



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Jan H. Gardner
County Executive

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
February 20, 2020

CONTACT: [Vivian Laxton](#)
Communications Director, 301-600-1315

Executive Gardner Announces Roundtable to Refresh Rural Roads Program

FREDERICK, MD – County Executive Jan Gardner today announced plans to refresh the county’s Rural Roads Program. To kick off the effort, she has invited stakeholders to participate in a public roundtable discussion to discuss how best to reshape the program so that it balances the unique maintenance needs of the often-unpaved scenic roadways with the community’s goals to preserve and protect the scenic and historical qualities of the roads and nearby land.

“Our rural roads offer outstanding views of rolling farmland and natural features, and they provide access to our historic resources,” said Executive Gardner. “I want to focus on these hidden gems and what we can do to enhance their appeal while ensuring safe travel for local residents and visitors alike.”

Representatives from several interest groups will meet for the Rural Roads Roundtable at 6 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 24, at Winchester Hall, 12 E. Church St., Frederick. They will discuss possible new criteria for rural roads and for scenic roads, the process to consider adding new roads or taking roads out of the program, how and whether to promote these roads for tourism, and the priorities that should be considered when maintaining these special roadways.

Participants at the roundtable include representatives from several county committees and commissions, including the Roads Board, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, the Parks and Recreation Commission, and the Historic Preservation Commission. Advocacy groups represented at the table include the Frederick County Farm Bureau and Friends of Rural Roads. The county’s tourism council, Visit Frederick, will participate, as will County Council Vice President Michael Blue and staff from the Divisions of Public Works, Planning and Permitting, and Parks and Recreation. Other groups focused on preservation, forestry, landmarks and heritage, have also been invited to attend.

Since the Rural Roads Program began almost 20 years ago, over 80 miles of roadway have been incorporated into the plan. More than half of those roads, 46 miles, are gravel roads, and 30 miles are tar-and-chip covered. There are another six miles of asphalt roads in the program.

The plan to revitalize the Rural Roads Program falls in line with several initiatives proposed by Executive Gardner recently to preserve Frederick County’s rich history and environment. For more information, visit www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/executive.

The roundtable will be broadcast live on FCG TV, on cable channels 19 and 1085, and streamed on the county’s website at www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/FCGTV.

###