

SUBJECT

Montgomery County's State Legislative Priorities – Maryland General Assembly 2023

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

Melanie Wenger, Director, Office of Intergovernmental Relations (OIR)

COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- Review and approve the County's State Legislative Priorities for 2023

DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

Each year, the Council and County Executive jointly approve a list of State legislative priorities for the upcoming General Assembly session. The deadline to provide the 2023 list the State Delegation is November 15, 2022.

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- Whether to adopt the enclosed priorities regarding:
 - Invest in Montgomery (including a list of priority capital projects)
 - Education and early care;
 - Elections;
 - Environment;
 - Health and human services;
 - Public safety;
 - Broadband accessibility and affordability;
 - Cybersecurity; and
 - Local authority.

This report contains:

Staff Memorandum	Page 1
Chart prepared by Council staff	©1
Draft 2023 Priorities from OIR (differences from 2022 highlighted)	©5
Draft 2023 List of Priority Capital Projects	©8
2022 Priorities	©10
2021 Priorities	©17
2020 Priorities	©19

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M E M O R A N D U M

November 11, 2022

TO: County Council

FROM: Christine Wellons, Senior Legislative Attorney

SUBJECT: State Legislative Priorities – 2023 Maryland General Assembly

PURPOSE: Action – Council vote expected

On November 3, 2022, Councilmembers received a draft of the 2023 State Legislative Priorities, provided by the Office of Intergovernmental Relations (OIR) (©5). Included within the priorities are a list of priority capital projects. (©8).

A chart on the following page (©1) details each priority proposed by OIR, along with potential additions identified by Council staff. With respect to the draft list of capital projects (©8), Council staff recommends approval of the list as submitted by OIR.

The County's list of priorities – including the list of priority capital project – is due to the State Delegation on November 15, 2022.

NEXT STEP: The decision before the Council is whether to adopt the priorities described in the enclosed chart (©1), along with the enclosed list of proposed capital project priorities (©8).

<u>This packet contains:</u>	<u>Circle #</u>
Chart prepared by Council staff	1
Draft 2023 Priorities from OIR (differences from 2022 highlighted)	5
Draft 2023 List of Priority Capital Projects	8
2022 Priorities	10
2021 Priorities	17
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CHART OF PROPOSED 2023 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Highlighted in yellow are the priorities identified by Council staff as potential additions to OIR's draft state priorities list.

Draft Priority for Council's Review & Approval	Council Staff Point Person
<p><u>Invest in Montgomery</u></p> <p>Montgomery County has been a prime economic driver for the State for many years. For Montgomery County to continue to thrive as the State's key economic engine, the State must be a full partner in investing in the County's future. Without a strong partnership, Montgomery will struggle to maintain its ability to compete regionally, nationally, and globally.</p> <p>Montgomery has strong assets: a nationally recognized public education system, a highly educated workforce, the home of key federal facilities and one of the top four tech/biotech clusters in the country, plus a culturally rich population. Unfortunately, the area has a reputation for having some of the worst traffic congestion in the country. The County has acted to help bridge gaps, including investing hundreds of millions of dollars to finance State transportation projects, and has under development a bus rapid transit system to help improve mobility. But it cannot do it alone given the magnitude of investment needed.</p> <p>Other infrastructure challenges also exist, particularly in education. Driven by enrollment increases and program demands, the physical plants at Montgomery County Public Schools need continued capital infusions. The County has an excellent multi campus community college (MC) and is privileged to be the home of the Universities at Shady Grove (USG), which employs a unique higher education delivery model by hosting programs offered by nine University System of Maryland (USM) constituent institutions. The County has been a major investor in both, in the form of capital and operating aid. However, the County is missing a key piece to help support its growth: a research university presence that can support and enhance its national life science industry leadership. The County's vision is to partner with the State and USM to create an Institute for Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) and Virtual Reality to anchor the redevelopment of the site that was short-listed for the placement of Amazon HQ2 around the North Bethesda Metro station. This will expand the County's life sciences market and help move the State into the top tier of Life Science clusters in the country.</p>	Smith

Draft Priority for Council's Review & Approval	Council Staff Point Person
<p><u>Education and Early Care</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support efforts to enhance the Blueprint for Maryland's Future as necessary to address implementation challenges, including pressures of global inflation, and ensure adequate and equitable funding to support students and families served by the County's school system and private child care providers. Acknowledging that access to quality and affordable child care for families is only achieved when the early care and education workforce is compensated adequately for the essential work that it performs, support efforts to further enhance the funding that was allocated last session to secure the financial viability of providing early care and education through direct payments to early care and education workers. 	McGuire / Levchenko
<p><u>Elections</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support legislation that was vetoed by the Governor in 2022 to authorize earlier canvassing of absentee ballots to allow for effective management of ballot volume. 	Mia / Jeong
<p><u>Environment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support bold and equitable clean energy, building decarbonization, transportation and waste management policies and investments needed to achieve State and County climate goals and protect our natural environment. Support efforts that create opportunities to collaborate with partners across the State to develop and test innovative solutions to shared challenges. 	Levchenko

Draft Priority for Council's Review & Approval	Council Staff Point Person
<p><u>Health and Human Services</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote the health and safety of the residents of Montgomery County and to build individual and family strength and self-sufficiency, ensure that as pandemic-related funding is phased out, the State works in partnership with local governments to implement the best practices learned during the pandemic response through continuing programs and funding that have improved the well-being of Marylanders over the last three years. • Continue to elevate awareness of the urgency around the level of the State's nursing home inspections and work with the incoming administration to increase State inspection efforts, as well as to increase communication and data sharing with local agencies. • Continue the work underway through the Commission to Study the Health Care Workforce Crisis in Maryland, and adopt best practices and changes identified by the Commission's work. 	McGuire
<p><u>Public Safety</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reach the County's Vision Zero goals of ending serious and fatal crashes on our roadways, expand Montgomery County's Safe Speed Program by allowing more roadways to be eligible for automated traffic enforcement, considering local initiatives such as graduated automated enforcement fines for excessive speed, and close the loophole in the Drunk Driving Reduction Act of 2016 (Noah's Law) which requires persons convicted of alcohol-related driving offenses to participate in Maryland's Ignition Interlock System Program. • Support efforts to enhance the Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021 as necessary to address legal and operational challenges that rise to the surface as implementation continues to roll out at both the State and local levels. 	Farag

Draft Priority for Council's Review & Approval	Council Staff Point Person
<p><u>Broadband Accessibility and Affordability</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support efforts to expand State initiatives and enable local initiatives that enhance broadband accessibility and affordability, with particular attention to programs that ensure urban areas are eligible to receive funding for broadband infrastructure as well as digital inclusion regarding access, training, and devices. 	Toregas
<p><u>Cybersecurity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support increased funding for programs that enhance the County's ability to address cybersecurity threats and oppose the imposition of overly burdensome administrative requirements on local officials that divert resources from cybersecurity efforts. 	Toregas
<p><u>Local Authority</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain and where needed expand the County's Home Rule Authority to allow the County to enact local laws regarding priorities that are not fully addressed at the State level. Ensure that any legislation to implement legalization of recreational cannabis includes local authority regarding revenue generation (taxation), land use and zoning (e.g., location of retail outlets), and public safety efforts related to legalization. 	Wellons / Farag



Montgomery County's Priorities for the 2023 General Assembly Session

Invest in Montgomery

Montgomery County has been a prime economic driver for the State for many years. For Montgomery County to continue to thrive as the State's key economic engine, the State must be a full partner in investing in the County's future. Without a strong partnership, Montgomery will struggle to maintain its ability to compete regionally, nationally, and globally.

Montgomery has strong assets: a nationally recognized public education system, a highly educated workforce, the home of key federal facilities and one of the top four tech/biotech clusters in the country, plus a culturally rich population. Unfortunately, the area has a reputation for having some of the worst traffic congestion in the country. The County has acted to help bridge gaps, including investing hundreds of millions of dollars to finance State transportation projects, and has under development a bus rapid transit system to help improve mobility. But it cannot go it alone given the magnitude of investment needed.

Other infrastructure challenges also exist, particularly in education. Driven by enrollment increases and program demands, the physical plants at Montgomery County Public Schools need continued capital infusions. The County has an excellent multi campus community college (MC) and is privileged to be the home of the Universities at Shady Grove (USG), which employs a unique higher education delivery model by hosting programs offered by nine University System of Maryland (USM) constituent institutions. The County has been a major investor in both, in the form of capital and operating aid. However, the County is missing a key piece to help support its growth: a research university presence that can support and enhance its national life science industry leadership. The County's vision is to partner with the State and USM to create an Institute for Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) and Virtual Reality to anchor the redevelopment of the site that was short-listed for the placement of Amazon HQ2 around the North Bethesda Metro station. This will expand the County's life sciences market and help move the State into the top tier of Life Science clusters in the country.

A list of requested State investments for the 2023 Session is attached.

Education and Early Care

- Support efforts to enhance the Blueprint for Maryland's Future as necessary to address implementation challenges and ensure adequate and equitable funding to support students and families served by the County's school system and private child care providers.

- Acknowledging that access to quality and affordable child care for families is only achieved when the early care and education workforce is compensated adequately for the essential work that it performs, support efforts to further enhance the funding that was allocated last session to secure the financial viability of providing early care and education through **direct payments to early care and education workers**.

Elections

- **Support legislation that was vetoed by the Governor in 2022 to authorize earlier canvassing of absentee ballots to allow for effective management of ballot volume.**

Environment

- Support bold and equitable clean energy, building decarbonization, transportation and waste management policies and investments needed to achieve State and County climate goals and protect our natural environment.
- Support efforts that create opportunities to collaborate with partners across the State to develop and test innovative solutions to shared challenges.

Health and Human Services

- To promote the health and safety of the residents of Montgomery County and to build individual and family strength and self-sufficiency, ensure that as pandemic-related funding is phased out, the State works in partnership with local governments to **implement the best practices learned during the pandemic response** through continuing programs and funding that have improved the well-being of Marylanders over the last three years.

Public Safety

- To reach the County's Vision Zero goals of ending serious and fatal crashes on our roadways, **expand Montgomery County's Safe Speed Program by allowing more roadways to be eligible for automated traffic enforcement and close the loophole in the Drunk Driving Reduction Act of 2016 (Noah's Law) which requires persons convicted of alcohol-related driving offenses to participate in Maryland's Ignition Interlock System Program.**
- Support efforts to enhance the Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021 as necessary to address legal and operational challenges that rise to the surface as implementation continues to roll out at both the State and local levels.

Broadband Accessibility and Affordability

- Support efforts to expand State initiatives and enable local initiatives that enhance broadband accessibility and affordability, with particular attention to programs that ensure urban areas are eligible to receive funding for broadband infrastructure as well as digital inclusion regarding access, training, and devices.

Cybersecurity

- Support increased funding for programs that enhance the County's ability to address cybersecurity threats and oppose the imposition of overly burdensome administrative requirements on local officials that divert resources from cybersecurity efforts.

Local Authority

- Retain and where needed expand the County's Home Rule Authority to allow the County to enact local laws regarding priorities that are not fully addressed at the State level.
- Ensure that any legislation to implement legalization of recreational cannabis includes local authority regarding revenue generation (taxation) and land use and zoning (e.g., location of retail outlets).



Montgomery County Capital Projects 2023 General Assembly Session Listing

Priority Projects *

1. Montgomery County Bus Rapid Transit System (BRT) – \$100,000,000
2. Montgomery College Transit Station – \$25,000,000
3. Burtonsville Park & Ride – \$13,000,000
4. New Zero Emission Ride On and BRT Bus Depot– \$50,000,000
5. Bowie Mill Bike Trail – \$9,350,000
6. Montrose Road Diet – \$2,500,000
7. Boyds Transit Center Historic Hoyles Mill Station – \$2,500,000
8. Connected School Safety Beacons – \$550,000
9. Corrugated Metal Pipe Culverts Replacement - \$5,000,000
10. Wheaton Arts & Culture Center – \$38,100,000
11. High School Wellness Centers – \$18,000,000
12. School Building Modifications to Support Blueprint for Maryland’s Future – \$10,000,000
13. Streeteries (Wheaton/Silver Spring/Bethesda) – \$6,000,000
14. Damascus Library/Senior Center Refurbishment – \$5,000,000

* The County also strongly supports the Montgomery County Public School’s \$164,000,000 request for school construction projects, Montgomery College’s \$10,328,000 request for capital improvement projects located on its three campuses, and the Montgomery Parks / M-NCPPC’s \$10 million request for the Powerline Trail Project and projects at the Wheaton Regional and Long Branch Parks.

Projects Already Preauthorized by the General Assembly for FY 2024

County Projects

1. Bethesda Market Lots 10-24, Town of Chevy Chase – \$500,000
2. Black Rock – \$350,000
3. Montgomery College East County Expansion – \$2,000,000
4. Montgomery College - Takoma Park/Silver Spring - Library – \$1,342,000
5. Montgomery County Bus Rapid Transit System (BRT) – \$7,000,000
6. Montgomery County Public Schools Playgrounds – \$1,350,000
7. North Bethesda Metro Station North Entrance – \$2,000,000
8. North Bethesda Redevelopment – \$6,000,000
9. Restoration Center – \$5,000,000
10. Town of Brookeville – \$500,000
11. Zero Emission Buses – \$5,000,000

Other Projects Located Within the County

1. MedStar Montgomery Medical Center – \$1,000,000
2. Olney Boys and Girls Club - Performance Sports Center – \$1,500,000
3. Sandy Spring Museum – \$1,500,000
4. South Valley Park Improvements – \$1,000,000



Montgomery County's Priorities for the 2022 Session

COVID-19 Relief & Economic Resilience

- Supporting ongoing COVID-19 relief and economic resilience programs including those that enhance the County's goals regarding racial equity and social justice, public health, emergency response, housing support and eviction diversion, childcare, broadband, and an inclusive and sustainable local economy.

Fiscal Health & Economic Development

- Ensuring that the State budget respects the nexus that exists between the State's fiscal stability and its counties' fiscal health, and respects counties' role as the delivery system for public services.
- Supporting initiatives to strengthen local economic development and small businesses consistent with the priorities established by WorkSource Montgomery and the Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation.
- Supporting overriding the veto of Senate Bill 199/House Bill 114 (*Transit Safety and Investment Act*), which in addition to mandating additional financial support for the Maryland Transit Administration, established a Purple Line Construction Grant Program to provide funds to qualified businesses that suffered revenue losses as a result of the construction of the Purple Line.
- Supporting initiatives to expand affordable housing, including funding to construct new affordable housing units and to preserve and rehabilitate existing affordable housing units.
- Supporting a higher allocation of federal 9% Low-Income Housing Tax Credits to projects located within the County.

Transportation

- Ensuring a fair and equitable allocation to the County of anticipated historic increases in federal transportation funding that will flow through states and supporting efforts to enhance collaboration with State and federal partners to develop and implement a modern transportation system to address the region's current and future needs.
- Securing the future of the Purple Line project without any additional local contribution.
- Providing financial support and ensuring administrative cooperation for implementation of the County's bus rapid transit system, including MD 586 (Veirs Mill Road) and MD 355.
- Supporting the Corridor Cities Transitway (CCT) project with the awareness that the County is currently reevaluating its proposed alignment.

- Reinforcing the Maryland Department of Transportation’s commitment to pedestrian and bicycle safety, both through policy and investment.
- Reinforcing the Maryland Department of Transportation’s support for local transit and highway user revenue distributions.

Education

- Continuing to implement the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future in a manner that:
 - (1) Maintains the State’s commitment to early childhood education, high quality and diverse teachers and leaders, college and career pathways, more resources to ensure success for all students, and governance and accountability; and
 - (2) Ensures a fair and equitable allocation of funding to support students and families served by the County’s school system, including funding that helps address racial and social inequities in learning exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Supporting continued implementation of the Built to Learn Act and reasonable modifications to State policies that are currently contributing to State financial participation rates in public school construction projects in Montgomery County and other counties that are well below the State’s maximum public school construction cost share percentages.
- For Montgomery College, obtaining \$3.9 million in fiscal 2023 for construction of the Catherine and Isiah Leggett Math/Science Building and \$5 million in fiscal 2023 for the renovation of the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Resource Center.
- Supporting efforts to increase culturally and linguistically proficient mental health and social/emotional learning, staffing, and practices, including efforts to facilitate career pathways for school counselors, mental health professionals, teachers, and nurses and reduce unnecessary professional licensure barriers.

Elections

- Supporting efforts to increase State funding and support of elections, including requiring the State to provide at a minimum 50% or more of the cost of voting equipment and related systems as originally envisioned in 2001 when the State created the Uniform Statewide Voting System and ensuring that appropriate local input is obtained before the State Board of Elections makes procurement decisions that obligate County funds.
- Supporting measures to protect the Constitutional right to vote and opposing efforts to reduce or impede that right.
- Supporting legislation to permit the earlier canvassing of absentee ballots to more effectively manage the volume of ballots.

Environment

- To help advance the County’s chief climate goal of achieving zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2035, ensuring a fair and equitable allocation to the County of anticipated historic increases in federal infrastructure funding that will flow through states and supporting efforts to enhance collaboration with State and federal partners to address climate change. Opportunities include funds for clean energy, improved transportation

options including support for electric vehicles, green bank funding to assist with leveraging private financing, and funds to address energy efficiency in existing buildings. Communities across the State, the country, and the world must do their part to curb the cataclysmic social, environmental, and economic impacts of climate change. Additionally, State level support is needed for improved recycling requirements, extended producer responsibility and accountability, and for support from electric utilities and distributors for transition to clean energy sources.

Health and Human Services

- Supporting all efforts to develop and implement a Statewide plan to address the shortage of inpatient beds needed for individuals with mental health care needs, particularly youth under age 18, who wait months to enter treatment or are not able to be served at all. The plan should increase the number of available beds and broaden the populations of youth able to be served by the program, accounting for the myriad reasons these beds are in short supply.
- Supporting efforts to increase the number of linguistically and culturally competent health care, behavioral health, and social service professionals serving our residents, including efforts to facilitate career pathways and reduce unnecessary professional licensure barriers.
- Supporting initiatives to mitigate eviction and to keep residents housed as part of COVID-19 economic recovery, including the reintroduction of House Bill 729/Senate Bill 530 (*Landlord and Tenant – Eviction Actions- Filing Surcharge and Prohibited Lease Provisions*) and House Bill 31 (*Courts – Surcharges and Payment to Special Funds – Prohibited Lease Provisions*) of 2021. These bills had the goal of protecting tenants from superfluous evictions filings by raising the surcharge filing fees for summary ejectment (failure to pay rent), tenant holding over, and breach of lease actions against a residential tenant. Maryland has among the lowest fees in the country for filing these actions; by raising the fees, landlords would not be incentivized to turn to the courts at the earliest opportunity to resolve these issues.

Public Safety

- Monitoring implementation of the Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021 and supporting efforts to enhance this police reform package to address legal and operational challenges that rise to the surface as implementation continues to roll out at both the State and local levels.
- Supporting efforts to reimagine how public health agencies and other social service resources can best support public safety functions, including expanding efforts to integrate behavioral health supports with law enforcement efforts.
- Supporting legislation generally prohibiting juveniles from being charged as adults.

Broadband Accessibility and Affordability

- Supporting State initiatives, and enabling local initiatives, to expand broadband accessibility and affordability, with particular attention to programs and funding that ensure that urban areas are eligible to receive funding for broadband infrastructure as well as digital inclusion training and device programs.
- Working to assure that the National Association of Counties (NACo) Broadband Task Force findings, [NACo-BroadbandTaskforce-report.pdf \(July 2021\)](#), are translated into local action items sensitive to local conditions.

Cybersecurity

- Supporting funding for cybersecurity programs that enhance the County's ability to address cybersecurity threats and opposing the imposition of overly burdensome administrative (e.g., reporting) requirements on local cybersecurity officials that divert resources from necessary cybersecurity efforts.

Local Authority

- Retaining the County's broad Home Rule Authority to ensure that the County is not preempted from enacting or enforcing its own local laws (past examples include potential restrictions on local authority regarding control of public rights of way, siting of small cell facilities, licensing of electricians, siting of large-scale solar farms, carryout bag tax, and excise tax on electronic smoking devices).
- Expanding the County's authority and flexibility to enact local legislation when necessary to address County priorities that are not fully addressed at the State level, including increasing County flexibility to raise revenue and have local control for property tax classification.
- Supporting overriding the veto of Senate Bill 133/House Bill 319 (*Local Tax Relief for Working Families Act of 2021*) which authorized local governments to impose the county income tax on a bracket basis to allow for greater progressivity in county income tax systems.

State Capital Projects

- Please refer to the attachment, which reflects a listing of capital projects that should qualify now or in the future for State investment.

12/22/21



Montgomery County Capital Projects

2022 Session Listing

Major projects (descriptions of these projects follow):

1. Restoration Center -- \$18 million
2. Bethesda Metro South Entrance -- \$20 million
3. Zero Emissions Bus Program - \$18 million
4. Veirs Mill Road Flash Bus Rapid Transit - \$20 million
5. Great Seneca Science Corridor Transit Vehicles - \$13.5 million
6. Personal Living Quarters -- \$25 million (\$7 million available in federal HUD HOME funds)
7. Criminal Justice Center – \$74 million
8. Public School Construction, Traditional and EGRC programs (does not include Built to Learn funds) – \$45 million

Smaller denomination projects:

1. Montgomery College – build out of leased space for a 4th location in East County with longer term goal of establishing a more comprehensive 4th campus
2. Maryland Statewide Mesonet (Statewide system for real-time community-level monitoring of weather conditions) - \$1.5 million
3. Olney Theatre – \$1.5 million
4. Olney Theatre, Root Outdoor Theatre -- \$.5 million
5. Bowie Mills Bike Trail -- \$1.5 million
6. Parks – various improvements throughout the County’s parks system

Already in the queue for FY 23 State funding:

1. Montgomery College, Silver Spring/Takoma Park campus, Leggett Math & Science Building -- \$3.9 million
2. Montgomery College, Silver Spring/Takoma Park campus, Resource Center -- \$5 million

Restoration Center - \$18M. The Restoration Center is a facility that will provide a continuum of care for those in crisis in an appropriate community-based setting. The Restoration Center will support the implementation of the Crisis Now model in Montgomery County and will provide alternatives to using hospital Emergency Departments or defaulting to criminal justice options for people experiencing a behavioral health crisis. The Center will be operated by DHHS or a DHHS contractor. It will provide a variety of Behavioral Health

Services, to include triage, crisis stabilization, and warm hand off referrals to appropriate services for those experiencing mental health, substance use disorder, and/or other types of behavioral health crisis. It will provide an option to Police, Fire and Rescue, and community members and reduce the use of emergency rooms, hospitals, and jail detention. The Restoration Center will be staffed by a multidisciplinary team to include nursing staff, licensed mental health and addiction professionals, peer specialists, and resource navigators. The Center will operate 24/7/365 and will operate under a 100% admission ("No Wrong Door") policy.

Bethesda Metro South Entrance (BMSE) - \$20M. As part of the Purple Line project, Montgomery County is funding the BMSE project, which provides for the design and construction of a new access from Elm Street west of Wisconsin Avenue to the southern end of the existing Bethesda Metrorail station. The BMSE project includes six elevators, emergency stairs and associated facilities located in the Elm Street right-of-way connecting the street level with the existing Bethesda Metrorail station, a horizontal underground connection to the existing Metro station and the new Purple Line light rail system, and a new mezzanine above the existing Metrorail station platform. The availability of funds would help in filling an unexpected funding gap of \$20 million to allow for the completion of the \$25 million mezzanine project element. This project is a great example of an investment in critical infrastructure that expands the multi-modal transportation network, improves safety through a new station egress location, reduces congestion and associated carbon emissions, and increases access to better connect people and places. The BMSE is a key element needed to realize the benefits of the overall Purple Line project - to bring thousands of jobs to the region, attract new residents and businesses to Montgomery and Prince George's counties, and help meet the demand for high-quality, reliable east-west transit service inside the Capital Beltway.

Zero Emissions Bus Program - \$18M. Through its Climate Action Plan (CAP), Montgomery County has adopted goals to reduce the County's greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2027 and 100% by 2035. To meet these goals, one of the main strategies is to convert the County's Ride On 368-bus transit fleet to a zero-emissions vehicle fleet. The County is developing a phased plan to address its transit infrastructure, fleet, depots, and operational needs over the next fourteen years. The County recently launched its first four electric buses and is in the process of procuring its next ten; it is constructing an electric microgrid that will charge up to 70 electric buses; it is actively looking for grants; and, evaluating technology, fleet, infrastructure, and facilities alternatives for resilient growth. Fuel cell buses cost approximately \$1.3M each, and battery electric buses cost approximately \$900,000 each. Based on Ride On's service routes length, it is likely that a hybrid fleet comprised of both battery electric and hydrogen fuel cell buses will be required. The availability of funds would help in filling this cost gap; funds would be used to purchase zero emission buses as part of the County's plan to provide a clean, innovative transportation network of the utmost quality and build a more sustainable transit fleet to support the elimination of greenhouse emissions by 2035. The amount requested would fund either 14 fuel cell buses or 20 battery electric buses.

Veirs Mill Road Flash Bus Rapid Transit (VMR Flash) - \$20M. The \$44 million VMR Flash will be a 7-mile, limited-stop, branded bus service with twelve stations planned along Veirs Mill Road between the Wheaton Metrorail Station and Montgomery College Rockville. The project will transform mobility options by connecting riders to activity and employment centers. This

new service will improve transit travel time and increase opportunity for users, including a significant number of minority and low-income riders living along a highly congested corridor. Where possible, VMR Flash will run in its own lanes to bypass the existing traffic congestion. Bicycle and pedestrian improvements along the corridor will make it easier and safer to get to the VMR Flash stations. The VMR Flash Project is currently nearing completion of the Preliminary Engineering phase, is funded through Final Design in the County's capital program and is anticipated to be in operation within the next 5 years if funding for construction is available. Montgomery County plans to enter the project into the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA's) Small Starts program in Winter 2022 to request funding for 50% of the project cost. The \$20M State contribution would be used to fund a significant portion of the local match for the grant, helping to advance the project into construction.

Great Seneca Science Corridor Transit Vehicles - \$13.5M MCDOT is designing and constructing physical improvements to provide premium transit service between Shady Grove Metro Station and key destinations in the Great Seneca Science Corridor including the National Cancer Institute, the Universities at Shady Grove, Adventist Medical Center, Crown, Falls Grove, and numerous growing biotech research facilities. This new transit plan is a critical component of the County's efforts to support and encourage the growth of the biotech industry in this area, including portions of the City of Rockville and the City of Gaithersburg. To make this service a reality a fleet of 15 additional battery electric buses are needed and the financial capacity to provide these vehicles is not available within the County budget. The capital cost of 15 battery electric buses is \$13.5M.

Criminal Justice Center - \$74M. The new Criminal Justice Center (CJC) will replace the existing Montgomery County detention Center (MCDC) which currently provides short term detention services for men, women and juveniles including intake, initial care, custody and security for inmates for up to 72 hours prior to transfer to the Montgomery County Correctional Facility (MCCF). (Note: the State supported about 40% of the cost to build the MC Corrections Facility in Clarksburg which was completed in 2004)

12/22/21



Montgomery County's Priorities for the 2021 Session

COVID-19 Relief & Economic Recovery

- Supporting public health and emergency response programs, programs to help vulnerable populations and mitigate inequities, housing support and eviction mitigation, economic recovery programs for businesses, and other relief measures designed to address the unprecedented challenges of COVID-19.

Fiscal Health & Economic Development

- Ensuring that if State budget adjustments are necessary, the plan respects the nexus that exists between the State's fiscal stability and its counties' fiscal health, and respects counties' role as the delivery system for public services.
- Supporting initiatives to strengthen local economic development and small businesses.
- Supporting initiatives to expand affordable housing.
- Supporting Community Choice Energy.

Transportation

- Securing the future of the Purple Line project.
- Providing financial support and ensuring administrative cooperation for implementation of the County's bus rapid transit system.
- Supporting the Corridor Cities Transitway (CCT) project.
- Consistent with the County's letter to Maryland Department of Transportation (November 9, 2020), responding to I-495/I-270 expansion plans, including through state support of public transit.
- Reinforcing the Maryland Department of Transportation's commitment to pedestrian and bicycle safety, both through policy and investment.
- Addressing the substantial revenue impacts to the Transportation Trust Fund resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Reinforcing the Maryland Department of Transportation's support for local transit and highway user revenue distributions.

Kirwan

- Overriding the Governor's veto of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future to maintain the State's commitment to early childhood education, high quality and diverse

teachers and leaders, college and career pathways, more resources to ensure success for all students, and governance and accountability, and to allow the Built to Learn Act of 2020, and the plan for increasing school construction funding that is outlined in the bill, to take effect.

- Ensuring continuity of fair and equitable State funding for the County that also addresses inequities in learning that have been exposed by the pandemic.

Environment

- Supporting initiatives at the State level to advance the County’s chief climate goal of achieving zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2035.

Health and Human Services

- Protecting State funding for a four percent rate increase for community services providers for people with developmental disabilities for the current fiscal year and fiscal 2022.
- Strengthening reporting requirements and accountability related to electronic billing systems used by developmental disabilities providers.

Reimagining Public Safety

- Supporting passage of Statewide legislation, including Law Enforcement Officers’ Bill of Rights (LEOBR) reform, that strengthens the public safety mission of policing through greater transparency and accountability, which will help further the goal of establishing more equitable and inclusive communities throughout Maryland.
- Reimagining how public health agencies and other resources can best support public safety functions, including expanding support for mental health resources.

Broadband Accessibility

- Supporting State initiatives, and enabling local initiatives, to expand broadband accessibility.

Local Authority

- Retaining the County’s broad Home Rule Authority, ensuring that the County is not preempted from enacting or enforcing its own local laws (e.g., siting of small cell facilities, licensing of electricians, siting of large-scale solar farms, carryout bag tax, and excise tax on electronic smoking devices).
- Expanding the County’s authority and flexibility to enact local legislation when necessary to address County priorities that are not fully addressed at the State level, including increasing County flexibility to raise revenue and have local control for property tax classification and local income tax brackets.

11/12/20



Montgomery County's Priorities for the 2020 Session

Kirwan Commission

- Ensure that the new formulas provide Montgomery County with its fair share of State funding and adequately address the needs of its students.
- Carefully review new funding requirements placed on local jurisdictions and ensure that the new formulas provide needed flexibility to counties while also recognizing the significant investments Montgomery County has made to date for its students.

Public School Construction

- Support all efforts to increase statewide amounts available for public school construction.
- Request the Interagency Commission on School Construction to revisit the State Aid for School Construction Eligibility Criteria to allow for greater State participation in school construction projects.

I-495 / I-270 Traffic Mitigation

- Work with the Administration to ensure that the first segment of the I-270/I-495 Traffic Relief Plan include I-270, the American Legion Bridge, and the section of I-495 between these facilities.
- Secure a commitment from the Administration for an immediate, specific, and meaningful commitment to provide resources to affected Counties to meet local transportation needs as part of any P3 or tolling program.
- Reinstate the Corridor Cities Transitway in the Consolidated Transportation Plan as part of or in addition to the Traffic Relief Plan.
- Obtain a commitment from the Administration that fair consideration be given to the alternative of using the Intercounty Connector (ICC) rather than widening the Beltway between I-270 and I-95.

Local Decision-Making Authority, Avoiding Preemption

- Retain the County's broad Home Rule Authority and ensure that the County is not preempted from enacting or enforcing its own local laws (e.g., siting of small cell facilities, licensing of electricians, siting of large-scale solar farms).