



Industry Engagement Feedback Session #1

Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021

Time: 3:00 – 4:30 PM

Location: Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

Lisa Krysiak	Harford County Office of Economic Development
Richard Griffin	City of Frederick Office of Economic Development
Helen Propheter	Frederick County Office of Economic Development
Gina Stewart	BWI Business Partnership
Ronny Navid	BWI Business Partnership
Sarah Diehl	Maryland Department of Planning
Joe Griffiths	Maryland Department of Planning
Chuck Boyd	Maryland Department of Planning
Sarah Lipkin Sularz	Maryland Department of Planning
Jennifer Chiasson	Maryland Department of Commerce
Dean Ertwine	Maryland Department of Commerce
Lisa Swoboda	Maryland Department of Commerce
Eric Spillman	Spillman Consulting
Anson Blackall	SIA Solutions
Rhiannon Schweitzer	SIA Solutions
Cyrena Eitler	Stantec
Carrie Ann Williams	Andana Consulting

The first feedback session of the industry engagement group was held using Microsoft Teams on Thursday, October 28, 2021. The purpose of this meeting was to provide an overview of the compatible use project and public outreach methodology, receive input on content creation and existing resources, and receive input on compatible use best practices and success stories at the regional, local, and installation levels. This meeting also provided an opportunity to share the draft mockup of the compatible use website.

The following items were discussed (by agenda item):

1. Introductions

- Introductions included a discussion of how/if participants interact with or support the communities surrounding their affiliated military installation and any additional information they would like to learn about the project.

2. Overview and Purpose of the Compatible Use Project:

- Sarah provided a brief overview of compatible use and provided examples of compatibility factors that are used to assess impacts from the perspective of a surrounding community and installation. The discussion was followed by an overview of the project, including the stakeholder involvement process, and public outreach methodology.
- Participant polling activity:
 - Q1: Were you familiar with the importance of compatible use before today's presentation? (7 Yes, 1 Vaguely Familiar)

- Q2: Are you aware of any compatible use conflicts in your community? (Answers included sea level rise, noise, eagle nesting, and a situation where housing close to level 4 labs has been a concern to the community).

3. Desired Goals & Outcomes of Feedback Sessions

- Anson elaborated that the purpose of these feedback sessions is to identify additional resource gaps, share additional resources, and also expand our audience. The project team is very interested in other tools and resources that can be included as part of the website and handbook and it is very important that we engage with other stakeholders to gain insight outside the military realm to make sure we achieve intended project outcomes.

4. Resource Review/Collection

- Anson noted that throughout the project, we have heard a lot about coordination that is happening between the installations and communities and the need for data. We have also looked at the JLUS studies that have been done throughout Maryland; highly recommend looking into those – will find information about available housing, workforce development issues and anything that has an adverse effect on military operations. If you are not familiar with compatible use, that is a great resource to find more information.
- Cyrena noted the Statewide Joint Land Use Response Implementation Strategy that identified strategies and recommendations that the state should focus on to improve compatible use. The appendix provides a lot of insight into what some of the issues are that have been highlighted a priority for further actions.
- Anson: roundtable question – what is your organization doing in regards of compatible use; what resources have you looked or what do you know of?
 - Richard noted there are not many external issues with Fort Detrick in terms of impacts on the community. Fort Detrick generates about 10,000 jobs; ~1,400 of that are uniformed but the rest are mainly white collar/scientific research and development types of positions.
 - A few laboratory experiment concerns- there is an on-going discussion about the compatibility of having Level 4 labs nearby a residential community; the City and County has put together a Containment Lab Community Advisory Committee that meets routinely to talk about the safety of these labs and their impact on the community.
 - He noted Site B as an EPA Superfund site due to testing in WWII timeframe; completely fenced off and 400 acres of unusable land. Presents potential groundwater issues.
 - Richard also stated that Fort Detrick is largely enclosed by development at this point; lots of single and multi-family homes around it, some industry but not a lot. Compatibility around those neighborhoods is generally pretty good.
 - Fort Detrick has added gates; tries to keep traffic on four-lane roads. At one point talked about closing one of the gates near a main commercial zone but has found a way to keep it open during the day to provide opportunities to residents and employees on base.
 - He noted that the City owns the road network around the Fort and has invested heavily over the years; there are some network tensions that would benefit from state or federal funding- particularly Route 15 which is at peak both directions all day.
 - The City also has IGSA's with the base for water/sewer and mutual aid.

- Joe asked how the city worked with the Fort on competing interests, i.e., keeping that gate open around commercial areas and subsequent traffic vs. closing the gate and the impact on community amenities.
 - Per Richard, keeping channels of communication open has always been a challenge, particularly because the federal government doesn't always ask for input. The City makes sure to include the federal side as a stakeholder when working on comprehensive plan/land use plan/traffic plan updates.
- Richard noted Visit Frederick (tourism organization) has a lot of resources for individuals and organizations coming into the area for the first time but there is nothing specifically geared to newcomers that are there because of the Fort.
- Helen noted that Frederick County Workforce Services has a partnership with the base to highlight jobs at Fort Detrick. There is going to be larger workforce demand moving forward and filling those jobs is something they will have to continuously work on.
- Helen also suggested Frederick National Laboratories (300,000 sq ft of research and lab space) as a best practice of how to put critical development right outside of the base but provide a large benefit to the community. Matten was the developer; would speak to their process and how they made sure the community was happy and land uses complimentary.
- Gina added that environment is a little different at Fort Meade. The County workforce development group has an off-post location; working to put together a one-stop shop, especially for spousal employment.
- Gina also added that traffic/road network around the installation is a large concern, especially Route 175 – the growth of west campus, etc.
 - Noted the Odenton Town Center Advisory Committee works with Anne Arundel County and some of the residents.
 - Not a lot of developable land around Fort Meade; a few residential projects have come up off post.
 - Col Nyland wants to focus on improving the quality of life and attracting workforce – traffic, schools, spousal employment, etc. Recently built a new high school on post and working to improve the negative perception of schools on base.
- Lisa noted that workforce development is a big effort for APG; compete with Huntsville, AL. There is a partnership with the Susquehanna Workforce Network who works with Harford/Cecil counties to place employees with employers. There are over 160 defense contractors in the county.
 - She added that noise pollution is a concern; Kent County is also affected. APG has to do the outreach to let the community know. APG has done a JLUS.
 - APG has a high concentration (if not highest) of bald eagle nests of any installation. Also concerns with sea level rise.
- Anson: any experiences with partnerships within the community?
 - Per Lisa, MOU for road extension to relieve semi-trailers to large warehouses/distribution centers.
- Dean noted that Maryland's installations, particularly the Army and Navy have more technical issues vs. a large installation like Fort Hood. Installations are unique: medical mission at Fort Detrick, testing at Pax River, the Naval Academy, Bethesda and the Walter Reed Hospital, Coast Guard Yard construction, JBA is not a typical air force base.

- He added that workforce issues tend to be more technical and are persistent; we can't look to other states with similar studies and use them in parallel since Maryland is so unique.
- Cyrena asked about small business contracting opportunities. Does anyone have a good relationship with the installations to connect Maryland's small businesses?
 - Lisa mentioned the Harford Business Innovation Center within her office that houses representatives from the Maryland Procurement Technical Assistance Center, Maryland Deftech, etc. There is an outreach office for small business programs through APG.
- Cyrena presented the different tabs of the website; noted this website is meant to be an all-encompassing resource for compatibility. Website visuals can be found at the end of the presentation pdf.

5. Next Steps & Wrap-Up

- Richard noted the resources and time that has gone in across the state to build strong relationships between communities and installations. Particularly in Frederick, communication, support and collaborative work is pretty high and that he did not want comments to be taken as complaining about incompatibility, just areas where there is work to be done.
 - Sarah agreed; these are all issues many communities are dealing with and this is not intended to point fingers at any one situation. We certainly recognize the mutual support and communication that is going on and hope to showcase and increase that across the state.
- Lisa Swoboda added that we recognize how important compatible land use is and that we are very grateful for the federal funding received. We would not be able to do this without Planning Secretary McCord's support and it is exciting to have someone in planning that is solely focused on working with military communities and strengthening that relationship.
- Sarah added that the MDP/Spillman teams will be following up on any leads from today's meeting and will use this feedback to inform the tabs on the website. The team will be getting back together with the full stakeholder group in November to present a project update.
 - Next feedback session being planned for January 2022. This session will be an opportunity to provide input and feedback on website functionality and design details. The final feedback session will take place in late spring/summer and be a final demonstration of project deliverables.
- MDP has launched a survey effort to get insight on how adjacent communities interact with neighboring military installations around Maryland. Results will the team of other compatibility topics to explore. The survey can be found [here](#) and is open until 12/17.
- Sarah will be sending a copy of the presentation after the meeting.