivision (v.): The division or assemblage of a lot, tract, or parcel of land into  
246 one or more lots or parcels or other divisions for the purpose, whether immediate  
247 or future, of sale or development. The definition of subdivision does not include a  
248 bona fide division of exclusively agricultural land not for development purposes or  
249 the creation of an ownership lot. A resubdivision is a subdivision.

250 Subdivision (n.): The land or area subdivided.

251 Subdivision Regulations: Chapter 50 of the Montgomery County Code, also  
252 referred to as this Chapter.

253 Subdivision Staging Policy: The resolution or guidelines adopted by the District  
254 Council to determine the adequacy of public facilities and services.

255 T.

256 Tract: A contiguous area of land, including all proposed and existing rights-of-  
257 way, lots, parcels, and other land dedicated or donated in fee by the owner or a  
258 predecessor in title. A tract does not include land conveyed to a government for  
259 more than nominal consideration.

260 Turnaround: The termination of a road in the approximate shape of a “T”, built to  
261 allow vehicles to reverse direction using a 3-point turn.

262 U.

263 V.

264 W.

265 Water Quality Plan: A plan, including supporting documents, required as part of a  
266 water quality review under Chapter 19 for certain projects located in a special  
267 protection area.

268 WMATA: The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

269 WSSC: The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission.

270 X.

271 Y.

272 Z.

273 **Division 50.3. General Requirements**

274 **Section 3.1. Applicability of the Chapter**

275 This Chapter applies to any subdivision of land within Montgomery County  
276 located within the Maryland-Washington Regional District, except for:

- 277 A. Any municipal corporation listed in Section 20-701 of the Land Use Article  
278 in the Maryland Code; and
- 279 B. A good faith division of exclusively agricultural land that is not made for  
280 development purposes.

281 **Section 3.2. Record Plat Required**

- 282 A. Any subdivision of land must be included on a plat approved by the Board  
283 and recorded in the land records before transfer of any part of the subdivided  
284 land.
- 285 B. The County Department of Permitting Services may only issue a building  
286 permit for the construction of a building located on a lot or parcel shown on  
287 a plat recorded in the County Land Records.

288 **Section 3.3. Exemptions to the Requirements of this Chapter**

- 289 A. An approved preliminary plan and recording of a plat under this Chapter are  
290 not required for the division or conveyance of unplatted land in the  
291 following instances:
- 292 1. Court action. Partition of land through action of a court of competent  
293 jurisdiction.
- 294 2. Utility rights-of-way. Land used as part of an electric transmission line  
295 right-of-way or other public utility right-of-way.
- 296 3. Advanced dedication or donation of master planned rights-of-way.
- 297 B. Recordation of a plat before issuance of a building permit is not required for:
- 298 1. Certain uses on agricultural land:
- 299 a. a dwelling unit on an unplatted parcel of agricultural land at  
300 least 25 acres in size, if density and development rights are  
301 available;
- 302 b. conditional uses associated with agriculture and approved under  
303 Chapter 59, unless a subdivision is required as a condition of  
304 the approval; and

- 305           c.     any equestrian facility or other agricultural building on land  
306                     classified in the Agricultural Reserve zone.
- 307           2.     Public transfer. A part of a lot previously shown on a record plat that  
308                     was created by transfer of part of the lot for public use by reference to  
309                     a recorded instrument, if the outlines and dimensions of such  
310                     remainder can be determined by reference to the previously recorded  
311                     plat. This provision also applies to any property that qualified for an  
312                     exemption under this Section before the transfer.
- 313           3.     Adjoining property. A part of a lot created by deed recorded before  
314                     May 19, 1997 between owners of adjoining platted properties for the  
315                     purpose of small adjustments in boundaries. This applies only to an  
316                     adjustment that was less than either a total of 2,000 square feet or one  
317                     percent of the combined area, if additional lots were not created and  
318                     the total area of resulting ownership was not reduced below the  
319                     minimum size required by this Chapter or by Chapter 59.
- 320           4.     Property for Single-Unit Living:
- 321           a.     One detached house on a parcel not previously included on a  
322                     record plat, or a part of a previously platted lot, which has not  
323                     changed in size or shape since June 1, 1958, if a description and  
324                     location of the property and proposed structure are submitted to  
325                     the Planning Department, before issuance of a building permit,  
326                     sufficient to:
- 327           i.     locate the property on the tax maps of Montgomery  
328                     County;
- 329           ii.    show that the approval of the building permit application  
330                     would not result in obstructing the future opening,  
331                     extension, or widening of any necessary road, or  
332                     otherwise jeopardize any planned public facility;
- 333           iii.   show that the property and use comply with the zoning  
334                     ordinance, and show the setbacks and any other  
335                     information needed to check compliance with

- 336 regulations, including establishment of a building  
337 restriction line along any existing or proposed road  
338 sufficient to provide for future expansion or opening of  
339 such road to its ultimate width; and
- 340 iv. show that the approval of the permit would not adversely  
341 affect the General Plan.
- 342 b. Reconstruction of an existing detached house under Chapter 59,  
343 Section 7.7.1.
- 344 5. Telecommunications facilities. Telecommunications towers/antennas,  
345 including associated accessory structures.
- 346 6. Certain residential property in the City of Takoma Park. Property  
347 located in the portion of the City of Takoma Park annexed into  
348 Montgomery County on July 1, 1997 that was recorded by a deed  
349 before January 1, 1982 and remains otherwise buildable under the  
350 Prince George’s County Zoning and Subdivision Regulations on June  
351 30, 1997, if a description and locational survey drawing of the  
352 property and proposed structure are submitted to locate them on the  
353 tax map of Montgomery County.
- 354 7. Certain commercial properties adjoining State highways. An addition  
355 to a building on property zoned for commercial uses:
- 356 a. adjoining a State highway;
- 357 b. located within a State-approved Community Legacy Plan Area  
358 on October 30, 2012;
- 359 c. with less than 10,000 square feet of gross floor area on October  
360 30, 2012, where subsequent building permits cumulatively  
361 allow increases in total gross floor area by less than 2,000  
362 square feet; and
- 363 d. that includes a description and boundary survey drawing of the  
364 property and proposed structure at a 1-inch-equals-50-foot scale  
365 or another appropriate scale as determined by the Director that

366 demonstrates that the additional floor area will not extend into  
367 any adopted master plan road right-of-way.

368 8. Certain commercial properties adjoining State highways in Rural  
369 Village Overlay zones. An addition, reconstruction, or replacement of  
370 a building on commercially zoned property:

371 a. adjoining a State highway;

372 b. located in the Rural Village Overlay zone;

373 c. with less than 10,000 square feet of existing gross floor area  
374 where later building permits cumulatively allow net increases in  
375 total gross floor area of less than 2,000 square feet;

376 d. that includes a description and boundary survey drawing of the  
377 property and proposed structure on a 1-inch-equals-50-foot  
378 scale or another appropriate scale, as determined by the  
379 Director, showing that the additional floor area will not extend  
380 into any adopted master plan road right-of-way; and

381 e. that is submitted within one year after demolition or destruction  
382 of the previous building was substantially completed.

383 **Section 3.4. Approving Authority**

384 The Board administers this Chapter.

385 **Section 3.5. Effect of Chapter on Other Ordinances**

386 This Chapter does not repeal or modify or otherwise affect any other ordinance,  
387 resolution, rule, or regulation of the County; however, wherever this Chapter  
388 imposes more stringent requirements, the provisions of this Chapter must prevail.

389 **Section 3.6. Submission Procedures for Subdivision Plans**

390 A. The Board will consider subdivision of land as follows:

391 1. Except for an administrative or minor subdivision under Divisions  
392 50.6 and 50.7, the subdivider must submit a complete preliminary  
393 plan application form and payment of the required fee.

- 394           2. The plat of all or part of an approved subdivision plan must be  
395           submitted with required supporting data and documents, a completed  
396           application form, and payment of the required fee.
- 397    B. *Subdivision of part of a tract.* The Director may reject a subdivision plan  
398           application for part of a tract if the size and shape of the property as  
399           submitted prevent designing a plan that will meet standards established by  
400           these regulations, and require all or a larger part of the tract to be platted to  
401           meet this Chapter, Chapter 49, or other laws or regulations.
- 402    C. *Area within pending zoning map amendments.* The Director may reject a  
403           subdivision plan if all or any part of the plan lies within the boundaries of a  
404           pending amendment to the zoning map. The subdivider may resubmit the  
405           plan immediately after the final disposition of the pending amendment. This  
406           Subsection must not apply if any map amendment is still pending 6 months  
407           after the date of the submission of the plan.
- 408    D. *Area within pending master plan.* The Board may defer action on a proposed  
409           subdivision plan application, if all or any part of the plan is located in the  
410           boundaries of a pending master plan or master plan amendment. For  
411           purposes of this Section, a pending master plan or master plan amendment is  
412           the public hearing draft master plan or master plan amendment.
- 413           1. The subdivider may resubmit a proposed subdivision plan deferred  
414           under this Section to the Board either:
- 415                    a. after the final disposition by the District Council of the pending  
416                    master plan or master plan amendment; or
- 417                    b. no later than 12 months from the date the Board approves the  
418                    public hearing draft master plan or master plan amendment,  
419                    unless there is a determination by the Board that the subdivision  
420                    plan application presents a substantial conflict with the  
421                    proposed public hearing draft master plan or master plan  
422                    amendment, in which case the Board may defer a subdivision  
423                    plan application for a maximum of 18 months from the date the  
424                    Board approves the public hearing draft master plan or master



425 plan amendment, but in no event beyond the period in  
426 Subsection (a).

427 **Article II. Subdivision Plans**

428 **Division 50.4. Preliminary Plan**

429 Except for an administrative or minor subdivision submitted under Divisions 50.6  
430 and 50.7, the subdivider must submit a proposed subdivision to the Board for  
431 approval in the form of a preliminary plan before the submission of a plat. The  
432 plan must show graphically, and supporting documents must demonstrate, the data  
433 needed for the Board to make the findings required by this Article.

434 **Section 4.1. Filing and Specifications**

435 **A. Application and fee.**

436 1. The subdivider must file the preliminary plan with the Board, together  
437 with the completed application form, supporting information, and  
438 payment of the required fee.

439 2. The subdivider must own the property or be authorized by the owner  
440 to file the application.

441 3. If property is owned or controlled by the State, Montgomery County,  
442 or another political subdivision, government entity or agency, or  
443 WMATA, the subdivider must obtain authorization from the  
444 government entity, agency or WMATA to include the property as part  
445 of the subdivision.

446 **B. The drawing.** The subdivider must submit a preliminary plan drawing in a  
447 form required by regulations of the Board. Details and information must  
448 include:

449 1. scaled drawing of at least 100 feet to the inch, or as specified by the  
450 Director;

451 2. title block information;

- 452           3.     certificate of registered professional engineer and licensed land  
453                 surveyor to affirm the accuracy of boundary lines, topographic data,  
454                 and other engineering or survey data;
- 455           4.     locations and names of abutting and confronting subdivisions with lot,  
456                 block, and record plat number of subdivided land, and deed references  
457                 for unplatted land;
- 458           5.     existing scenic easements, scenic vistas designated by the Rustic  
459                 Roads Plan, or designated historic resources;
- 460           6.     vicinity location map; and
- 461           7.     graphic representation of the proposed subdivision, including:
- 462                 a.     bearings referenced to the Maryland Coordinate System, except  
463                         that an application filed to correct an approved preliminary plan  
464                         may be referenced to the plat meridian used on the original  
465                         approved preliminary plan or the record plat;
- 466                 b.     lot and block layout;
- 467                 c.     all roads labeled as public or private with construction details.  
468                         The subdivider must show the applicable Chapter 49 design  
469                         standards or typical sections for the proposed roads and must  
470                         list any proposed modifications;
- 471                 d.     location of existing and proposed utilities;
- 472                 e.     existing topography with contour intervals of 5 feet or less;
- 473                 f.     location and width of existing and proposed pedestrian and  
474                         bicycle facilities, including sidewalks, shared-use paths and on-  
475                         road bicycle lanes and connections to existing off-site facilities;
- 476                 g.     sites for public uses and open spaces;
- 477                 h.     location, type, and width of all existing and proposed rights-of-  
478                         way and easements, including roads, slopes, paths, utilities, on-  
479                         and off-site storm drainage, and other improvements;

- 480 i. the proposed use of all lots on the preliminary plan and the  
481 scaled dimensions and approximate area of each use;
- 482 j. lines showing the limits of each zone, if the property is located  
483 in more than one zone; and
- 484 k. all existing topography, structures, and paving within 100 feet  
485 of adjoining properties.

486 C. Supporting information.

- 487 1. An approved Natural Resources Inventory/Forest Stand Delineation.
- 488 2. A preliminary forest conservation plan or forest conservation  
489 exemption.
- 490 3. Verification from the County and other applicable agencies showing  
491 payment of any required fees in connection with the County's review  
492 process.
- 493 4. Concept road grade and profile. A registered engineer or registered  
494 professional land surveyor must prepare conceptual road grade and  
495 profile plan according to the design criteria of Chapter 49 and indicate  
496 the percentage of tangent grades, lengths of crest and sag, vertical  
497 curves and elevations, and elevations of all intersecting roads. The  
498 plan must indicate the direction of water flow. Where the topography  
499 makes the determination of the adequacy of the road grades difficult,  
500 the Director may require additional supporting information.
- 501 5. Storm drainage capacity and impact analysis. The concept road grade  
502 plan must be supported by a preliminary storm drain study prepared  
503 under the County's storm drain specifications.
- 504 6. Sight distance evaluation for all proposed driveways and proposed  
505 road intersections prepared under the criteria of the applicable State or  
506 County transportation agency.

- 507           7.     Wells and septic systems. For lots located in areas where the  
508                     subdivider proposes the installation of individual wells and septic  
509                     systems, the preliminary plan must also show:
- 510                     a.     the proposed locations of water wells for each lot and existing  
511                             wells on the property and within 100 feet of the property;
- 512                     b.     a circular area with a radius of 100 feet around each well to  
513                             denote clear space in which no final sewage system is to be  
514                             located;
- 515                     c.     the “usable area” for sewage disposal that satisfies the  
516                             Executive Regulations for on-site sewage disposal;
- 517                     d.     any existing sewage disposal systems on the property and  
518                             within 100 feet of the property;
- 519                     e.     wetlands, rock outcrops, and floodplains; and
- 520                     f.     a 10-foot zone surrounding the water service line to buildings,  
521                             free and clear of any sewer lines, systems, or part thereof.
- 522           8.     Phasing schedule.
- 523                     a.     The preliminary plan approval establishes the plan validity and  
524                             adequate public facilities validity periods for the entire project.
- 525                     b.     Where the subdivider proposes a phased project that will  
526                             cumulatively exceed the minimum validity periods under  
527                             Sections 4.2.G.2.a and 4.3.J.5.a, the applicant must submit a  
528                             recording and construction phasing schedule as part of the  
529                             preliminary plan for approval by the Board. The schedule must  
530                             indicate the portions of the preliminary plan for which record  
531                             plats and building permits will be obtained during each of the  
532                             proposed phases, up to the expiration of the maximum adequate  
533                             public facilities validity period under Section 4.3.J.5.a.
- 534                     c.     When applicable, the phasing schedule must identify the timing  
535                             for the completion of construction and conveyance to unit

536 owners of such things as common open areas and recreational  
537 facilities. In addition, the phasing schedule must indicate the  
538 timing for the provision of moderately priced dwelling units,  
539 and infrastructure improvements associated with each phase.  
540 The subdivider must design such a phasing schedule to  
541 minimize dependence on features (other than community-wide  
542 facilities) that will be provided in subsequent phases and have  
543 minimal impact during construction on phases already built and  
544 occupied.

545 d. If a phasing plan for a preliminary plan included land or  
546 building space that the County accepted for an arts or  
547 entertainment use under Section 59-C-6.2356 of the zoning  
548 ordinance in effect on October 29, 2014, approval of a site plan  
549 under Section 59-7.3.4 for the phase containing that land or  
550 building space validates all remaining phases of the preliminary  
551 plan and the project plan for the purpose of Section 59-D-2.7(b)  
552 of the zoning ordinance in effect on October 29, 2014.

553 9. Transfer of development rights.

554 a. A preliminary plan for a property located in a receiving area  
555 that proposes to increase the density of the property by using  
556 transferred development rights must indicate:

557 i. the number of lots permitted for the tract by zoning  
558 without the use of density increases as allowed by  
559 Transferable Development Rights (TDR) or the  
560 Moderately Priced Dwelling Unit (MPDU) programs;

561 ii. the number of development rights to be conveyed to the  
562 receiving property;

563 iii. the number of Moderately Priced Dwelling Units to be  
564 provided as required by Chapter 25A;

565 iv. the total density, in dwelling units, of the proposed  
566 subdivision; and

- 567 v. the density recommended by the adopted master plan.
- 568 b. A preliminary plan that uses transferable development rights in  
569 the Rural Residential and Residential zones must include at  
570 least two-thirds of the number of development rights permitted  
571 to be transferred to the property under the appropriate master  
572 plan. However, the Board may reduce the two-thirds  
573 requirement if it finds the reduction is more appropriate for  
574 environmental or compatibility reasons.
- 575 10. Draft Traffic Mitigation Agreement. A preliminary plan application  
576 for property located in a Transportation Management District (TMD),  
577 designated under Chapter 42A, Article II, must contain a draft Traffic  
578 Mitigation Agreement (TMAg) that meets the requirements of that  
579 Article.
- 580 D. Application processing.
- 581 1. The applicant must submit an initial application to the Director. The  
582 Director must review the application for completeness within 10 days  
583 after receipt. An application is incomplete if any required element is  
584 missing or is facially defective, e.g., a drawing that is not to scale. The  
585 assessment of completeness must not address the merits of the  
586 application.
- 587 2. The applicant must submit any required revisions to the Director. The  
588 Director must review the revised application for completeness within  
589 10 days after receipt.
- 590 3. After the Director verifies that the application is complete, or if the  
591 review is not completed within 10 days after receipt, the Director will  
592 accept the application and establish a hearing date under Section  
593 4.1.E.
- 594 4. Public notice is required per a regulation approved under Section 10.1.
- 595 E. Hearing date. The Board must schedule a public hearing to begin within 120  
596 days after the date the Director accepts an application. The Director may

597 postpone the public hearing by up to 30 days once without Board approval.  
598 The Director or applicant may request one or more extensions beyond the  
599 original 30 days with Board approval. The Board must notice the public  
600 hearing and indicate the new hearing date on the Board’s agenda.

601 **Section 4.2. Approval Procedure**

602 A. Referral of plan. After accepting an application, the Director must send a  
603 copy to the Development Review Committee and other reviewing bodies,  
604 requesting each agency to submit a recommendation concerning the plan.  
605 The Director must send copies, as needed, to:

- 606 1. WSSC, for water and sewer service;
- 607 2. the County Department of Transportation, for roads, streets, paths,  
608 pedestrian and bicycle facilities (including bike share), parking, transit  
609 facilities, transportation demand management elements, and storm  
610 drainage within County-maintained rights-of-way and easements;
- 611 3. the County Department of Permitting Services, for stormwater  
612 management, floodplain delineation, sanitation, wells, and septic  
613 systems;
- 614 4. the County Department of Environmental Protection, for water and  
615 sewer adequacy and tree variances;
- 616 5. Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service, for requirements for  
617 adequate fire protection and access;
- 618 6. the State Highway Administration, for right-of-way requirements and  
619 access on state roads;
- 620 7. any appropriate agency of the federal government;
- 621 8. any municipality that has filed a request with the Board for an  
622 opportunity to review subdivision or resubdivision plans for property  
623 located in that municipality;
- 624 9. Montgomery County Public Schools, for school site planning;

625           10. any other Montgomery County Executive agency, for the adequacy of  
626           public facilities and services and any proposed public use; and

627           11. local utility providers.

628    B. *Review and recommendation.*

629           1. *Timing of review.*

630           a.    Reviewing State and County agencies and utilities must get a  
631           minimum of 14 days to review plans and must submit initial  
632           comments to the Director before the Development Review  
633           Committee meeting when one is scheduled.

634           b.    The applicant must submit revised drawings at least 65 days  
635           before the date of the hearing to address all comments received.  
636           The Director may extend the deadline if the applicant submits a  
637           written request within 15 days after the revised drawings were  
638           due. If no written request is received or if the requested  
639           extension is not granted, the application is deemed withdrawn.

640           c.    State and County agencies and utilities must each submit their  
641           final recommendations on the application at least 45 days  
642           before the date of the Board hearing or must request an  
643           extension.

644           2. *Approvals from public agencies.* The following agency approvals are  
645           needed before the Board approves the preliminary plan:

646           a.    *Design of County-maintained roads.* The County Department of  
647           Transportation must approve in preliminary form the typical  
648           section, concept road profile, intersection and site access  
649           locations, sight distances, utility location, and storm drain  
650           adequacy for improvements along County-maintained roads  
651           and paths;

652           b.    *Wells and septic systems.* The County Department of Permitting  
653           Services must approve lots with individual wells or septic  
654           systems, the well, and septic plan;



- 655 c. Stormwater management. The County Department of  
656 Permitting Services must approve a stormwater management  
657 concept and floodplain delineation, if required under Chapter  
658 19;
  
- 659 d. Water Quality Plan. If a water quality plan is required under  
660 Chapter 19, the Board must not approve a preliminary plan or  
661 any extension until all requirements of Chapter 19 for plan  
662 approval are satisfied. The Board must make the compliance  
663 with a required water quality plan, including any plan reviewed  
664 on a preliminary or final basis, a condition of any approved  
665 preliminary plan; and
  
- 666 e. Water and sewer service. If water and sewer are proposed to  
667 serve the property, the Board may approve a preliminary plan  
668 only if WSSC agrees with the proposed water and sewer service  
669 layout.

670 3. Director. The Director must publish a report and recommendation at  
671 least 10 days before the Board hearing.

672 C. Planning Board Action.

673 1. The Director must present every preliminary plan to the Board for its  
674 review and action. The Board must take one of the following actions  
675 or defer action to obtain more information:

676 a. approve, if the plan conforms to the purposes and other  
677 requirements of this Chapter;

678 b. approve, with any conditions or modifications necessary to  
679 bring the proposed development into compliance with all  
680 applicable requirements; or

681 c. deny, if the plan is contrary to the purposes and other  
682 requirements of this Chapter.

683 2. All necessary improvements to support the development must be  
684 completed or assured, as specified in Section 10.2.

- 685           3.     Where a site plan is required, the approval of the preliminary plan  
686           must not allow clearing or grading to occur before approval of the site  
687           plan, unless otherwise specified by the Board.
- 688           4.     The Board must approve a resolution containing findings supporting  
689           its decision. Following approval of a preliminary plan by the Board,  
690           no agency may require a substantial change in the plan unless allowed  
691           by the Board’s conditions of approval or a plan amendment under  
692           Section 4.2.F.
- 693    D.     Required Findings. To approve a preliminary plan, the Board must find that:
- 694           1.     the preliminary plan substantially conforms to the master plan;
- 695           2.     public facilities will be adequate to support and service the area of the  
696           subdivision;
- 697           3.     the layout of the subdivision, including size, width, shape, orientation  
698           and density of lots, and location and design of roads are appropriate  
699           for the subdivision given its location and the type of development or  
700           use contemplated, considering the recommendations included in the  
701           master plan and the applicable requirements of Chapter 59;
- 702           4.     all Forest Conservation Law, Chapter 22A requirements are satisfied;
- 703           5.     all stormwater management, water quality plan, and floodplain  
704           requirements of Chapter 19 are satisfied; and
- 705           6.     any other applicable provision specific to the property and necessary  
706           for approval of the subdivision is satisfied.
- 707    E.     Plan Certification. Every preliminary plan approved by the Board must be  
708           certified by the Director to confirm that the plan reflects the Board’s  
709           approval. Any modification of the plan conditioned by the Board’s approval  
710           must be included in the plan before receiving the approval stamp. The  
711           approved plan must be filed in the records of the Board.
- 712    F.     Amendments.

- 713           1.    A major amendment to an approved preliminary plan must follow the  
714                    same procedures, meet the same criteria, and satisfy the same  
715                    requirements as the original preliminary plan.
- 716            a.    A major amendment includes any requests to change density; or  
717                    make major changes to lot configuration or location, or right-  
718                    of-way width or alignment; or make a change to any condition  
719                    of approval, except a change to validity period phasing as  
720                    permitted in Section 4.2.F.2.
- 721           2.    A minor amendment to an approved preliminary plan must follow the  
722                    same procedures, meet the same criteria, and satisfy the same  
723                    requirements as the original preliminary plan, except as modified  
724                    under Section 4.2.F.2.b.
- 725            a.    A minor amendment to an approved preliminary plan includes  
726                    any change that does not change density; make major changes  
727                    to lot configuration or location, or right-of-way width or  
728                    alignment; or alter the intent, objectives, or requirements of the  
729                    Board in approving the preliminary plan.
- 730            b.    The Board may approve a minor preliminary plan amendment  
731                    without a public hearing if the Director publishes a report and  
732                    recommendation on the amendment a minimum of 10 days  
733                    before the Board meeting. The Director may also approve a  
734                    minor amendment to change validity period phasing as  
735                    permitted in Section 4.2.H.1.b.

736    G.    Plan Validity.

- 737           1.    Initiation date. The plan validity period for preliminary plans starts on  
738                    the later of:
- 739            a.    30 days from the date of mailing indicated on the written  
740                    resolution; or
- 741            b.    if an administrative appeal is timely noted by any party  
742                    authorized to file an appeal, the date upon which the court

743 having final jurisdiction acts, including the running of any  
744 further applicable appeal periods.

745 2. Duration.

746 a. Single-phase project.

747 i. A preliminary plan approved after March 31, 2009 and  
748 before April 1, 2017 remains valid for 60 months after its  
749 initiation date.

750 ii. A preliminary plan approved after March 31, 2017  
751 remains valid for 36 months after its initiation date.

752 b. Multi-phase project.

753 i. An approved preliminary plan for a multi-phase project  
754 remains valid for the period of time allowed in the  
755 phasing schedule approved by the Board.

756 ii. The applicant must propose a phasing schedule and the  
757 duration of the validity period for each phase as part of  
758 an application for preliminary plan approval or  
759 amendment. The Board must assign each phase a validity  
760 period after considering the size, type, and location of the  
761 project.

762 iii. The time allocated to any phase must be 60 months or  
763 less after the initiation date for that particular phase for  
764 any preliminary plan approved after March 31, 2009, but  
765 before April 1, 2017, and 36 months after the initiation  
766 date for that particular phase for any preliminary plan  
767 approved after March 31, 2017.

768 iv. The cumulative validity period of all phases must be  
769 shorter than or equal to the APFO validity period which  
770 begins on the initiation date of the first preliminary plan  
771 approval, including any extension granted under Section  
772 4.3.J.7.

773 v. If the recordation of an approved preliminary plan occurs  
774 within 5 years of approval for a multi-phase project that  
775 includes land or building space to be transferred to the  
776 County for an arts or entertainment use under Section 59-  
777 C-6.2356 of the zoning ordinance in effect on October  
778 29, 2014, all phases of the preliminary plan are validated.  
779 After approval, an amendment or modification to the  
780 phasing plan or the preliminary plan will not affect the  
781 validations if the requirements of this Subsection have  
782 otherwise been met.

783 3. Validation. A preliminary plan or phase of a preliminary plan is  
784 validated when the applicant has secured all government approvals  
785 necessary to record a plat, and a plat for all property shown on the  
786 plan or in that phase has been recorded in the County Land Records.

787 4. Effect of a preliminary plan amendment on validity period. For any  
788 action taken by the Board to amend a previously approved preliminary  
789 plan, the Board will determine, on a case-by-case basis, whether it  
790 should extend the validity period and, if so, for what duration. In  
791 making the determination, the Board must consider the nature and  
792 scope of the requested amendment.

793 H. Extension of plan validity period.

794 1. Extension request.

795 a. The Board must receive a request to extend the validity period  
796 of an approved preliminary plan in writing before the  
797 previously established validity period expires. Only the Board  
798 is authorized to extend the validity period.

799 b. The Director may approve a request to amend the validity  
800 period phasing schedule of an approved preliminary plan if the  
801 length of the total validity period of the preliminary plan is not  
802 extended. The Director must receive the request in writing

803 before the previously established validity period of the phase  
804 expires.

805 c. The written request must detail all reasons to support the  
806 extension request and include the anticipated date by which the  
807 plan will be validated. The applicant must certify that the  
808 requested extension is the minimum additional time required to  
809 record all plats for the preliminary plan.

810 2. Effect of timing.

811 a. The failure to submit a written extension request in a timely  
812 fashion voids all non-validated portions of the preliminary plan  
813 and, where applicable, an approved site plan.

814 b. Where a preliminary plan has been allowed to expire due to the  
815 applicant's failure to file a timely request for extension, the  
816 Board may reinstate the preliminary plan and establish a new  
817 validity period if practical difficulty or undue hardship is  
818 demonstrated by the applicant. The Board may require the  
819 applicant to get a new APFO review and approval by the Board  
820 as a prerequisite or condition of its action to extend an expired  
821 plan.

822 3. Grounds for extension.

823 a. The Board may only grant a request to extend the validity  
824 period of a preliminary plan if the Board finds that:

825 i. delays by the government or some other party after the  
826 plan approval have prevented the applicant from meeting  
827 terms or conditions of the plan approval and validating  
828 the plan, provided such delays are not caused by the  
829 applicant; or

830 ii. the occurrence of significant, unusual and unanticipated  
831 events, beyond the applicant's control and not caused by  
832 the applicant, have substantially impaired the applicant's

833 ability to validate the plan, and exceptional or undue  
834 hardship (as evidenced, in part, by the efforts undertaken  
835 by the applicant to implement the terms and conditions of  
836 the plan approval in order to validate the plan) would  
837 result to the applicant if the plan were not extended.

838 b. The applicant bears the burden of establishing the grounds in  
839 support of the requested extension.

840 4. Planning Board considerations for extension.

841 a. The Board may condition the grant of an extension on a  
842 requirement that the applicant revise the plan to conform with  
843 changes to the requirements of this Chapter since the plan was  
844 approved.

845 b. The Board may deny the extension request if it finds that the  
846 project, as approved and conditioned, is no longer viable. The  
847 Board must consider whether the project is capable of being  
848 financed, constructed, and marketed within a reasonable time  
849 frame. The Applicant must demonstrate the project's viability  
850 upon request by the Board or the Director.

851 5. Planning Board action.

852 a. After a public hearing for which notice was duly given, the  
853 Board must determine whether it should grant a request for an  
854 extension. The requirements for noticing and conducting a  
855 public hearing must follow the requirements for a preliminary  
856 plan.

857 b. If voting to approve an extension, the Board must only grant the  
858 minimum time it deems necessary for the applicant to validate  
859 the plan.

860 c. The Board may only grant an extension to a preliminary plan  
861 within the plan's APFO validity period, unless a further  
862 extension is allowed by law.

- 863           d.     An applicant may request, and the Board may approve, more  
864           than one extension.
- 865           e.     Once a phasing schedule is approved by the Board as part of a  
866           preliminary plan approval, the Board must treat any revision or  
867           alteration to the schedule other than an amendment approved  
868           under Section 4.3.J.7 as a minor amendment to the preliminary  
869           plan. Board approval of a revised phasing schedule is required  
870           to extend the total length of the validity period.
- 871    I.     *Effect of failure to timely validate plan or secure an extension.*
- 872           1.     If a preliminary plan is not timely validated in whole or in part before  
873           the expiration of the validity period, any remaining portion of the plan  
874           expires. For multi-phased plans, the failure on the part of an applicant  
875           to timely validate a phase, in whole or in part, voids the balance of the  
876           preliminary plan approval for that phase and all subsequent non-  
877           validated phases.
- 878           2.     In those instances where an applicant has timely validated only a  
879           portion of a plan and no extension is granted, the applicant seeking to  
880           develop only that portion of the project remains responsible for fully  
881           complying with all of the terms, conditions, and other requirements  
882           associated with the portion of the plan approval that has been  
883           implemented.
- 884           3.     If a preliminary plan or a phase of the plan is not timely validated, any  
885           APFO determination made by the Board associated with the expired  
886           portion of the preliminary plan also expires. In such event, the  
887           applicant loses any further rights to claim any vehicle trips associated  
888           with the expired APFO approval. The filing of a new preliminary plan  
889           application does not provide the basis for reclaiming vehicle trips lost  
890           by the termination of the APFO approval.
- 891           4.     A preliminary plan approval conditionally linked to a sketch plan or  
892           project plan approval under Chapter 59 expires if the sketch plan or  
893           project plan expires.



894 **J.** Revocation of approval.

895 1. The Board may revoke approval of a preliminary plan by resolution at  
896 any time before the Board approves the final plat covering the  
897 proposed preliminary plan.

898 2. To revoke a preliminary plan approval, except in response to a  
899 violation of this Chapter, the Board must find that completing a  
900 portion of the plan has been rendered impractical by reason of an  
901 amendment to the General Plan, or by a conflict with a proposed  
902 public improvement or other conditions or circumstances not  
903 previously considered by the Board that make the plan contrary to  
904 public health, safety, or welfare.

905 3. The Board must give a subdivider notice and an opportunity to be  
906 heard by the Board before taking any action to revoke approval of a  
907 preliminary plan by sending the owner and subdivider a notice by  
908 certified mail at least 30 days before the date of the proposed action  
909 and giving the time and place of the hearing. The notice must state the  
910 reasons for the proposed revocation.

911 **Section 4.3. Technical Review**

912 In making the findings under Section 4.2.D, the Board must review the following  
913 technical aspects of the application.

914 **A.** Relation to master plan.

915 1. In determining whether to approve a preliminary plan, the Board must  
916 consider the applicable master plan or Urban Renewal Plan. A  
917 preliminary plan must substantially conform to the applicable master  
918 plan or Urban Renewal Plan, including maps and text. However, if a  
919 site plan is not required under Chapter 59, Article 59-7.3.4, the Board  
920 may find that events have occurred to render the relevant master plan  
921 or Urban Renewal Plan recommendation no longer appropriate.

922 2. A preliminary plan that requires a site plan approval under Chapter  
923 59, Article 59-7.3.4 may exceed any dwelling unit per acre or floor

924 area ratio (FAR) limit recommended in a master plan, as provided in  
925 Chapter 59, to permit construction of all MPDUs under Chapter 25A,  
926 or workforce housing units required under Chapter 59 or Chapter  
927 29A.

928 B. *Block design.*

929 1. *Residential blocks.* The Board must approve the length, width, and  
930 shape of any residential block as follows:

931 a. *Length.* The length of a residential block must be compatible  
932 with existing development patterns and the land use goals for  
933 the area of the subdivision. The maximum length of a block is  
934 1,600 feet.

935 b. *Width.* Blocks must be designed with sufficient width to  
936 provide 2 tiers of lots. The Board may approve exceptions to  
937 block width design for blocks adjacent to heavy traffic ways,  
938 railroads, streams, drainage courses, or for land uses where it is  
939 appropriate to establish blocks with 1 tier of lots.

940 c. *Pedestrian paths.* The Board may require paths for pedestrian  
941 access to schools, playgrounds, parks, and other public areas  
942 and through long blocks.

943 d. *Multi-unit or apartment blocks.* The Board must review and  
944 approve the design and arrangement of access roads within a  
945 subdivision for multi-unit or apartment dwellings, together with  
946 the required parking facilities and pedestrian walks, to  
947 determine that resulting blocks are a suitable length and width  
948 for pedestrian and vehicle circulation.

949 2. *Nonresidential blocks.* The Board must determine if the blocks  
950 designed for business or industry are a suitable length and width,  
951 including adequate provision for pedestrians, parking, deliveries, and  
952 truck maneuvering.

953 C. *Lot design.*



985 adjoining the alley or right-of-way to provide for a parallel side  
986 building restriction line 15 feet from the alley or right-of-way.

987 D. Public sites and adequate open spaces. A preliminary plan must provide for  
988 required public sites and adequate open space areas.

989 1. Master planned sites. When a tract being subdivided includes a  
990 proposed site for a park, playground, school, or other public use  
991 recommended in the applicable master plan, and that use is deemed  
992 necessary by the Board and applicable public agency, the preliminary  
993 plan must show the site for the use for dedication or acquisition and  
994 subsequent record plat. Land that is not dedicated may be acquired by  
995 donation, purchase, or condemnation, or reserved under Subsection 5.

996 2. Local recreation. The Board must require platting and dedication to  
997 public use of adequate spaces for recreation wherever it is reasonable  
998 to do so, considering the recommendations in the applicable master  
999 plan, the circumstances existing where a subdivision is located, and  
1000 the size and character of the subdivision. The subdivider may be  
1001 required to provide what is determined by the Board to be an area  
1002 relevant to the recreational needs of the present and future inhabitants  
1003 of the subdivision. Whenever the necessary recreational area is larger  
1004 than the subdivider is required to dedicate, the balance of the needed  
1005 area must be reserved for acquisition under Subsection 5.

1006 3. Area for public roads and associated utilities and storm drainage.

1007 a. Roads. In its consideration of the approval of a subdivision, the  
1008 Board must require dedication and platting of adequate area to  
1009 provide public roads and other public transportation facilities.  
1010 These must be coordinated with other existing, planned, or  
1011 platted roads, other features in the district, or with any road plan  
1012 adopted or approved as a part of the General Plan.

1013 b. Rights-of-way and easements other than roads. The Board may  
1014 require dedication to public use of rights-of-way or platting of  
1015 easements necessary for public uses, such as pedestrian paths,

1016 equestrian trails, bicycle infrastructure (including, but not  
1017 limited to, bikeways and bike-share facilities), water and  
1018 sanitary sewer, and storm drainage facilities. The Board must  
1019 approve the extent, location, and width of each pedestrian path,  
1020 equestrian trail, and bikeway right-of-way after considering the  
1021 master plan. The extent and width of water and sanitary sewer  
1022 rights-of-way must be determined by the Washington Suburban  
1023 Sanitary Commission in its jurisdiction. The extent and width  
1024 of drainage rights-of-way must be determined by the County  
1025 Department of Permitting Services after receipt of drainage  
1026 studies prepared by the applicant's engineer.

1027 4. Areas not suitable for public use.

1028 a. When a preliminary plan includes a proposed dedication of land  
1029 to public use, the Board must determine if the land is suitable  
1030 for the intended public use. In its evaluation, the Board must  
1031 consider, among other relevant factors, any criteria for the  
1032 intended use adopted by the receiving agency and the agency's  
1033 recommendations, the natural features of the site, and the extent  
1034 of site preparation work. Site preparation may include  
1035 excavation of rock, excessive grading, grading of steep slopes,  
1036 remedial environmental measures, and similar work required to  
1037 prepare the site for the public use. In evaluating the natural  
1038 features of a site, the Board may require the applicant to  
1039 perform soil borings or to provide other detailed topographical  
1040 or subsurface information not otherwise submitted under  
1041 Section 4.1.B. The applicant's engineer must certify the  
1042 information provided to the Board. Factors relevant to a  
1043 determination of the magnitude of site preparation work include  
1044 estimated costs, acreage, agency experience with similar sites  
1045 and construction industry practices.

1046 b. Based on the analysis, the Board may refuse to approve the  
1047 dedication and:

- 1048 i. require the rearrangement of lots in the subdivision to  
1049 provide for a suitable site;
- 1050 ii. permit the applicant to pay for additional site preparation  
1051 that makes the site suitable for the public use; or
- 1052 iii. with the concurrence of the receiving agency, permit the  
1053 applicant to provide an alternative location offsite.

1054 5. Reservation.

1055 a. Procedure. When the Board determines that a tract being  
1056 subdivided includes land that is necessary for public use but  
1057 will not be acquired by donation, dedication, purchase, or  
1058 condemnation when the plat is recorded, the Board must  
1059 determine the need to reserve the land. The Board may require a  
1060 reservation for 3 years or less for road rights-of-way, public  
1061 school and building sites, parks, playgrounds, recreational  
1062 areas, or other public purposes.

1063 i. Referral to agency concerned with acquisition. If a  
1064 reservation of land appears to be in the public interest,  
1065 the Board must refer the plan to the public agency  
1066 concerned with acquisition for consideration and report.  
1067 The Board may propose alternate areas for such  
1068 reservation and must allow such public agency 30 days  
1069 for reply. The agency's recommendation, if affirmative,  
1070 must include a map showing the boundaries and area of  
1071 land to be reserved and an estimate of the time required  
1072 to complete the acquisition.

1073 ii. Resolution. The Board must approve a declaration of  
1074 public reservation by resolution, stating the period during  
1075 which the reservation is effective. Notice of the same  
1076 must be carried once each in two newspapers of general  
1077 circulation in the County and a plat must be recorded in  
1078 the land records of the County showing in detail the land

1079 so reserved. Certified copies of the resolution must be  
1080 sent to the property owner and to the agency concerned  
1081 with acquisition.

1082 iii. Taxes. The Board must advise taxing and assessing  
1083 bodies of all public reservations, and such public  
1084 reservations must be exempt from all State, County, and  
1085 local taxes during the reservation period.

1086 iv. Preservation. During the reservation period, any use of  
1087 the reserved land that involves constructing buildings or  
1088 structures, removing trees, or clearing and grading must  
1089 be approved by the Board. A person must not remove or  
1090 destroy trees, topsoil, or cover; grade; or build a storm  
1091 drainage structure that discharges water on the reserved  
1092 land, except according to a storm drainage plan approved  
1093 by the County Department of Permitting Services or the  
1094 County Department of Transportation. Nothing in this  
1095 Section relieves the landowner from the responsibility to  
1096 maintain the property according to law or prohibits the  
1097 owner from removing weeds or trash from reserved land  
1098 or from selling the reserved land after approval of the  
1099 Board.

1100 v. Posting. The Board must post properties in reservation  
1101 with an appropriate sign, warning against violation of the  
1102 preservation provisions and the penalties for a violation.

1103 b. Expiration of plan. The expiration or revocation of approval of  
1104 a preliminary plan must not affect a reservation if, before the  
1105 expiration date, a reservation plat has been recorded in the Land  
1106 Records.

1107 E. Roads.

1108 1. Plan requirements.

- 1109 a. Master plan roads. Preliminary plans must include roads shown  
1110 on any adopted Master Plan of Highways, in satisfaction of the  
1111 Road Design and Construction Code. Where applicable, an  
1112 approved plan must include recommendations of the State  
1113 Highway Administration for construction and access to State  
1114 roads.
- 1115 b. Continuation of roads. The subdivision must provide for  
1116 continuation of any existing roads (constructed or recorded) that  
1117 satisfy the Road Design and Construction Code, unless  
1118 otherwise determined by the Board, considering the  
1119 recommendations of other appropriate agencies.
- 1120 c. Future subdivisions. A tract in a preliminary plan application  
1121 must be divided to not preclude future road openings and  
1122 further logical subdivision of adjacent land.
- 1123 d. Alleys. The Board may require alleys where they are necessary  
1124 to provide access.
- 1125 e. Railroad crossings. A preliminary plan involving new or  
1126 existing roads crossing railroad tracks must provide an adequate  
1127 right-of-way, including approach right-of-way and slope  
1128 easements, for construction of an underpass or overpass unless  
1129 otherwise determined by the Board, considering the  
1130 recommendations of other appropriate agencies.
- 1131 f. Residential roads paralleling railroads. A residential road  
1132 paralleling a railroad must be located at least 160 feet from the  
1133 track to provide lots with sufficient depth backing to the  
1134 railroad right-of-way.
- 1135 g. Railroad tracks. Existing railroad tracks must not be included  
1136 within the rights-of-way of roads, except for crossings or rail  
1137 transit lines outside the paved traveled portion of the road.
- 1138 2. Design standards.



- 1139 a. Right-of-way. Area for a road on a subdivision plan must  
1140 include the full width of all rights-of-way recommended for the  
1141 applicable road classification in the adopted master plan and in  
1142 the Road Design and Construction Code.
- 1143 i. The Board may approve a narrower than standard road  
1144 right-of-way if the Board finds that a narrower right-of-  
1145 way is environmentally preferable, improves  
1146 compatibility with adjoining properties, or allows better  
1147 use of the tract under consideration.
- 1148 ii. In determining the width of a less than standard right-of-  
1149 way, the Board must consider:
- 1150 (a) the recommendations of the County Department of  
1151 Transportation or other applicable state or  
1152 municipality transportation permitting agency;
- 1153 (b) the amount of traffic expected to use the proposed  
1154 roads;
- 1155 (c) the maximum road right-of-way or improvement  
1156 required for the proposed land use; and
- 1157 (d) the increased traffic, travel lane, and right-of-way  
1158 requirements that would be created by maximum  
1159 use and development of land using the road.
- 1160 b. Slope easement. When required for construction or road  
1161 maintenance, the subdivision plan must establish an easement  
1162 for a 2:1 slope along both sides of each road right-of-way for  
1163 public use. The easement must be at the front setback line per  
1164 zoning, or as determined by a site-specific slope study in  
1165 coordination with the road grade approved under this Chapter.
- 1166 c. New roads, sidewalks, etc. The subdivider must design and  
1167 construct the roads, alleys, bicycle facilities, sidewalks, and  
1168 pedestrian ways with drainage, street trees, and other integral

1169 facilities in each new subdivision as required by the Road  
1170 Design and Construction Code or a municipality, whichever  
1171 applies.

1172 d. Existing public roads. In a preliminary plan or administrative  
1173 subdivision plan application containing lots fronting on an  
1174 existing State, County, or municipally maintained road, the  
1175 subdivider must provide any additional required right-of-way  
1176 dedication and reasonable improvement to the road in front of  
1177 the subdivision, including sidewalks and bicycle facilities, as  
1178 required by the Road Design and Construction Code or by a  
1179 municipality, whichever applies.

1180 e. Private roads. Private roads must be built to the applicable  
1181 structural standard, grade, and typical section based on the  
1182 comparable functional classification in Chapter 49. Private  
1183 roads must conform to the horizontal alignment requirements of  
1184 this Chapter. The subdivider must have a registered engineer  
1185 certify to the County Department of Permitting Services that  
1186 each private road has been designed to meet the structural  
1187 standards required by this Section. The subdivider must then  
1188 certify to the County Department of Permitting Services that all  
1189 construction complies with the design.

1190 f. Mid-block pedestrian right-of-way. The minimum right-of-way  
1191 must be 20 feet for a mid-block pedestrian right-of-way.

1192 g. Drainage right-of-way. The minimum for an enclosed drainage  
1193 right-of-way must be 20 feet, unless otherwise determined by  
1194 the County Department of Permitting Services or other  
1195 applicable public agency.

1196 h. Non-through roads. The Board must not approve any road that  
1197 does not connect to another road at its beginning and end,  
1198 unless a determination is made that:

- 1199                    i.     a through road is infeasible due to a property’s unusual  
1200                                shape, size, topography, environmentally sensitive areas,  
1201                                or the characteristics of abutting property;
- 1202                    ii.    the road provides access to no more than 75 lots;
- 1203                    iii.   the road is properly terminated in a cul-de-sac or other  
1204                                turnaround; and
- 1205                    iv.    the road is less than 500 feet in length, measured along  
1206                                its centerline to the nearest through street, unless the  
1207                                Board determines that a longer length is necessary  
1208                                because of the unusual shape, size, topography, or  
1209                                environmentally sensitive areas of the subdivision.
- 1210                    i.     *Intersection.*
- 1211                    i.     Roads must be laid out to intersect as nearly as possible  
1212                                at right angles. The Board must not approve a proposed  
1213                                intersection of new roads at an angle of less than 70  
1214                                degrees.
- 1215                    ii.    Proposed road intersections must be spaced as shown in  
1216                                the table below, as measured from the centerline of the  
1217                                intersections, except in an Urban Area as defined in  
1218                                Chapter 49. When the Board finds that a greater or lesser  
1219                                spacing is appropriate, the Board may specify a greater or  
1220                                lesser spacing than otherwise required after considering  
1221                                the recommendation of the County Department of  
1222                                Transportation.
- 1223

<u>Road Classification</u>	<u>Distance Between Intersections (FT)</u>
<u>Tertiary</u>	<u>200</u>
<u>Secondary</u>	<u>300</u>
<u>Primary and Principal Secondary</u>	<u>400</u>
<u>Business District and Industrial</u>	<u>300</u>
<u>Arterial and Minor Arterial</u>	<u>500</u>
<u>Controlled Major Highway, Major Highway and Parkway</u>	<u>1000</u>

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iii. Corner lots at an intersection must be truncated by straight lines joining points 25 feet back from the theoretical property line intersection in each quadrant. When more or less width is needed for traffic safety and operations, the Board may specify a greater or lesser truncation than otherwise required. Any alley intersection or abrupt change in alignment in a block must have the corners truncated sufficiently for safe vehicular turning.

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j. Horizontal alignment. In all public and private primary, secondary and tertiary residential streets and culs-de-sac, the alignment must be designed so that all deflections in horizontal alignment are accomplished through segments of circular curves properly incorporated into the design. The minimum permitted centerline radii must be:

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i. Primary roads . . . . . 300 feet

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ii. Secondary roads . . . . 150 feet

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iii. Tertiary roads . . . . . 100 feet

1242                    The Board must specify greater radii when safety requires. A  
1243                    tangent at least 100 feet long must be used between two reverse  
1244                    curves, except in a secondary or tertiary residential street.

1245            3.    *Additional roadway provisions.*

1246            a.    *Road names.* The Board must approve any road name before it  
1247                    is used. The Board must not approve any road name that is  
1248                    already used, or closely resembles any road name already used,  
1249                    anywhere else in the County. If a new road is an extension of or  
1250                    in a direct line with an existing road, the Board should continue  
1251                    the name of the existing road.

1252            b.    *Off-site sidewalks and bikeways.* In approving a preliminary  
1253                    plan, the Board may, after considering the recommendation of  
1254                    the Department of Transportation or other applicable  
1255                    transportation agency, require a developer to provide a  
1256                    reasonable amount of off-site sidewalks, bikeways, or  
1257                    improvements. Off-site sidewalks, bikeways, or improvements  
1258                    may be required to provide necessary connections from the  
1259                    proposed development to an existing sidewalk or bikeway, an  
1260                    existing or master plan proposed bus or other public transit  
1261                    stop, an existing or proposed bikeshare station, or a public  
1262                    facility. The Board must find that such facilities will be used by  
1263                    residents or users of the development or for handicapped  
1264                    access. The developer must not be required to obtain any right-  
1265                    of-way to build or improve a sidewalk or bikeway.

1266            c.    *Rustic roads.* In approving a preliminary plan, the Board must  
1267                    not require improvements that are contrary to Chapter 49,  
1268                    Article 8 or Executive Regulations governing rustic roads. The  
1269                    Board may waive any requirement of Sections 4.3.E.2.c and  
1270                    4.3.E.2.d that is incompatible with the rustic road or substitute  
1271                    any alternative requirement that is consistent with the goals of  
1272                    the rustic roads law. The Board may only require those  
1273                    improvements that retain the significant features of the road

1274 identified by the Council for preservation. If the Board is  
1275 otherwise directed by this Section to require improvements that  
1276 are contrary to the rustic roads law or Executive Regulations,  
1277 the Board must consider the recommendations of the Rustic  
1278 Roads Advisory Committee and evaluate the feasibility of trip  
1279 reduction and alternative road improvements to the local  
1280 roadway network. If the Board determines that no feasible  
1281 alternative exists, it may require improvements that are  
1282 necessary for traffic safety and operational requirements.

1283 d. *Road grade approval.* No final grading, sidewalk or pavement  
1284 construction, or installation of utilities must be permitted in the  
1285 bed of any proposed public or private road in any preliminary  
1286 plan or administrative subdivision plan until the grade has been  
1287 approved under this Chapter.

1288 e. *Pedestrian paths.* When a pedestrian path is included in a  
1289 preliminary plan or administrative subdivision plan, the  
1290 subdivider must grade and construct the path according to the  
1291 plan approved by the Board, County Department of Permitting  
1292 Services, or applicable municipality.

1293 f. *Storm drainage.* The subdivider must grade and provide  
1294 drainage structures and storm sewers according to a plan  
1295 approved by the County Department of Transportation and  
1296 County Department of Permitting Services or applicable  
1297 municipality in coordination with the construction of new  
1298 roads.

1299 g. *Street lights.* The subdivider must provide street lights under  
1300 the standards required by the Road Design and Construction  
1301 Code. The County Department of Transportation may waive  
1302 any requirement under this Subsection for any new subdivision  
1303 that abuts a rustic road if the requirement is incompatible with  
1304 the rustic road, or may substitute any alternative requirement  
1305 that is consistent with the goals of the rustic roads law.

1306 h. Traffic calming. The Board, in consultation with the appropriate  
1307 transportation agency, may require any traffic calming feature  
1308 under Section 49-30 as a condition of subdivision approval.

1309 4. Platting roads. Area for roads must be shown on a record plat to the  
1310 full width of the required right-of-way. A public road must be  
1311 dedicated to public use. A private road must be platted as a road  
1312 parcel with an access easement for the public. In the  
1313 Commercial/Residential, Employment, Industrial, and Planned Unit  
1314 Development zones, a private road may be platted by an easement  
1315 alone if the Board finds it necessary to permit a structure that would  
1316 otherwise cross a lot line created by a road parcel.

1317 F. Water supply and sewage disposal facilities.

1318 1. General. Before approving a preliminary plan, the Board must  
1319 consider the availability of water and sewage facilities to the  
1320 subdivision. The Board must rely on the recommendation of the  
1321 Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission and the County  
1322 Department of Environmental Protection, as applicable, concerning  
1323 the proper type of water supply and sewage disposal.

1324 2. Requirements.

1325 a. The applicant must install or assure installation of any required  
1326 public or private water and sewage disposal systems for each  
1327 lot.

1328 b. Central water and sewer systems. All lots must have access to  
1329 public central water and sewer facilities, and necessary private  
1330 connections to such facilities, when conditions affecting the  
1331 subject property result in one of the following determinations:

1332 i. public water and sewer connections are available to the  
1333 proposed lots for existing mains;

1334 ii. existing public water and sewer mains can be extended to  
1335 serve the lots; or

- 1336                    iii. the County Department of Environmental Protection  
1337                    determines that an interim central water supply or sewage  
1338                    disposal facility, or both, must be constructed for public  
1339                    health and safety, pending future extension of the WSSC  
1340                    system or other public system.
- 1341                    c. *Use of County roads and State roads.* For locations of any  
1342                    private connection to the public system within County or State  
1343                    road rights-of-way, the subdivider must obtain necessary  
1344                    permits to use public roads from the County or State, as  
1345                    applicable.
- 1346                    3. *Septic tiers.*
- 1347                    a. The Board must review any plan that includes residential lots  
1348                    under the Growth Tier rules as follows:
- 1349                    i. in this Subsection:
- 1350                    (a) a major subdivision is a division of land that would  
1351                    create 8 or more residential building lots; and
- 1352                    (b) a minor subdivision is a division of land that  
1353                    would create 7 or fewer residential building lots.
- 1354                    b. The Board must not approve any subdivision that would be  
1355                    served by one or more septic systems on land located in the  
1356                    Tier I area.
- 1357                    c. The Board must not approve any major subdivision that would  
1358                    be served by one or more septic systems on land located in the  
1359                    Tier II area.
- 1360                    d. The Board may approve a subdivision for any number of  
1361                    residential lots that would be served by one or more septic  
1362                    systems on land located in the Tier III area.



- 1363 e. The Board may approve a minor subdivision that would be  
1364 served by one or more septic systems on land located in the  
1365 Tier IV area.
- 1366 f. The Board may approve a major subdivision that would be  
1367 served by one or more septic systems on land in the Tier IV  
1368 area.
- 1369 g. The official map displaying the Growth Tier areas as allowed  
1370 under the Maryland Sustainable Growth and Agricultural  
1371 Preservation Act of 2012 is located on the Planning Department  
1372 website. The Council may amend the official map either by:
- 1373 i. adopting Tiers in a General Plan amendment; or
- 1374 ii. an amendment under Section 10.7.
- 1375 The latest version of the map may be accessed from the  
1376 Planning Department website at  
1377 [www.montgomeryplanning.org](http://www.montgomeryplanning.org).
- 1378 G. Markers and monuments.
- 1379 1. The subdivider must have metal property line markers, approximately  
1380 1/2-5/8 inch in diameter and 18 inches in length, or other generally  
1381 accepted survey markers, placed in the ground at all lot corners,  
1382 intersections of roads, intersections of roads and alleys with  
1383 subdivision record plat boundary lines, and at all points on road, alley  
1384 and boundary lines where there is a change in direction or curvature,  
1385 unless such point coincides with the location of a reference  
1386 monument. All markers must be properly set in the ground before the  
1387 roads and alleys are accepted for public maintenance. For projects that  
1388 do not include public roads, the owner must certify to the County  
1389 Department of Permitting Services that all property corner markers  
1390 have been set by a licensed land surveyor.
- 1391 2. The licensed land surveyor hired by the owner must place markers  
1392 and monuments in the ground after road grading and paving in the

1393 subdivision and grading and landscaping of adjacent lots are  
1394 completed. The markers and monuments must be located as specified  
1395 on the plat. The licensed land surveyor must certify to the County  
1396 Department of Permitting Services, or other appropriate governmental  
1397 agency or the municipality that all survey monuments and markers are  
1398 in place before the County or municipality accepts any road or alley  
1399 established by the plat for maintenance.

1400 H. *Stormwater management. All stormwater management requirements must*  
1401 satisfy Chapter 19.

1402 I. *Public utilities. Pipelines, electric power and energy lines, and*  
1403 telecommunications lines must be underground in all subdivisions.

1404 1. *Installation. Unless the Board determines that it is infeasible, the*  
1405 developer must install new and existing utilities underground.

1406 2. *Completion. The Board may not approve a final plat until the*  
1407 developer demonstrates that the applicable utility companies or public  
1408 agencies are able to provide utility service to the subdivision.

1409 J. *Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO).*

1410 1. *Definitions. Words and phrases used in this Subsection have the*  
1411 meanings indicated in Chapter 8, Section 8-30.

1412 2. *Applicability. The Board may only approve a preliminary plan when it*  
1413 finds that public facilities will be adequate to support and service the  
1414 subdivision. Public facilities and services to be examined for  
1415 adequacy include roads and transportation facilities, sewer and water  
1416 service, schools, police stations, firehouses, and health clinics.

1417 3. *Exemptions. The following developments are exempt from the*  
1418 requirements of this Subsection:

1419 a. *exclusively residential development on a lot or parcel recorded*  
1420 by plat before July 25, 1989, or otherwise recorded in  
1421 conformance with a preliminary plan approved before that date;

- 1422            b.    any place of worship or use associated with a place of worship  
1423                    that does not generate peak hour vehicle trips that exceed the  
1424                    limits of the Subdivision Staging Policy traffic test; and
- 1425            c.    any addition to a school associated with a place of worship that  
1426                    existed before July 25, 1989.
- 1427            4.    Approval procedure.
- 1428            a.    Each applicant for a preliminary plan must submit sufficient  
1429                    information for the subdivision to demonstrate the expected  
1430                    impact on and use of public facilities and services by the  
1431                    subdivision.
- 1432            b.    The Board must consider the recommendations of the  
1433                    Executive and other agencies in determining the adequacy of  
1434                    public facilities and services under the Subdivision Staging  
1435                    Policy or other applicable guidelines.
- 1436            c.    If the Board finds, under criteria and standards adopted by the  
1437                    Council, that additional transportation facilities or traffic  
1438                    mitigation measures are necessary to ensure that public  
1439                    transportation facilities will be adequate to serve the  
1440                    subdivision and to meet the transportation goals established by  
1441                    a master plan or the Subdivision Staging Policy for that portion  
1442                    of the County, the subdivision plan must be subject to the  
1443                    execution of a Traffic Mitigation Agreement (TMAg).
- 1444            5.    Validity period.
- 1445            a.    A determination of adequate public facilities made under this  
1446                    Chapter is timely and remains valid:
- 1447                    i.    for 12 years after the preliminary plan is approved for  
1448                            any plan approved after July 24, 1989, but before  
1449                            October 19, 1999;
- 1450                    ii.   for no less than 5 and no more than 12 years after the  
1451                            preliminary plan is approved, as determined by the Board

- 1452 when it approved the plan, for any plan approved after  
1453 October 18, 1999, but before August 1, 2007;
- 1454 iii. for no less than 7 and no more than 12 years after the  
1455 preliminary plan is approved, as determined by the Board  
1456 when it approved the plan, for any plan approved after  
1457 March 31, 2009, but before April 1, 2017; and
- 1458 iv. for no less than 5 and no more than 10 years after the  
1459 preliminary plan is approved, as determined by the Board  
1460 when it approved the plan, for any plan approved after  
1461 July 31, 2007, and before April 1, 2009, or after March  
1462 31, 2017.
- 1463 b. If an applicant requests a longer validity period than the  
1464 minimum specified in 5.a, the applicant must submit a  
1465 development schedule or phasing plan for completion of the  
1466 project to the Board for its approval.
- 1467 i. At a minimum, the proposed development schedule or  
1468 phasing plan must show the minimum percentage of the  
1469 project that the applicant expects to complete in the first  
1470 5 or 7 years, whichever is the applicable minimum, after  
1471 the preliminary plan is approved.
- 1472 ii. To allow a validity period longer than the specified  
1473 minimum, the Board must find that the size or  
1474 complexity of the subdivision warrant the extended  
1475 validity period and would not be adverse to the public  
1476 interest. The Board must condition a validity period  
1477 longer than the specified minimum on adherence to the  
1478 proposed development schedule or phasing plan, and  
1479 may impose other improvements or mitigation conditions  
1480 if those conditions are needed to assure adequate levels  
1481 of transportation or school service during the validity  
1482 period.

- 1483           6.    Validity period – County arts or entertainment use.
- 1484           a.    A determination of adequate public facilities made under this  
1485                    Chapter is timely and remains valid for 10 years after the date  
1486                    of the conveyance of land to the County, or possession of  
1487                    building space by the County for an arts or entertainment use,  
1488                    under a preliminary plan for an optional method of  
1489                    development project approved under Section 59-C-6.2356 of  
1490                    the zoning ordinance in effect on October 29, 2014.
- 1491           b.    The Board must grant an application to extend the validity  
1492                    period established under this paragraph for an additional 5 years  
1493                    if:
- 1494            i.    at least 20 percent of the approved development,  
1495                    excluding the arts or entertainment use, either separately  
1496                    or in combination:
- 1497                    (a)   has been built;
- 1498                    (b)   is under construction;
- 1499                    (c)   is subject to building permits that have been  
1500                        issued;
- 1501                    (d)   is subject to a valid lease; or
- 1502                    (e)   has had a site plan approved under Sections 59-  
1503                        7.3.4 or 7.7.1.B; or
- 1504            ii.   at any time during the 24 months before the application  
1505                    for extension being filed, the vacancy rate for class A  
1506                    office buildings in the Central Business District in which  
1507                    the project is located reaches 10 percent for direct and  
1508                    sublet space combined, as measured by a commercial  
1509                    Multiple Listings Service benchmark; or
- 1510            iii.   the applicant makes a binding commitment to the County  
1511                    to make a contribution, as compensation for potential loss

1512 of property tax revenues, an amount equal to \$2 for each  
1513 square foot of approved taxable improvements and  
1514 thereafter makes the contribution within 6 months of  
1515 final approval of the extension.

1516 c. The validity period is extended for the duration of any  
1517 government imposed moratorium, or other government action  
1518 resulting in a similar effect, that would prevent the applicant  
1519 from:

1520 i. completing the regulatory approvals necessary for  
1521 obtaining a building permit; or

1522 ii. obtaining a building permit.

1523 d. If the applicant proposes to change a use in a project that is  
1524 approved under Section 59-C-6.2356 of the zoning ordinance in  
1525 effect on October 29, 2014, and the new use would have the  
1526 same or lesser impact as the original determination of adequate  
1527 public facilities, the adequate public facilities approval for the  
1528 project remains valid.

1529 7. Extensions.

1530 a. Application. Only the Board may extend the validity period for  
1531 a determination of adequate public facilities; however, a request  
1532 to amend any validity period phasing schedule may be  
1533 approved by the Director if the length of the total validity  
1534 period is not extended.

1535 i. The applicant must file an application for extension of an  
1536 adequate public facilities determination or amendment of  
1537 a phasing schedule before the applicable validity period  
1538 or validity period phase expires.

1539 ii. The applicant must submit a new development schedule  
1540 or phasing plan for completion of the project for  
1541 approval.

- 1542                    iii.    For each extension of an adequate public facilities  
1543                    determination:
- 1544                    (a)    the applicant must not propose any additional  
1545                    development above the amount approved in the  
1546                    original determination;
- 1547                    (b)    the Board must not require any additional public  
1548                    improvements or other conditions beyond those  
1549                    required for the original preliminary plan;
- 1550                    (c)    the Board may require the applicant to submit a  
1551                    traffic study to demonstrate how the extension  
1552                    would not be adverse to the public interest; and
- 1553                    (d)    an application may be made to extend an adequate  
1554                    public facilities period for a lot within a  
1555                    subdivision covered by a previous adequate public  
1556                    facilities determination if the applicant provides  
1557                    sufficient evidence for the Board to determine the  
1558                    amount of previously approved development  
1559                    attributed to the lot.
- 1560                    b.    The Board may approve an amendment to the new development  
1561                    schedule approved under paragraph 7.a.ii if the applicant shows  
1562                    that financing has been secured for either:
- 1563                    i.    completion of at least one new building in the next stage  
1564                    of the amended development schedule; or
- 1565                    ii.    completion of infrastructure required to serve the next  
1566                    stage of the amended development schedule.
- 1567                    c.    *Exclusively residential subdivisions.* The Board may extend a  
1568                    determination of adequate public facilities for an exclusively  
1569                    residential subdivision beyond the otherwise applicable validity  
1570                    period if the County Department of Permitting Services has  
1571                    issued building permits for at least 50 percent of the entire

- 1572 subdivision before the application for extension is filed. The  
1573 Board may approve one or more extensions if the aggregate  
1574 length of all extensions for the development does not exceed:
- 1575 i. 2.5 years for a subdivision with an original validity  
1576 period of 7 years or less; or
- 1577 ii. 6 years for a subdivision with an original validity period  
1578 longer than 7 years.
- 1579 d. *Nonresidential or mixed-use subdivisions.*
- 1580 i. The Board may extend a determination of adequate  
1581 public facilities for a preliminary plan for nonresidential  
1582 or mixed-use development beyond the otherwise  
1583 applicable validity period if:
- 1584 (a) the County Department of Permitting Services  
1585 issued building permits for structures that will  
1586 generate at least 40% of the total approved peak-  
1587 hour vehicle trips associated with the development;
- 1588 (b) all of the infrastructure required by the conditions  
1589 of the original preliminary plan approval has been  
1590 constructed, or payments for its construction have  
1591 been made; and
- 1592 (c) the County Department of Permitting Services  
1593 either issued occupancy permits or completed a  
1594 final building permit inspection for:
- 1595 (1) structures that generate at least 10 percent of  
1596 the total peak-hour vehicular trips associated  
1597 with the project within the 4 years before an  
1598 extension request is filed; or
- 1599 (2) structures that generate at least 5 percent of  
1600 the total peak-hour vehicular trips associated  
1601 with the project within the 4 years before an



- 1602                                   extension request is filed, if structures that  
1603                                   generate at least 60 percent of the total peak-  
1604                                   hour vehicular trips associated with the  
1605                                   project have been built or are under  
1606                                   construction.
- 1607                   ii.     For any development that consists of more than one  
1608                                   preliminary plan, the requirements of 7.d.i apply to the  
1609                                   combined project. A project consists of more than one  
1610                                   preliminary plan if the properties covered by the  
1611                                   preliminary plans of subdivision are contiguous and were  
1612                                   approved at the same time.
- 1613                   iii.    The length of any extension of the validity period granted  
1614                                   under 7.d.i must be based on the approved new  
1615                                   development schedule under 7.a.ii, but must not exceed:
- 1616                                   (a)   2.5 years for a subdivision with an original validity  
1617   period of 7 years or less; or
- 1618                                   (b)   6 years for a subdivision with an original validity  
1619   period longer than 7 years.
- 1620                   iv.     The extension expires if the applicant has not timely  
1621                                   requested an extension and the development is not  
1622                                   proceeding in accordance with the phasing plan, unless  
1623                                   the Board or the Director has approved a revision to the  
1624                                   schedule or phasing plan.
- 1625                   v.     In addition to the extension permitted under 7.d.iii, the  
1626                                   Board may approve one or more additional extensions of  
1627                                   a determination of adequate public facilities, not to  
1628                                   exceed a total of 2.5 or 6 years, as applicable, if:
- 1629                                   (a)   development that generates 30% or less of the total  
1630   peak-hour vehicular trips remains to be built of  
1631   either the entire approved development or the

1632 share of the development to be built by that  
1633 applicant; or

1634 (b) the applicant will commit to reduce the amount of  
1635 unbuilt development by at least 10%, and the  
1636 validity period for the amount to be reduced will  
1637 expire as scheduled.

1638 e. The Board may extend a determination of adequate public  
1639 facilities once for up to 12 more years beyond the otherwise  
1640 applicable validity period if the Board finds that:

1641 i. the preliminary plan for the development required a  
1642 significant commitment of funds by the applicant,  
1643 amounting to at least \$3 million, as adjusted annually by  
1644 the consumer price index, to comply with specified  
1645 infrastructure conditions;

1646 ii. the applicant has met or exceeded the required  
1647 infrastructure conditions during the original validity  
1648 period; and

1649 iii. the applicant's satisfaction of the required infrastructure  
1650 conditions provides a significant and necessary public  
1651 benefit to the County by implementing infrastructure  
1652 goals of an applicable master plan.

1653 f. The validity period of a finding of adequate public facilities is  
1654 not automatically extended under any circumstance, including  
1655 when an applicant has completed all conditions imposed by the  
1656 Board at the time of preliminary plan approval to meet adequate  
1657 public facilities requirements.

1658 g. If a new adequate public facilities determination is required  
1659 under this Subsection, the procedures in Chapter 8, Section 8-  
1660 32 apply.

1661 K. *Environment.*

- 1662 1. Forest conservation. If a forest conservation plan is required under  
1663 Chapter 22A, the Board must not approve a preliminary plan or any  
1664 extension until all applicable requirements of that Chapter are  
1665 satisfied. The Board must make compliance with a required forest  
1666 conservation plan a condition of any approved preliminary plan,  
1667 including any plan reviewed on a preliminary or final basis.
- 1668 2. Restriction of subdivision for environmental protection.
- 1669 a. Affected land.
- 1670 i. Floodplains. The Board must restrict subdivision or  
1671 development of any property that is located in the 100-  
1672 year floodplain as required by the County Department of  
1673 Permitting Services under Chapter 19, Article III.
- 1674 ii. Unsafe Land. The Board must restrict the subdivision or  
1675 development of any land it finds to be unsafe for  
1676 development because of potential for flooding or stream  
1677 erosion, soils with structural limitations, unstabilized  
1678 slope or fill, steep slopes, or similar environmental or  
1679 topographical conditions.
- 1680 iii. Trees, forests, and environmentally sensitive areas. The  
1681 Board may restrict the subdivision or development of  
1682 land to protect environmentally sensitive areas and  
1683 achieve the objectives of Chapter 22A relating to  
1684 conservation of tree and forest resources.
- 1685 b. Restrictions.
- 1686 i. General. In addition to any requirement imposed under  
1687 Chapter 22A, the proposed preliminary plan or  
1688 administrative subdivision plan may be restricted under  
1689 this Section by:
- 1690 (a) deletion or rearrangement of proposed lots, roads,  
1691 utilities, and other facilities;

- 1692 (b) the establishment of building restriction and land  
1693 disturbance limit lines, and other protective  
1694 measures or conditions; or
- 1695 (c) requirement of conservation easements, deed  
1696 restrictions, or covenants over portions of lots or  
1697 unplatted parcels to be recorded.
- 1698 ii. Building restriction line. The Board may require a  
1699 building restriction line shown on the plat to protect  
1700 floodplain and other environmentally sensitive or unsafe  
1701 building areas.
- 1702 iii. Limit of disturbance line. The Board may require a limit  
1703 of disturbance line to protect environmentally sensitive  
1704 areas or unsafe land.
- 1705 iv. Floodplain or unsafe land on a lot. The Board may allow  
1706 a platted lot to contain floodplain or unsafe land when  
1707 there is sufficient safe ground to erect a building within  
1708 the required setbacks of the zoning classification. The  
1709 Board may require a building restriction line on the plat.  
1710 The restriction line must provide at least a 25-foot  
1711 setback between any building and the unsafe areas. A  
1712 greater setback must be provided where necessary for  
1713 positive drainage between the building and unsafe area.
- 1714 v. Denial of a building permit. The County Department of  
1715 Permitting Services must not issue a permit for a new  
1716 building within any area for which building or land  
1717 disturbance is restricted under this Section.

1718 L. Residential cluster subdivision.

- 1719 1. Purpose. The cluster method of subdivision is intended to promote  
1720 both flexibility in lot size and variety of housing types in residential  
1721 communities without changing existing densities or neighborhood  
1722 character. This method of development is also intended to encourage

1723 the preservation of existing topography, priority forests, and  
1724 environmentally sensitive areas while providing useful community  
1725 green or open space. The Board must approve the use of this optional  
1726 method of subdivision.

1727 2. *Conditions for use.* The use of the cluster method of development is  
1728 subject to the following conditions and requirements:

1729 a. the requirements in Chapter 59 in the applicable zone;

1730 b. except in the Rural Cluster zone or as recommended by a  
1731 master plan in the Residential Estate-2C zone, an applicant may  
1732 only propose a cluster development when WSSC will serve the  
1733 development by public water and sewer;

1734 c. the open space and green areas proposed by the applicant in the  
1735 cluster development must comply with the general purpose of  
1736 cluster development, and the application must include a plan  
1737 detailing the post-development maintenance responsibilities and  
1738 use of those areas; and

1739 d. the Board must count the land dedicated to public use for  
1740 school and park sites in the tract area for the purpose of  
1741 calculating density, and allow the use of the resulting density  
1742 development of the remaining land when this can be  
1743 accomplished in compliance with the purposes of this Section.

1744 3. *Procedure for approval.*

1745 a. In addition to any other required information in the preliminary  
1746 plan application, the applicant must include a statement  
1747 outlining the ownership and use of the common open space and  
1748 green area within the subdivision, and a plan showing the  
1749 construction staging of all improvements. The Board must  
1750 make the staging plan part of the preliminary plan approval and  
1751 must be subject to approval by the Board.

- 1752            b.    The Board must determine whether the site is appropriate for  
1753            cluster development and will accomplish the purposes of the  
1754            cluster method of development. In making this determination,  
1755            the Board must consider the following:
- 1756            i.     the influence that the proposed development may have on  
1757            existing or future development in nearby areas;
- 1758            ii.    the spatial relationship between the buildings and the  
1759            open space and green area;
- 1760            iii.   the location, character, area, and dimensions of the open  
1761            space and green area and its usefulness for the common  
1762            recreational or other purposes for its intended use;
- 1763            iv.    the adequacy of the staging plan;
- 1764            v.     the nature of the site; and
- 1765            vi.    the use and zoning of nearby land.

1766    **Division 50.5. Pre-Preliminary Submissions**

1767    **Section 5.1. Filing and Specifications**

- 1768    A.    *Filing.* Before a subdivider submits a preliminary plan, the subdivider may  
1769    seek advice on limited aspects of a future subdivision plan from the Planning  
1770    Department Staff, the Development Review Committee, or the Board as  
1771    appropriate, or seek a binding decision from the Board. The Applicant must  
1772    file a pre-preliminary submission and applicable supporting information,  
1773    together with an application form and fee under Section 4.1.A.
- 1774    B.    *The drawing.* A pre-preliminary drawing must contain the location of the  
1775    property and sufficient information concerning the issue on which advice or  
1776    a decision is requested. The drawing may include, but is not limited to:
- 1777            1.     the generalized layout of the subdivision;
- 1778            2.     the location and classification of roads, public rights-of-way,  
1779            easements, and dedications of land;

- 1780 3. the method of controlling erosion, sediment, and stormwater;
- 1781 4. the relationship to existing or planned subdivisions;
- 1782 5. the provisions for water and sewerage; and
- 1783 6. any other features or information the applicant chooses to submit.

1784 **Section 5.2. Approval Procedure**

- 1785 A. Referral. Application processing and referral of the plan must satisfy
- 1786 Sections 4.1.D and 4.2.A.
  
- 1787 B. Hearing date. The Board must schedule a public hearing to begin within 90
- 1788 days after the date an application is accepted. The Director may postpone the
- 1789 public hearing once, by up to 30 days, without Board approval. The Director
- 1790 or applicant may request an extension beyond the original 30 days with
- 1791 Board approval. Any extension of the public hearing must be noticed and on
- 1792 the hearing agenda with the new public hearing date indicated.
  
- 1793 C. Action on a pre-preliminary submission.
  
- 1794 1. Advisory. The Development Review Committee must provide
- 1795 recommendations on the pre-preliminary plan on the day of the
- 1796 scheduled committee meeting. Planning Department Staff must
- 1797 transmit the recommendations provided by agencies outside of the
- 1798 committee meeting to the applicant when they are received.
  
- 1799 2. Binding.
  
- 1800 a. After receiving the recommendations of the public agencies and
- 1801 the advice of the Development Review Committee, the
- 1802 Planning Department Staff must present the application to the
- 1803 Board, together with its recommendations for approval,
- 1804 disapproval, or approval with conditions. The Board must act
- 1805 to:
  
- 1806 i. approve the pre-preliminary submission;

- 1807                   ii.    disapprove it, stating in writing the reasons for  
1808                   disapproval; or
- 1809                   iii.    approve it, subject to such conditions or modifications as  
1810                   the Board finds necessary. Approval of any feature of a  
1811                   pre-preliminary submission does not limit the ability of  
1812                   the Board to impose further conditions at the time of  
1813                   preliminary plan on features not included in the Board’s  
1814                   binding decision.
- 1815           3.    Modification of preliminary plan procedures after pre-preliminary  
1816           submission approval.
- 1817           a.    A subdivider must file an application for a preliminary plan  
1818           within 90 days after the date of mailing of the Board resolution  
1819           for the pre-preliminary plan; otherwise, the approval will  
1820           expire.
- 1821           b.    The procedures in Sections 4.1 and 4.2 are modified as follows:
- 1822                   i.    the preliminary plan application must contain the  
1823                   statement of the Board's action on the pre-preliminary  
1824                   application;
- 1825                   ii.   in their review of the preliminary plan under Section 4.2,  
1826                   the agencies to which the preliminary plan is referred and  
1827                   the Planning Department Staff must not recommend  
1828                   changes or modifications to the binding pre-preliminary  
1829                   decision made by the Board, unless requested in writing  
1830                   by the applicant or unless the applicant substantially  
1831                   changes some feature of the approved pre-preliminary  
1832                   submission. The Board must review any conditions  
1833                   imposed as part of the Board’s binding decision to  
1834                   determine that the preliminary plan satisfied those  
1835                   conditions; and
- 1836                   iii.   the Board, in its review of the preliminary plan, must  
1837                   consider only those features of the preliminary plan that



1838 are not in conformity with the conditions imposed by the  
1839 Board in the pre-preliminary application review, plus any  
1840 features not considered or acted upon in that review.

1841 **Division 50.6. Administrative Subdivision Plan**

1842 **Section 6.1. Applicability**

1843 The subdivider may file an administrative subdivision plan application instead of a  
1844 preliminary plan under the following circumstances. The Director must review the  
1845 necessary technical requirements of the administrative subdivision plan under  
1846 Section 4.3.

1847 A. *Existing places of worship and institutional uses.* The Board may approve a  
1848 lot created for existing facilities such as: places of worship, private schools,  
1849 country clubs, private institutions, and similar uses located on unplatted  
1850 parcels, if:

- 1851 1. the applicable requirements for adequate public facilities under  
1852 Section 4.3.J are satisfied before approval of the plat;
- 1853 2. any required road dedications, or covenants for future dedications, are  
1854 shown on the record plat;
- 1855 3. requirements for meeting forest conservation, stormwater  
1856 management, and environmental protection, if applicable, are satisfied  
1857 before approval of the plat;
- 1858 4. it is located in a special protection area and all applicable special  
1859 protection area requirements and guidelines are satisfied before  
1860 approval of the plat;
- 1861 5. a landscaping and lighting plan including the parking lot layout is  
1862 submitted for Planning Department Staff approval before approval of  
1863 the plat; and
- 1864 6. the property is the subject of an approved conditional use and all  
1865 conditions of the conditional use approval remain in full force.

- 1866 B. Subdivision for creation of certain residential lots located in the  
1867 Agricultural Reserve zone. Up to 5 lots for detached houses are permitted  
1868 under these procedures in the AR zone if:
- 1869 1. written approval for a proposed well and septic area is received from  
1870 the County Department of Permitting Services before approval of the  
1871 plat;
  - 1872 2. any required road dedications and public utility easements along the  
1873 frontage of the proposed lots are shown on the record plat, and the  
1874 applicant provides any required improvements;
  - 1875 3. the requirements for adequate public facilities under Section 4.3.J are  
1876 satisfied before approval of the plat;
  - 1877 4. a covenant is recorded for the unplatted balance of the tract noting that  
1878 density and development rights have been used for the new lots. This  
1879 covenant must be noted on the record plat for the lots;
  - 1880 5. lots created in the AR zone through this procedure are 5 acres or less,  
1881 unless approved by the Board; and
  - 1882 6. forest conservation and environmental protection requirements are  
1883 satisfied before approval of the plat.
- 1884 C. Subdivision for creation of certain residential lots. Up to 3 lots for detached  
1885 houses are permitted under these procedures in the Residential Estate-2,  
1886 Rural, Rural Cluster, and Rural Neighborhood Cluster zones, or one lot for a  
1887 detached house created in any residential zone by platting the entirety of one  
1888 existing unplatted parcel created before October 8, 1985, if:
- 1889 1. the lots are approved for standard method development;
  - 1890 2. written approval for any proposed well and septic area is received  
1891 from the County Department of Permitting Services, Well and Septic  
1892 Section before approval of the plat;

- 1893 3. any required road dedications and associated public utility easements  
1894 are shown on the plat and the applicant provides any required  
1895 improvements;
- 1896 4. the requirements for adequate public facilities under Section 4.3.J are  
1897 satisfied before approval of the plat; and
- 1898 5. forest conservation, stormwater management, and environmental  
1899 protection requirements are satisfied before approval of the plat.
- 1900 D. Consolidation of existing lots or parts of lots in a nonresidential zone. In a  
1901 nonresidential zone, a lot may be created by combining existing adjoining  
1902 lots, or a lot and a part of a previously platted lot, if:
- 1903 1. the lots or parts of lots are:
- 1904 a. created by the same subdivision, and any applicable conditions  
1905 of the original subdivision approval, including limits on  
1906 density, remain in effect; or
- 1907 b. created by a subdivision approval without specific density  
1908 limits and the new lot is limited to the density of the existing  
1909 development;
- 1910 2. any required road dedications and public utility easements along the  
1911 frontage of the proposed lots are shown on the record plat, and the  
1912 applicant must provide any required improvements;
- 1913 3. where new development is proposed, the requirements for adequate  
1914 public facilities under Section 4.3.J are satisfied before approval of the  
1915 plat;
- 1916 4. forest conservation, stormwater management, and environmental  
1917 protection requirements, if applicable, are satisfied before approval of  
1918 the plat; and
- 1919 5. located in a special protection area, and all applicable special  
1920 protection area requirements and guidelines are satisfied before the  
1921 Board approves the plat.

1922 **Section 6.2. Filing Requirements**

1923 A. Filing. The Applicant must file the administrative subdivision plan and  
1924 applicable supporting information, together with an application form and fee  
1925 to satisfy Subsection 4.1.A.

1926 B. Application processing.

1927 1. The applicant must submit an initial application to the Director. The  
1928 Director must review the application for completeness within 5 days  
1929 after receipt. An application is incomplete if any required element is  
1930 missing or is facially defective, e.g., a drawing that is not to scale. The  
1931 assessment of completeness must not address the merits of the  
1932 application.

1933 2. The applicant must resubmit a revised application within 10 days from  
1934 the date of the written rejection, or the application will be  
1935 automatically withdrawn. The Director must review the revised  
1936 application for completeness within 5 days after receipt.

1937 3. The administrative subdivision plan is deemed filed when the  
1938 application has been accepted as complete for review.

1939 4. Public notice is required per a regulation approved under Section 10.1.

1940 C. The drawing. An administrative subdivision plan must contain sufficient  
1941 information relevant to the aspects of the submission. The plan must include  
1942 the generalized layout of the subdivision and any other features or  
1943 information needed to support submission of a plat.

1944 **Section 6.3. Approval Procedures**

1945 A. Referral of plan. Immediately after accepting an application, the Director  
1946 must send a copy to the Development Review Committee and other  
1947 reviewing agencies for the agencies' comments concerning the plan. The  
1948 Development Review Committee must provide recommendations to the  
1949 Director on the administrative subdivision plan before the committee  
1950 meeting.

- 1951 B. *Action on an administrative subdivision plan.*
- 1952 1. After receiving the recommendations of the Development Review  
1953 Committee and other reviewing agencies, the Director must approve  
1954 or disapprove the administrative subdivision plan in writing.
- 1955 2. All necessary improvements to support the development must be  
1956 completed or assured under Section 10.2.
- 1957 3. If correspondence is received, the Director must decide whether any  
1958 comment is substantive enough to require that the plan be acted on by  
1959 the Board. When applicable, the Director must schedule Board action  
1960 on its next available agenda. If approved, the plan will remain valid  
1961 under Section 4.2.G, by which time a plat must be recorded.
- 1962 4. The Director must take action on an administrative subdivision plan or  
1963 schedule a public hearing within 90 days after the date an application  
1964 is accepted. The Director may postpone the public hearing once, by up  
1965 to 30 days, without Board approval. The Director or applicant may  
1966 request an extension beyond the original 30 days with Board approval.  
1967 Any extension of the public hearing must be noticed and on the  
1968 hearing agenda with the new public hearing date indicated.
- 1969 C. *Appeal of an administrative subdivision plan.*
- 1970 1. Appeal to the Planning Board. After the Director issues a written  
1971 decision on an administrative subdivision plan, an applicant or party  
1972 who received notice of the application and testified or submitted  
1973 testimony on the plan may appeal the decision to the Board within 30  
1974 days.
- 1975 2. Hearing. The Board must hold a *de novo* hearing on the appeal. The  
1976 Board must adopt a written resolution explaining its decision. For  
1977 purposes of judicial review, the decision of the Board is the final  
1978 agency action.

1979 **Division 50.7. Minor Subdivision**

1980 **Section 7.1. Applicability**

1981 The submission of a preliminary plan or administrative subdivision plan under  
1982 Sections 4.1 and 4.2, and Sections 6.1 and 6.2, is not required for:

1983 A. *Minor lot line adjustment.* The sale or exchange of part of a lot between  
1984 owners of adjoining lots for the purpose of small adjustments in boundaries,  
1985 if:

1986 1. the total area of the adjustment is 5 percent or less of the combined  
1987 area of the lots affected by the adjustment;

1988 2. additional lots are not created;

1989 3. the adjusted lot line is approximately parallel with the original lot line  
1990 or, if it is proposed to intersect with the original line, it does not  
1991 significantly change the shape of the lots involved;

1992 4. the owner submits a scaled drawing for review and approval by the  
1993 Director. The drawing may be a copy of the existing record plat and  
1994 must contain the following information:

1995 a. proposed lot line adjustment as a dashed line;

1996 b. any buildings, driveways, or other improvements located within  
1997 15 feet of the proposed adjusted lot line;

1998 c. any minimum building setback that would be altered by the  
1999 minor lot line adjustment; and

2000 d. the amount of lot area affected by the minor lot line adjustment;

2001 5. The drawing is approved, revised, or denied by the Director in writing  
2002 within 10 days after the drawing is submitted or it is deemed  
2003 approved.

2004 A record plat application must be submitted to the Director within 90 days  
2005 after approval or the approval is void.

2006 Any minor lot line adjustment between properties that occurred before May  
2007 19, 1997 remains as an exemption to platting under Subsection 3.3.B.3.

2008 B. *Conversion of an outlot into a lot.* An outlot may be converted into a lot if:

- 2009 1. the outlot is not required for open space or green area, or is otherwise  
2010 constrained in a manner that prevents it being converted into a  
2011 buildable lot;
- 2012 2. there is adequate sewerage and water service to accommodate  
2013 development on the lot;
- 2014 3. all applicable requirements or agreements under the Adequate Public  
2015 Facilities Ordinance in Subsection 4.3.J and the Subdivision Staging  
2016 Policy are satisfied before recording the plat;
- 2017 4. all applicable conditions or agreements applicable to the original  
2018 subdivision approval creating the outlot apply to the new lot. The  
2019 conditions and agreements may include, but are not limited to, any  
2020 adequate public facilities agreement, conservation easement, or  
2021 building restriction lines; and
- 2022 5. the outlot is located within a special protection area and all applicable  
2023 special protection area requirements and guidelines, including the  
2024 approval of a water quality plan, are satisfied before recording the  
2025 plat.
- 2026 C. Consolidation. Adjoining properties in the Rural Residential or Residential  
2027 Detached zones, not developed under cluster provisions, may be combined  
2028 in the following ways:
- 2029 1. by consolidating 2 or more lots into a single lot, consolidating lots and  
2030 an outlot into a single lot, or consolidating a lot and an abandoned  
2031 road right-of-way, if:
- 2032 a. any conditions applicable to the original subdivision remain in  
2033 effect;
- 2034 b. the number of trips generated on the new lot do not exceed  
2035 those permitted for the original lots; and
- 2036 c. all required right-of-way dedication is provided.

- 2037           2.     by consolidating an existing platted lot or part of a lot that contains a  
2038                     legally constructed detached house, with a piece of land created as a  
2039                     result of a deed, if:
- 2040                 a.     the portion of land created by deed cannot itself be platted  
2041                     under the area and dimensional standards of the zone;
- 2042                 b.     any conditions applicable to the existing lot remain in effect on  
2043                     the new lot;
- 2044                 c.     any required road dedication is provided; and
- 2045                 d.     the existing platted lot was not identified as an outlot on a plat.
- 2046     D.     Subdivision to reflect ownership. Plats for a commercial, industrial, or multi-  
2047                     unit residential lot may be recorded to reflect a change in ownership, deed,  
2048                     mortgage, or lease line as follows:
- 2049                 1.     a plat may be filed to create or delete an internal lot or create  
2050                     ownership lots within a previously recorded lot, if:
- 2051                     a.     all conditions of approval for the original subdivision that  
2052                             created the lot remain in effect;
- 2053                     b.     the total maximum number of trips generated on all new lots or  
2054                             ownership lots created will not exceed the number of trips  
2055                             approved for the lot in the original subdivision;
- 2056                     c.     all land in the original subdivision lot is included in the plat;  
2057                             and
- 2058                     d.     any necessary cross easements, covenants, or other deed  
2059                             restrictions necessary to implement all the conditions of  
2060                             approval on the lot in the original subdivision are executed  
2061                             before recording the plat.
- 2062                 2.     for ownership lots, the lot in the original subdivision is considered a  
2063                     single lot of record. Any ownership lot created under this Subsection  
2064                     is only for the convenience of the owner; an ownership lot is not:



- 2065 a. used to determine building setbacks or to establish conformance  
2066 with any other law or regulation;
- 2067 b. a bar to receiving a building permit or other approval necessary  
2068 to develop or use any of the ownership lots and structures on  
2069 such lots, including structures that cross an ownership line; and
- 2070 c. a change to any condition of approval for the subdivision that  
2071 created the lot in the original subdivision.
- 2072 3. ownership lots may not be used to create the outside boundaries of a  
2073 private road right-of-way parcel.
- 2074 E. Plat of correction. A plat of correction may be used for any of the following:
- 2075 1. to correct inaccurate or incomplete information shown on a previously  
2076 recorded plat, such as drafting or dimensional errors on the drawing;  
2077 failure to include a required note, dedication, easement or other  
2078 restriction; incorrect or omitted signatures; or other information  
2079 normally required to be shown on a recorded plat. All owners and  
2080 trustees of the land affected by the correction must sign the revised  
2081 plat. In addition, the plat of correction must identify the original plat  
2082 that is being replaced and contain a note identifying the nature of the  
2083 correction;
- 2084 2. to revise easements to reflect a Board action;
- 2085 3. to improve clarity and legibility, the owner of any lands shown on a  
2086 record plat may record an exact copy of the plat, except for necessary  
2087 change of scale and the addition of any other necessary elements to  
2088 make the plat conform to the requirements of this Chapter. The new  
2089 plat must indicate that it is an exact copy of the original plat except for  
2090 the changes made under this Subsection.
- 2091 F. Pre-1958 parcels. An unplatted parcel created by deed before June 1, 1958,  
2092 if the parcel is developable for only one detached house.

2093 G. *Creation of a lot from a part of a lot.* A part of a previously recorded lot in a  
2094 Residential Detached zone that was created as a result of a deed transfer of  
2095 land from the lot may be converted into a lot if:

- 2096 1. the part of lot was created by deed recorded before June 1, 1958, or  
2097 2. the part of lot contains a legally constructed detached house; and  
2098 3. all conditions or agreements applicable to the subdivision approval  
2099 creating the original lot apply to the new lot. The conditions and  
2100 agreements may include, but are not limited to, any adequate public  
2101 facilities agreement, conservation easement or building restriction  
2102 lines.

2103 **Section 7.2. Procedure for Platting Minor Subdivisions**

2104 The subdivider of a property that satisfies the requirements for a minor subdivision  
2105 under Section 7.1 may submit an application for record plat for approval under  
2106 Section 8.1 and Section 8.2.

2107 A. *Additional considerations.*

- 2108 1. In the case of minor subdivisions, no additional improvements beyond  
2109 those required for the original subdivision are required until new  
2110 development occurs.  
2111 2. Any lot created through the minor subdivision process and any lot  
2112 replatted as part of a minor lot line adjustment must satisfy all  
2113 applicable zoning requirements in Chapter 59.

2114 **Article III. Plats**

2115 **Division 50.8. Plats – Generally**

2116 **Section 8.1. Filing and Specifications**

2117 All boundaries, road right-of-way lines, lot lines, and any other pertinent lines must  
2118 be shown together with sufficient data to locate each line and property corner on  
2119 the ground.

- 2120 A. Application and fee. The subdivider must file the plat drawing with the  
2121 Board, together with the application form, supporting information, and the  
2122 required plat fee. Any fees required by other County agencies in connection  
2123 with their review of plats must also be paid.
- 2124 B. Specifications.
- 2125 1. The plat accompanying the application for approval must satisfy  
2126 Section 8.1.C. The lack of information under any item specified or  
2127 inadequate information supplied by the applicant may cause the Board  
2128 to disapprove a plat.
- 2129 2. The Board may approve guidelines for the preparation of a record  
2130 plat.
- 2131 C. Plat drawing. The plat drawing prepared with the application must be an 18-  
2132 inch by 24-inch sheet, including a margin of one-half inch outside ruled  
2133 border lines. It must be accurately drawn to a scale approved by the Board  
2134 and must include the following:
- 2135 1. Title block. The title block must appear in the lower right corner of the  
2136 sheet and must include the following information:
- 2137 a. the words “Subdivision Record Plat”;
- 2138 b. approved name of the subdivision and the Section thereof,  
2139 including blocks, lots, parcels, and outlots;
- 2140 c. election district, County and State, or name of town instead of  
2141 election district, if the subdivision is in an incorporated town;
- 2142 d. scale of drawing;
- 2143 e. name of firm of licensed land surveyor who prepared the plat  
2144 and date of completion; and
- 2145 f. a description of the general purpose of the plat, including,  
2146 without limitation, plat of correction or resubdivision.

- 2147           2.     Graphic details. The plat must show the following, as applicable in  
2148           each case:
- 2149           a.     all property boundary lines necessary to identify the property  
2150                 included in the subdivision, with a reference to the previous  
2151                 conveyance by which the property was acquired. Where the  
2152                 subdivision is a part of such conveyance, the boundaries shown  
2153                 must include the last complete line touched on by the  
2154                 subdivision or an indicated dimension describing the remainder  
2155                 of the complete line. Where a subdivision includes all or parts  
2156                 of 2 or more conveyances, the boundaries of such separate deed  
2157                 descriptions must be indicated by light lines running through  
2158                 the subdivision, together with deed reference to each original  
2159                 tract or unplatted parcel;
- 2160           b.     locations, widths, and names of all road rights-of-way located  
2161                 in the subdivision;
- 2162           c.     locations and widths of alley and mid-block pedestrian rights-  
2163                 of-way or parcels;
- 2164           d.     Existing and proposed encumbrances.
- 2165                 i.     Existing. The area and recordation reference for recorded  
2166                         easements or rights-of-way established for public  
2167                         services, conservation purposes or utilities, and other  
2168                         known encumbrances;
- 2169                 ii.    Proposed. Sufficient dimensions to identify the location  
2170                         of all easements or rights-of-way to be established by the  
2171                         plat and, as to each such encumbrance, the general  
2172                         purpose, and the grantee;
- 2173                 iii.   Environmental. Description of any conservation  
2174                         easement, in addition to any 100-year floodplain and  
2175                         100-year floodplain building restriction line required  
2176                         under Chapter 19, Article III;

- 2177 e. any areas to be reserved for common use by residents of the  
2178 subdivision or for general public use, with the purposes  
2179 indicated;
- 2180 f. bearings and lengths of all block and lot lines, together with the  
2181 length of radii, arcs, and chords with chord bearings and central  
2182 angles for all curves in the layout. A curve table must be used  
2183 containing these data and referenced to the overall curves  
2184 shown in the drawing.
- 2185 i. All bearings shown on plats must be referenced to the  
2186 Maryland Coordinate System, and the survey must be  
2187 accurately referenced to such system using conventional  
2188 survey methods or other technology acceptable to the  
2189 Board, except that a plat of resubdivision requiring no  
2190 preliminary plan approval and plats of correction may be  
2191 referenced to the plat meridian used on the original  
2192 record plat; and
- 2193 ii. in all cases, the meridian used must be noted alongside  
2194 the north arrow, which is required to be shown on each  
2195 plat;
- 2196 g. Maryland coordinate values, tied to the Maryland Coordinate  
2197 System, for at least 4 corners of the plan of subdivision shown  
2198 on the plat, unless the survey is referenced to a record plat  
2199 meridian. The identification names or numbers and coordinate  
2200 values for the control stations used must be shown. Coordinate  
2201 values and distance dimensions on plats must be expressed in  
2202 feet, based on the United States Survey Foot;
- 2203 h. the location and nature of existing property corner markers  
2204 found that coincide with property corners held referenced on  
2205 the plat must be labeled as such;
- 2206 i. lots numbered in sequential order. In tracts containing more  
2207 than one block, the blocks must be lettered in alphabetical

- 2208 order. In case there is a resubdivision of lots in any block, such  
2209 resubdivided lots must be numbered sequentially, beginning  
2210 with the number following the highest lot number in the block  
2211 and the original lot lines shown dashed and original lot numbers  
2212 shown dotted;
- 2213 j. area in square feet, or other units shown on the plat, of each lot,  
2214 outlot, parcel, or land dedicated to public use;
- 2215 k. building setback lines, shown graphically with dimensions,  
2216 where they exceed the minimum required in Chapter 59, and  
2217 any other building restriction lines that may apply;
- 2218 l. bearings and lengths of tie connections between all blocks and  
2219 the plat boundary;
- 2220 m. names and locations of adjoining subdivisions with lot and  
2221 block numbers of immediately adjoining lots, together with plat  
2222 references;
- 2223 n. location and apparent ownership of adjoining unsubdivided  
2224 property with land record reference, or County Register of  
2225 Wills or equity case references;
- 2226 o. vicinity map showing location of subdivision, with roads in the  
2227 immediate proximity labeled. In the case of a large subdivision  
2228 requiring multiple plats, a key map must be included to show  
2229 the location of the plat relative to the entire subdivision;
- 2230 p. bar scale;
- 2231 q. a note stating that the lots shown will have public water and  
2232 sewer, or have been approved by the County Department of  
2233 Permitting Services for the installation of individual water  
2234 supply systems or individual sewerage disposal systems;
- 2235 r. for lots developed using transferable development rights, a  
2236 statement concerning the number of development rights  
2237 transferred and the following information:

- 2238 i. the number of development rights transferred and the  
2239 serial numbers of the development rights transferred;
- 2240 ii. liber and folio reference to the transfer of development  
2241 rights easement; and
- 2242 iii. a notation of the recordation reference of a conveyance  
2243 required by Section 59-4.9.15, as amended;
- 2244 s. file number of the preliminary plan and, as applicable, the file  
2245 numbers of the site plan and project or sketch plan upon which  
2246 the plat is based;
- 2247 t. tax map reference;
- 2248 u. a table containing the total number and area in square feet of  
2249 lots, outlots, or parcels included on the plat and areas dedicated  
2250 to public use; and
- 2251 v. any other element for inclusion on the plat that is authorized by  
2252 law or regulation or required by the Board.
- 2253 3. Surveyor certificate. Certificate by the licensed land surveyor in a  
2254 form required by the Board, certifying to the accuracy of the plat and  
2255 to areas included on the plat and dedicated to public use. The  
2256 certificate must also include conveyance information with recording  
2257 references of the lands contained in the plat.
- 2258 4. Owner's Certificate. Certificate by the owner and all parties of  
2259 interest, in a form required by the Board, adopting the plat; granting  
2260 slope, utility, conservation, or any other easements; and establishing  
2261 building restriction lines that are required to be drawn or noted on the  
2262 plat per the conditions of the approved Preliminary Plan or  
2263 Administrative Subdivision Plan and dedicating to public use roads,  
2264 alleys, rights-of-way, and any other areas approved for dedication to  
2265 public use by the Board. The owner must certify that a licensed land  
2266 surveyor will be engaged to set all property corner markers under  
2267 Subsection 4.3.G.

- 2268 5. Title information notice. A statement indicating that the plat does not  
2269 show every matter affecting or restricting the ownership and use of  
2270 the property, and does not replace an examination of title or that it  
2271 notes all matters affecting title.
- 2272 6. Approval box. An approval box in a form required by the Board must  
2273 be provided. The box must provide approval space for signatures by  
2274 the Board and the County Department of Permitting Services.
- 2275 D. Multiple plats for a single subdivision. A plat may include only a portion of  
2276 the approved preliminary plan if the portion covered is in substantial  
2277 compliance with the approved staging schedule. The public improvements to  
2278 be constructed in the area covered by the plat must be sufficient by  
2279 themselves to support the development and to provide adequately for the  
2280 health, safety, and convenience of the present and future residents and for  
2281 adequate access to contiguous areas, schools, and other public sites. Any plat  
2282 filed under this Subsection must show any dedication to the intersection of  
2283 all roads abutting corner lots or any other road.
- 2284 E. Other supporting information. The following supporting information is also  
2285 required with the plat application.
- 2286 1. Documents and plans:
- 2287 a. copies of all resolutions of approved sketch, project,  
2288 preliminary, and site plans upon which the plat is based;
- 2289 b. copies of any covenants, restrictions, or joint-use and  
2290 maintenance agreements that are in effect or may be recorded as  
2291 part of the subdivision must be filed with the Board, together  
2292 with any other supporting plans or documents required under  
2293 this Chapter and Chapter 22A;
- 2294 c. copies of approved, preliminary, or final forest conservation  
2295 plan, as appropriate, or exemption letter; and
- 2296 d. such other information required by the applicable resolutions of  
2297 the Board as a condition of approval of the preliminary plan,



2298 project plan, sketch plan, or site plan or listed in the plat  
2299 application form.

2300 2. Preliminary plans using transferable development rights (TDRs). For  
2301 a subdivision designated in sewer category 3 conditioned upon  
2302 approval of a preliminary plan that uses TDRs, a new plat using less  
2303 than the requisite number of TDRs may not be approved until the  
2304 sewer category has been reconfirmed by the Council.

2305 3. Submission of digital plat data. Digital plat data in a format approved  
2306 by the Director.

2307 4. Plat for a cluster subdivision.

2308 a. Any plat for a cluster subdivision must be accompanied by  
2309 covenants, agreements, or other documents showing the  
2310 ownership and method of maintenance and uses of areas that  
2311 are declared to be open space for common use. Development,  
2312 construction, or other rights in the open space areas must be  
2313 limited to the indicated recreational or scenic uses only. Public  
2314 access to these areas may be limited. Covenants or agreements  
2315 must be in perpetuity and must include necessary public utility  
2316 easements.

2317 b. Plats may be submitted in phases; however, density on any one  
2318 plat may not exceed 115 percent of the allowed density of the  
2319 area included on the plat.

2320 c. Plats must contain a statement that the land shown on the plat  
2321 lies within an approved cluster subdivision and resubdivision  
2322 that would result in the creation of additional lots is not  
2323 permitted after the property is platted.

2324 d. Covenants or joint use and maintenance agreements affecting  
2325 the common lands must be recorded simultaneously with the  
2326 plat.

2327 F. Application processing.

2328 1. The applicant must submit a plat application to the Director. The  
2329 Director must review the application for completeness within 5 days  
2330 after receipt. An application is incomplete if any required element is  
2331 missing. The assessment of completeness must not address the  
2332 accuracy of any of the elements or the merits of the application. The  
2333 Director has the authority to reject the plat application if it does not  
2334 contain the required information. The rejection must be in writing and  
2335 specify the deficiencies.

2336 2. The applicant must resubmit a revised plat application within 10 days  
2337 from the date of the written rejection, or the application will be  
2338 automatically withdrawn.

2339 **Section 8.2. Approval Procedure**

2340 A. Referral of the plat application. After accepting a plat application, the  
2341 Director must begin review and send a copy to each agency that has review  
2342 authority for roads, utilities, or other public services that will serve the  
2343 proposed subdivision, for the agency's recommendation concerning the plat.

2344 B. Review and recommendation. The Director and other reviewing agencies  
2345 must submit final recommendation on the plat application within 90 days  
2346 after the date the application is accepted.

2347 C. Plat to comply with approved preliminary plan and site plan where  
2348 required.

2349 1. With the exception of a minor subdivision, as defined in this Chapter,  
2350 no plat may be approved unless it complies with the preliminary plan  
2351 as approved by the Board; however, the Board may allow for minor  
2352 modifications from the preliminary plan which, in its opinion, do not  
2353 alter the intent of its previous approval.

2354 2. In those situations where a site plan is required, the Board may refuse  
2355 to approve a plat until a site plan is approved under Section 59-7.3.4.

2356 D. Road and storm drain plans. Before submitting a final plat, the applicant  
2357 must obtain approval from the appropriate agency for the following plans:

- 2358 1. final grade and profile plan for roads and pedestrian paths, except  
2359 where the grades of the roads have already been established; and
- 2360 2. a storm drainage concept plan.
- 2361 E. Final plat. The applicant must submit a final plat legibly printed in black ink  
2362 on a permanent, reproducible medium acceptable to the Director that  
2363 incorporates the recommendations of the reviewing agencies.
- 2364 F. Planning Board to act within 30 days. The Board must act to approve or  
2365 disapprove a final plat within 30 days after its submittal; otherwise, the plat  
2366 will be deemed approved. The applicant may waive this requirement and  
2367 consent to an extension. If the plat is disapproved, the reasons must be stated  
2368 in the minutes of the Board and provided to the applicant.
- 2369 G. Planning Board may hold hearing on any plat. The Board may, upon its  
2370 own motion, hold a hearing before acting upon any plat, with notice required  
2371 by the Board's Rules of Procedure.
- 2372 H. Planning Board may give conditional approval. In the case of a plat  
2373 requiring additional supporting data, the Board may give conditional  
2374 approval, requiring the applicant to provide the Board with the supporting  
2375 data.
- 2376 I. Signing. A plat must be signed by applicable County agencies with review  
2377 authority before Board action on the plat, unless the Board specifically  
2378 permits the signature to be added as a condition of its approval. The plat  
2379 must be signed by the authorized officers of the Board after the Board acts to  
2380 approve the plat or, in cases of conditional approval, when the conditions are  
2381 satisfied.

2382 **Section 8.3. Recording Procedure**

- 2383 A. Processing of plats.
- 2384 1. The Planning Department Staff must reproduce a sufficient number of  
2385 copies of an original approved plat for applicable local agencies and  
2386 the plat preparer.

2387           2.     The official seal of the licensed land surveyor who prepared the plat  
2388                     must be impressed upon the original approved plat and reproductions.

2389    B.     Recordation. The reproductions required by the Clerk of the Circuit Court  
2390             must be transmitted with the appropriate recording fee within 7 days  
2391             following completion of processing for recordation in the land records. Once  
2392             recorded, the original approved plat must be filed in the vault provided by  
2393             the Commission and remain there, unless required by court order as an  
2394             exhibit.

2395    C.     Indexing. The Clerk of the Circuit Court must record the plat and enter it in  
2396             the general index of the land records. All plats filed and recorded must be  
2397             indexed both in the name of the subdivision and in the name of the owners  
2398             signing the plat.

2399    D.     Effect of filing. Plats, when filed and recorded under this Chapter, constitute  
2400             a part of the land records of the County and have the same effect as properly  
2401             recorded deeds.

2402    **Section 8.4. Abandonment of Land Dedicated for Public Use**

2403    A.     Land dedicated to the County for public use. When a record plat contains  
2404             land dedicated to the County for public use, the dedication must be in  
2405             perpetuity and must not be altered or taken for private use. However, the  
2406             person who originally filed the plat, any successor in interest, or the County  
2407             may petition to abandon any land dedicated under this Subsection.  
2408             Abandonment of all or part of the dedicated land may be authorized by:

- 2409           1.     the Council under Section 49-63, if the land has been in public use; or  
2410           2.     the Board under Section 49-68, if the land has not been in public use.

2411    B.     Land dedicated to other public entity. Land dedicated to a public entity other  
2412             than the County, including the Commission, may be abandoned according to  
2413             procedures adopted by or applicable to that public entity.

2414    **Article IV. Administration**

2415    **Division 50.9. Waivers from this Chapter**

2416 **Section 9.1. Authority of Planning Board**

2417 The Board may grant a waiver from a requirement of this Chapter after making the  
2418 required findings.

2419 **Section 9.2. Application**

2420 A request for a waiver must be submitted to the Board in writing, stating all facts  
2421 supporting approval of a waiver.

2422 **Section 9.3. Findings**

2423 A. To grant a waiver, the Board must find that:

2424 1. due to practical difficulty or unusual circumstances of a plan, the  
2425 application of a specific requirement of the Chapter is not needed to  
2426 ensure the public health, safety, and general welfare;

2427 2. the intent of the requirement is still met; and

2428 3. the waiver is:

2429 a. the minimum necessary to provide relief from the requirements;  
2430 and

2431 b. consistent with the purposes and objectives of the General Plan.

2432 **Section 9.4. Conditions**

2433 The Board may condition the waiver approval.

2434 **Section 9.5. Procedure for Granting Waivers**

2435 A. Referral for recommendations. The Director must send a copy of each  
2436 waiver request to the applicable Development Review Committee agencies  
2437 for investigation, report, and written recommendation before acting on the  
2438 request. Those agencies must submit any report and recommendation to the  
2439 Director within 20 days after receiving the request, or the recommendation  
2440 must be treated as favorable.

2441 B. The Director must publish a report and recommendation at least 10 days  
2442 before the scheduled Board hearing. A waiver request filed under this

2443 Section may be used as grounds for a request to extend the time  
2444 requirements in Sections 4.2 and 8.2.

2445 C. Resolution. The Board must make its decision by resolution.

2446 D. Non-waiver of other ordinances. When granting a waiver, the Board must  
2447 not change any other requirement of law.

2448 **Division 50.10. Administrative Procedures**

2449 **Section 10.1. Regulations**

2450 The Board may adopt regulations and necessary procedures under Chapter 2A,  
2451 Section 15, Method (2) to administer this Chapter.

2452 **Section 10.2. Bonding and Surety**

2453 A. Guarantee of completion of improvements before recording final plat.

2454 1. Before plat recordation, the Board or applicable public agency must  
2455 certify that the subdivider has obtained the necessary permits and  
2456 bonds or provided other surety that ensures completion of all required  
2457 public and private improvements on the land covered by the plat being  
2458 recorded.

2459 2. As an alternative to the requirements of Subsection 10.2.A.1, if  
2460 approved by the applicable public agency, a public improvement  
2461 agreement may be executed between the applicant and the agency to  
2462 ensure completion of public improvements.

2463 3. When the subdivider or developer is required by regulations of the  
2464 WSSC to record a final plat dedicating public roads in excess of a  
2465 current building phase to obtain installation of water and sewer to the  
2466 site, surety as required by the Road Design and Construction Code for  
2467 road improvements for such excess platting may be delayed under the  
2468 approved timing sequence of the proposed development approved by  
2469 the applicable County agency.

2470 **Section 10.3. Establishment of Adequate Public Facilities Guidelines**

2471 A. The Council must establish by resolution, after public hearing, the process to  
2472 determine the adequacy of public facilities and services. A subdivision  
2473 staging policy approved by the Council may serve this purpose if it contains  
2474 those guidelines. To provide the basis for the Council resolution, the Board  
2475 and the County Executive must provide the following information and  
2476 recommendations to the Council:

2477 1. the Board must provide analyses of current growth and the amount of  
2478 additional growth that can be accommodated by public facilities and  
2479 services. The Board must also provide recommendations of any  
2480 changes in preliminary plan approval criteria it deems appropriate;  
2481 and

2482 2. the County Executive must provide comments on the Board’s  
2483 analyses and recommendations and recommend criteria to determine  
2484 the adequacy of public facilities.

2485 **Section 10.4. Establishment of a Development Review Committee**

2486 The Board must establish a review committee consisting of Planning Department  
2487 Staff and staff of any County, State, and Federal agency; municipality; and utility  
2488 companies to which a plan has been referred. The committee must meet with  
2489 applicants and other interested persons to facilitate agency review of the plan, and  
2490 may reconcile conflicting requirements by different agencies. Each reviewing  
2491 agency must designate a representative to the committee. For the purpose of plan  
2492 review, the head of any participating County agency must delegate authority to a  
2493 representative to speak for the agency.

2494 **Section 10.5. Establishment of Fees**

2495 The Board must approve by resolution the fees necessary to cover the cost of  
2496 administering this Chapter.

2497 **Section 10.6. Enforcement of Chapter**

2498 A. *Notice of violation.*

2499 1. The Director may issue a notice of violation to a person whom the  
2500 Director believes committed a violation of a Planning Board Action or

2501 this Chapter. A notice of violation issued under this Subsection must  
2502 be served on the alleged violator personally, on the alleged violator's  
2503 agent at the site of the alleged violation, or by certified mail to the  
2504 alleged violator's last known address.

2505 2. The notice of violation must contain at least the following  
2506 information:

2507 a. the name of the person charged;

2508 b. the nature of the violation;

2509 c. the place where and the approximate date when the violation  
2510 occurred; and

2511 d. a statement advising the alleged violator of the corrective or  
2512 remedial action that must be taken and the date by which the  
2513 corrective or remedial action must be completed. The corrective  
2514 or remedial action may include a meeting with Planning  
2515 Department Staff to establish a compliance plan.

2516 B. *Administrative citation.*

2517 1. The Director may deliver an administrative citation to a person whom  
2518 the Director believes committed a violation of a Planning Board  
2519 action or this Chapter. The Director must attest to the truth of the facts  
2520 and allegations in the administrative citation. An administrative  
2521 citation issued under this Subsection must be served on the alleged  
2522 violator personally, on the alleged violator's agent at the site of the  
2523 alleged violation, or by certified mail to the alleged violator's last  
2524 known address.

2525 2. The administrative citation must contain at least the following  
2526 information:

2527 a. the name and address of the person charged;

2528 b. the nature of the violation;



- 2529 c. the place where and the approximate date when the violation
- 2530 occurred;
- 2531 d. the amount of fine assessed;
- 2532 e. where, when, and to whom the fine may be paid; and
- 2533 f. a statement advising the violator of the right to a hearing before
- 2534 the Board or its designee.

2535 C. *Notice of hearing.*

2536 1. The Director may issue a notice of hearing to a person whom the

2537 Director believes committed a violation of a Planning Board Action or

2538 this Chapter. The notice of hearing must be served on the alleged

2539 violator personally, on the alleged violator's agent at the site of the

2540 alleged violation, or by certified mail to the alleged violator's last

2541 known address.

2542 2. The notice of hearing must contain at least the following information:

2543 a. the name of the person charged;

2544 b. the nature of the violation;

2545 c. the place where and the approximate date when the violation

2546 occurred; and

2547 d. a statement advising the alleged violator of the date, time, and

2548 location of the hearing before the Board or its designee.

2549 D. *Civil fine and penalty.*

2550 1. A citation may require the recipient to pay a civil fine for a violation

2551 of a Planning Board action.

2552 2. The fine for each violation of a Planning Board action is the

2553 maximum allowed by the Land Use Article §23-505 of the Maryland

2554 Code for each day that the violation continues.



2583           j.     any other relevant factor.

2584           6.     The Board, after a public hearing on the violation, must adopt a  
2585                 resolution specifying the amount of any administrative civil penalty  
2586                 and the Board’s reason for imposing the penalty.

2587    E.     Nonpayment of fine.

2588           1.     If a person who receives an administrative citation does not pay the  
2589                 fine by the administrative citation’s due date or file a request for  
2590                 hearing, a notice must be sent to the person's last known address. If  
2591                 the administrative citation is not satisfied within 15 days after the  
2592                 notice is issued, the recipient is liable for an additional fine, as  
2593                 specified in the notice. The additional fine must be less than twice the  
2594                 original fine.

2595           2.     If the fine due is not paid within 35 days from the date the notice is  
2596                 issued, the Board may schedule and hold a hearing.

2597    F.     Hearing.

2598           1.     A person who receives a citation imposing a civil fine may elect a  
2599                 hearing before the Board or its designee by filing a written request for  
2600                 hearing with the Director. The request for a hearing must be received  
2601                 by the Director within 15 days after the administrative citation was  
2602                 issued. The filing of a request for a hearing does not stay an  
2603                 administrative order to stop work, stabilize a site, or stop a violation.

2604           2.     If the Director receives a request to hold a hearing under this Article,  
2605                 the Director must promptly schedule a hearing, unless the requestor  
2606                 consents to a delay, and must issue a notice of hearing.

2607           3.     The Board may assign a hearing officer, including a Hearing  
2608                 Examiner from the Office of Zoning and Administrative Hearings, to  
2609                 conduct a public hearing and submit a report and recommendation on  
2610                 any alleged violation of this Chapter or a Planning Board action. The  
2611                 hearing officer must submit the required report and recommendation  
2612                 to the Board not later than 30 days after the hearing record closes. The

2613 hearing officer may extend the time to file the report by notifying all  
2614 parties.

2615 4. After holding the hearing, the Board may impose any civil fine or  
2616 administrative civil penalty authorized by this Section, and also may:

2617 a. suspend or revoke the plan that is the subject of a Planning  
2618 Board Action;

2619 b. approve a compliance program that lists each remedial action  
2620 that must be taken;

2621 c. require the violator to post a bond or other surety to guarantee  
2622 completion of a compliance program;

2623 d. allow the violator to propose modifications to the plan; or

2624 e. take any combination of these actions.

2625 5. All fines, penalties, or forfeitures collected under this Section must be  
2626 remitted to the Board and placed in the general funds.

2627 6. The Board may spend funds from fines and penalties for project  
2628 corrections, plan enforcement or, subject to Council appropriations,  
2629 other Board purposes. The Board, in its sole discretion, may spend  
2630 collected fines or penalties to perform or correct some or all violations  
2631 noted in an administrative citation without obligating the Board,  
2632 instead of the person responsible, to correct any violation.

2633 G. Enforcement rules; conduct of hearing.

2634 1. The Board must:

2635 a. adopt regulations to administer and enforce this Section as a  
2636 method (2) regulation, subject to Council review under Chapter  
2637 2A, Section 15; and

2638 b. conduct any proceeding under this Section as provided in those  
2639 regulations.

2640 H. Stop work order.

- 2641           1.    The enforcement agent may issue a stop work order if the  
2642                    enforcement agent reasonably finds that:
- 2643                   a.    a person is violating any element of a Planning Board Action;  
2644                            and
- 2645                   b.    the violation threatens or may threaten the public health, safety,  
2646                            or welfare.
- 2647           2.    A stop work order must include the following information as  
2648                    applicable:
- 2649                   a.    the name and address of the person charged;
- 2650                   b.    the nature of the violation;
- 2651                   c.    the place where and the approximate date when the violation  
2652                            occurred; and
- 2653                   d.    a clear statement of the action that must be taken or  
2654                            discontinued to cure the violation, including any requirement to  
2655                            prepare a plan of compliance.
- 2656           3.    The enforcement agent must attest to the truth of the facts and  
2657                    allegations in the order.
- 2658           4.    The enforcement agent must prominently display the order near where  
2659                    the violation has occurred. In addition, the enforcement agent may  
2660                    deliver or mail a copy of the order to the last known address of the  
2661                    person who secured approval of the Planning Board Action.
- 2662           5.    When a stop work order is posted, the recipient must immediately  
2663                    discontinue any further work activities until the order is rescinded. A  
2664                    stop work order suspends the Board approval of the entire underlying  
2665                    plan, unless:
- 2666                   a.    the Board approves phasing of the project; and
- 2667                   b.    the enforcement agent finds that the violation involves only:

2668 i. one or more phases of a project, but not other phases of  
2669 the same project; or

2670 ii. activities on a single lot or parcel.

2671 In these instances, the order may only suspend the Board's  
2672 approval as it relates to those phases or lots where the violation  
2673 exists.

2674 6. The recipient of a stop work order may request a hearing to contest  
2675 the validity of the order. If the enforcement agent finds that a hearing  
2676 before the Board is not practical in a reasonable time, the Chair or  
2677 Vice-Chair of the Board may review the order. A determination by the  
2678 Chair or Vice-Chair has the same effect as if the Board reviewed the  
2679 order. The Board or Chair, if applicable, must review the order *de*  
2680 *novo*. If the violation is corrected and a plan of compliance prepared  
2681 by the recipient of the order before the hearing is confirmed by the  
2682 enforcement agent, the hearing must be cancelled.

2683 7. At the Board hearing, the enforcement agent must justify to the Board  
2684 the grounds and reasoning for issuing the order. The recipient must  
2685 explain why the order should be discontinued and may propose a plan  
2686 of compliance indicating how and when the violations will be  
2687 corrected. The Board must decide if the order should be continued,  
2688 modified, or rescinded, and if a plan of compliance should be  
2689 approved. The Board's decision that a stop work order must continue  
2690 revokes any underlying Board approvals for the entire project or any  
2691 part of the project as the Board specifies until the violation is  
2692 corrected.

2693 8. A Board decision to continue or modify an order may be the subject  
2694 of a petition for judicial review to the Circuit Court under the rules for  
2695 the review of administrative agency actions.

2696 9. A stop work order must be rescinded when the Board or the  
2697 enforcement agent finds that all violations specified in the order have  
2698 been satisfactorily corrected, which determination must not be

2699 unreasonably withheld, or the Board approves a compliance plan that  
2700 addresses any uncorrected violation.

2701 I. Other remedies. The authority in this Section to impose civil fines,  
2702 administrative civil penalties, and stop work orders is in addition to any  
2703 other authority of the Board to enforce its actions, including seeking  
2704 injunctive, declaratory, or other relief. The decision to pursue one remedy  
2705 does not preclude the Board from pursuing any other available remedy.

2706 J. Authority of the Office of the General Counsel. The General Counsel of the  
2707 Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission may prosecute  
2708 and take any other necessary legal action regarding any violation under this  
2709 Section.

2710 K. Exclusive authority. The Board or its designee has exclusive authority to  
2711 enforce violations of a Planning Board action and any violations of this  
2712 Chapter. The authority granted in this Chapter supersedes any other  
2713 authority to enforce a Planning Board action granted to any other County or  
2714 State agency.

2715 **Section 10.7. Amendment of Chapter**

2716 A. Procedures. The procedures for amending Chapter 50 must satisfy Section  
2717 23-104 of the Land Use Article, Maryland Code, and the Council Rules of  
2718 Procedure.

2719 B. Hearing. A public hearing under the Council Rules of Procedure is required.

2720 C. Expiration. Any subdivision regulation introduced to amend this Chapter  
2721 expires 18 months after its introduction if it is not approved.

2722 **Sec. 3. Effective Date.**

2723 This amendment takes effect 90 days after its approval by Council. This  
2724 amendment applies to any Planning Board action after the effective date of this  
2725 amendment.

2726 **Sec. 4. Prior Approvals**

2727 The repeal of Chapter 50 does not affect the status of any preliminary plan or  
2728 record plat approved by the Planning Board before the effective date of this  
2729 amendment. Any violation of a Planning Board action, or the regulations  
2730 governing the applicable approval, may be enforced under Section 10.6 of this  
2731 amendment.

2732

2733 *Approved:*

2734

2735

2736 \_\_\_\_\_  
Isiah Leggett, County Executive

Date

2737 *This is a correct copy of Council action.*

2738

\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council

Date