Linover Improvement association

To Members of the Baltimore County Planning Board and the Baltimore County Department of Planning,

The Linover Improvement Association (LIA) in Overlea-Fullerton respectfully submits the following items to be considered for the Capital Improvement Program for FY 2028 through FY 2033.

Parks/Greenspace

The Linover Improvement Association has historically advocated for parks such as Linover Park, Holt Park, Fullerton Field, and Double Rock Park. In fact, Baltimore County would not have Linover Park without the assistance and advocacy of the members of Linover.

The LIA and community would like to see investment and improvements in the following areas:

- Anti-slip paint or grip applied to the steps leading from the Terrace Drive entrance of Linover Park into the lower portion of the park itself. Several residents have slipped and fallen on the steps and the steps/path get horribly slippery when it rains. This is a major safety concern for residents and visitors alike.

- Water fountain at the top of Terrace Drive's entrance to Linover Park and in the park itself.

- New picnic benches in Linover Park. We asked for this when touring the park for the Linover Park Legislative Bond Initiative before Covid and that was never done.

- Swing sets in the park. We love the new playground but there are no swing sets for kids to have fun on. A swing set would really tie everything together in the park and bring some new life to the area.

- Redo the parking lot, along with the addition of lights in the parking lot and maybe a gate. The parking lot is in rough shape. Someone broke their ankle falling into a hole there a few years ago. It's also pitch black with no lighting. And while we don't want to encourage people to hang out in the park after dark, lights were added to the field for night games. But there are no lights in the parking lot for when there are night games. It's also a spot where cars will pull in after dark and just hang out. The lights - and possible gate at the entrance on Lilian Holt Drive - would help increase safety in the park and the community as a whole.

- Fix the steps leading into the park: The steps have been damaged multiple times with trees falling and recent supercell storms. We would like to see funding for improvements to the steps overall, along with adding an additional step at the bottom down into the park. The height to reach the first step from the ground cannot be up to any safety code. We have asked for this multiple times to no success. It is only a matter of time before someone gets hurt.

Community Improvements

- Sidewalks: Linover has multiple streets without completed sidewalks. We received ADA ramps at some intersections but they don't have complete sidewalks. The community asked about this and we were told by DPW that they asked the homeowners and they said they did not want sidewalks. We questioned the homeowners and they were never contacted by DPW. The majority of Linover is within the legal distance of a walkable school zone, given that Fullerton Elementary School is within our boundaries. We have multiple families who walk, kids who walk from school and school bus stops, and community members who walk for enjoyment and exercise. They have to walk in the street if they want to stay within the Linover neighborhood. We would like a sidewalk inventory and DPW to work with us to make these improvements for the safety of our community.

We are also looking for sidewalk improvements around Fullerton Elementary School. This includes on Fullerton Avenue (both sides from Belair Road to Linhigh Avenue/Kenwood Avenue) and on Henry Avenue. There are steps that lead down to Fullerton from Henry Avenue. That has always been rough for children to access and no real improvements to that area and the steps have been done in recent memory.

- Traffic Calming: Linover has applied for speed bumps on numerous occasions only to be told we do not qualify and need to look at alternative traffic calming. At no point was it ever explained that for alternative traffic calming to happen, we had to reach out to DPW for ANOTHER survey. We are requesting funding for DPW to work with the LIA to add traffic calming measures to our community (which, again, is in a school zone).

The Linover Improvement Association is also requesting funds to be a part of a trial program for flashing stop signs or an automated stop sign enforcement program. Both Prince George's County and Wicomico County have programs for flashing stop signs or automated stop sign enforcement. The Linover Improvement Association is asking for the county to designate funds to create a pilot program for this technology and we would like to be the test group. If you go through our history, we have countless complaints about people running stop signs throughout our boundaries. In fact, many of us have physically put our bodies in harm's way to make cars stop at the four way signs if children are present. We just want people and our children to be safe.

Schools

- Fullerton Elementary School needs to have the pipes fixed due to lead in the water. This year, the Linover Improvement Association and community members supplied over 100 reusable water bottles for students at Fullerton to have so they can pull from the "safe" water jugs and not have to use the little paper cups. Many of us on the Board of LIA sent out kids to Fullerton Elementary or went to Fullerton ourselves; this has been an ongoing problem for YEARS. Our children and our teachers deserve to have safe drinking water at school. The pipes need replacing.

- Fullerton Elementary School is in need of a new or bigger parking lot. Teachers and staff have asked us why they can't get additional parking. The issue has been made worse this school year with neighboring community streets being shut down for repairs and building. Perhaps a lot up on Marks Avenue next to Fullerton Body and Fender with steps leading there could be investigated to help this issue.

Miscellaneous

- We would like to see funding kept for working with the Greater Chesapeake Chamber of Commerce for the Hillendale, Overlea, Parkville Sustainable Community Plan. Working together with the Chamber has been able to provide the communities of Linover and Overlea additional resources and direction for where we can improve and grow.

As a result of this direct work, the Linover Improvement Association is respectfully asking that funding be included to speed up the timeline for working on a new Small Area Plan for the Linover, Overlea, and Parkville area.
Until that funding is given, we are asking the Department of Planning to work with the LIA on actionable areas of the 2009 Overlea-Fullerton Community Plan. We requested this last year as well. To be frank, unless it's about the City County Task Force or the HOP Sustainable Community Plan, the Department of Planning has been absent from Linover in regards to the Community Plan. We have actionable items that can be done now and together. Funding needs to be designated to ensure that

this is moving and that we are working together. This should be a no-brainer but it feels like Linover is the forgotten area along Belair Road.

Land Preservation

Through historic discussions in the Linover community, we would like to slowly work towards a conversation about preserving Sippel's Farm. Located in Linover, Sippel's Farm was a working farm with a history of being only one of two working farms in the 1990's inside the Beltway. The property is still owned by the Sippel Family. However, we DO NOT want to see this property built. Again, we DO NOT want to see this property built up. Instead, we want to preserve this property to be a community hub. We want to see community gardens, a space for older communities such as Linover, Overlea, and Elmwood to have a central hub, for us to connect with our community schools, and connect to Linover Park. This is a farm rich with history that contributes to Linover and Overlea (along with a burial property so it should not be built on). Maybe the conversation needs to start now on how we can work together to preserve this.

Please let us know if you have any questions. We are always open and want to contribute to the Capital Improvement Program any way we can.

Thank you,

Linover Improvement Association Board of Directors and Officers

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