

Board of County Commissioners

Doug Howard
Commissioner
District 5



Carroll County Government

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Commissioner Howard Seeks Freedom Area Funding

Wednesday, September 13, 2017, Westminster, MD – At a town hall meeting last week, Commissioner Doug Howard initiated the idea of a dedicated funding source for Freedom Area infrastructure. During the Board of Commissioners’ Open Session on Thursday, September 14th, when the board will begin deliberations on the Freedom Plan, Commissioner Howard will introduce the concept of a budget line item for Freedom Area infrastructure.

According to Howard, “We have 9 designated growth areas in Carroll County and eight of them are municipalities with tax revenue, town council and funding from the county.” He contends that since the area is not a town (which he is not advocating) with those resources, the county must meet its responsibility for infrastructure to support great demands already placed on that area.

In comparing populations of this area with Westminster, Howard will seek a commitment of \$1 million per year, comparable with the Town/County agreement payment to Westminster. This could be used for road improvements, sidewalks, amenities or safety items, reflecting that the area has been a growth area for some time.

Howard is also forming a citizen advisory council for his district with citizens from that area. While it is currently his own initiative, he will ask for a board sanctioned group and the restoration of the Council of Governments. The Council of Governments, a previous council comprised of managers from all municipalities in Carroll County plus representatives from Freedom and Finksburg, was discontinued years ago.

Commissioner Howard concludes, “We must take a very careful and reasonable approach to any increase in density we may consider with the Freedom Plan; however, the steps I am suggesting are designed to achieve greater participation, representation and resources for an area already shouldering the burdens of growth.”

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CARROLL COUNTY

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