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***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

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**Study of Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge Over Route 40 to be Funded**

Annapolis, MD - Today, Senator Katie Fry Hester and Delegate Courtney Watson announced that \$150,000 from the State of Maryland FY22 Capital Budget was preapproved to fund a feasibility study to be conducted by Howard County for an Ellicott City Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge. The bridge would span Baltimore National Pike (Route 40) in a location to be determined, west of Patapsco Valley State Park and east of Centennial Lane.

Route 40 is a highly successful commercial area in Ellicott City and home to hundreds of small businesses. Yet its development over time has been characterized by a fragmented land use pattern with limited connectivity. Improving connectivity is a major goal of the Howard County Route 40 Design Manual to strengthen the corridor as a pedestrian-oriented, mixed-use destination for residents and regional visitors.

“In addition to connecting neighborhoods on the north and south side of Baltimore National Pike,” said Delegate Watson, “we hope there is an opportunity to connect to pathways that lead to one of Ellicott City’s top-tier amenities, the Miller Library. A pedestrian bridge would also provide an opportunity to incorporate public art along the Route 40 corridor in Ellicott City.”

A five mile stretch of the state highway was designated Korean Way in 2016 by Governor Hogan as an economic development initiative and in recognition of the almost 200 Korean businesses along Route 40 in Ellicott City. In 2020, Governor Hogan authorized a public art installation of traditional Korean Gates on state right of way in the Chatham area of Route 40. A pedestrian

bridge could provide an opportunity for additional public art or incorporate the public art already planned by the state.

“This pedestrian bridge will be an amazing addition to connect, celebrate, and strengthen the diverse small businesses and the families that sustain them along the Route 40 corridor. I look forward to working with the county, state and community to increase pedestrian and bicycle access to our vibrant and culturally-rich restaurants and retail amenities,” said Senator Hester.

Improving pedestrian connectivity in the corridor requires the state and county to work together as the state owns and controls the highway right of way along Route 40. A feasibility study funded by the state of Maryland offers an opportunity to engage the county and residents in a plan that will enhance the overall aesthetics and function of the corridor.

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Link to the Rt 40 Design Manual:

[09100 Route 40 Manual.indb \(howardcountymd.gov\)](#)

Link to Howard County Council monthly meeting, January 6, 2021

Agenda Item: Rt. 40 Streetscaping Proposal - Korean Pillar Style Palace Gates

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