

# Department of Planning and Mayoralty

## Agency Overview

The Department of Planning (DoP) is the City agency entrusted with guiding the physical development of the City of Baltimore. Its mission is to build Baltimore as a diverse, sustainable and thriving city of neighborhoods and as the economic and cultural driver for the region. DoP's key responsibilities include staffing three commissions: the Planning Commission, the Commission on Historical and Architectural Preservation (CHAP), and the Sustainability Commission. As part of staffing these three commissions, the Department is responsible for creating development plans for the City; ensuring compliance with land use, environmental, and historic property regulations and design guidelines; preparing the six-year Capital Improvement Program; preparing and implementing a Sustainability Plan; and promoting healthy food access. In addition to managing a few ongoing capital projects, such as monument restoration, DoP is responsible for coordinating capital projects on behalf of the Mayor's Office (Mayoralty).

## Capital Projects

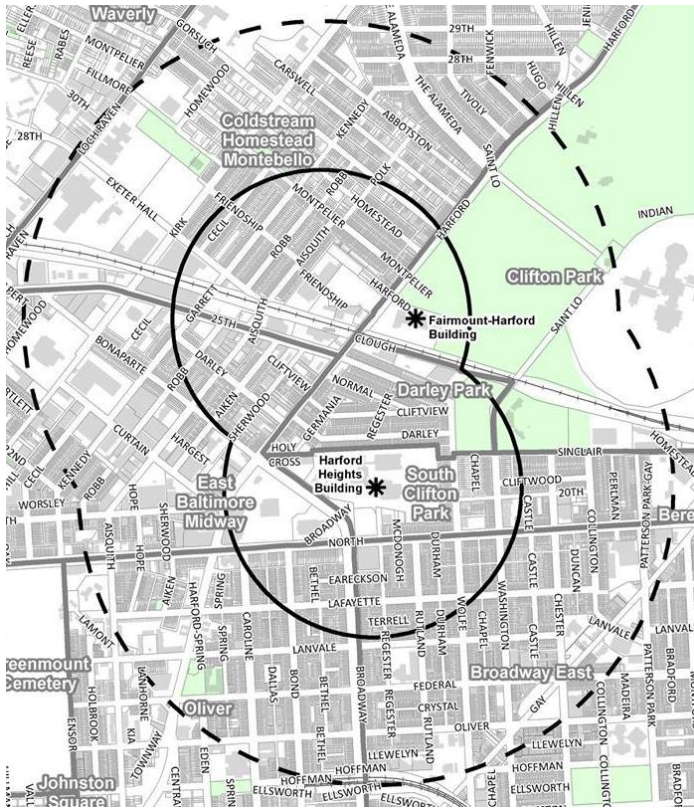
The Department of Planning and Mayoralty capital programs generally consist of five categories of projects, listed below:

### **Department of Planning:**

- **Plans:** The Department of Planning's capital request generally includes staff support for preparing the Capital Improvement Plan annually and funding for creating area master plans, zoning code rewrite, comprehensive plan, etc.
- **Historical and Architectural Preservation:** The Planning Department manages monument restoration for city-owned monuments and oversees a grant program for façade upgrades for those with financial burden living in a property with a historic designation.
- **Sustainability:** The Planning Department collects fees for projects that do not comply with Critical Area, Forest Conservation or Landscaping requirements. These funds are used to support projects such as tree planting, sustainability-related grants.

### **Mayoralty:**

- **Cultural Institutions:** The City supports its cultural institutions by providing city bond funds for specific capital projects. Cultural institutions typically leverage these funds to apply for grants (from the State, for example) or to raise funds through private donations.
- **Mayoral Initiatives:** Funds are budgeted for Mayoral initiatives such as the Baltimore Green Network and the INSPIRE program.



Mayorality capital projects include implementation of key elements of INSPIRE plans to promote further investment in the neighborhoods surrounding the new 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools.

Through the **21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Initiative**, nearly one billion dollars will be invested to renovate or replace schools over the next several years. To leverage this investment, and to enhance the connection between the schools and the surrounding neighborhood, the Department of Planning launched a program called INSPIRE (*Investing in Neighborhoods and Schools to Promote Improvement, Revitalization, and Excellence*). This program focuses on the neighborhoods immediately surrounding each of the modernized schools that are part of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century program, specifically the quarter-mile surrounding each school.

The above image to the right is a brand new sidewalk along the Filbert Street Community Garden. Filbert Street is a primary walking route for students going to Bay Brook Elementary/Middle School. The above image to the left shows the INSPIRE planning area for Fairmont Harford and Harford Heights.

DoP does not typically implement projects, but partners with other agencies, such as the Department of Transportation and Department of Recreation and Parks, for project implementation. With the exception of the sustainability projects, Planning and Mayorality rely on City General Obligation bond funds and General Funds for capital projects.