



Montgomery County Priorities for the 2024 General Assembly Session 11-24-23

Education

- 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 childcare providers.
- Support efforts to enhance oversight and accountability for federal, State, and local funding to ensure sufficient structure and clarity to enable the County to fully assess how public funds support educational outcomes during the budget process, throughout the applicable fiscal year, and over the long haul.

Climate Change, Environment, and Food Resiliency

- Support bold and equitable clean and renewable energy, building decarbonization, transportation, waste management (including recycling and producer responsibility), flood mitigation, solar development, and other environmental protection policies and investments.
- Support initiatives to strengthen local food resiliency efforts, including financial support for cold storage and food aggregation capacity building.

Health and Human Services

- Support 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.
- Support policy initiatives recommended by the Maryland Hospital Association's Task Force on Reducing Emergency Room Wait Times that will be released in late calendar year 2023.
- Support legislation that aligns with the advocacy recommendations made in the Montgomery County Strategic Plan to End Childhood Hunger including increasing direct food assistance and financial benefits.
- Support recommendations arising from the Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment and Access that align with the County's vision for expanding and improving access to behavioral health care, especially as they relate to responding to the fentanyl crisis in our schools and communities and ensuring the adequacy of in-patient behavioral health treatment beds for youth under age 18.

Housing

- Support legislative efforts to create opportunities for the State’s public housing authorities to increase the volume of housing production, including providing State matching funds for housing innovation projects funded to develop mixed income and cross-subsidized housing.
- Support a higher allocation of federal 9% Low-Income Housing Tax Credits to projects located within the County, including establishing regional set-asides as states such as Virginia have done to allocate credits.

Economic Development

- Support initiatives to strengthen local economic development and small businesses consistent with the priorities established by WorkSource Montgomery and the Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation.

Transportation and Vision Zero

- Support overall greater investment in the transportation infrastructure of the most economically viable county in the State as a necessary precursor for job creation, held back by insufficient mobility in the region and a transportation financing structure in need of modernization.
- Support a long-term plan to stabilize operating funding for the Washington Area Metropolitan Transit Authority.
- Support a stronger financial commitment and ensure administrative cooperation for the development of the County’s Bus Rapid Transit System, and its locally operated transit system, Ride-On.
- Support legislative efforts to provide incentives for electric car adoption, expanded community charging opportunities, pedestrian and bicycle travel incentives, and zero-emissions transit operations.
- Support legislative efforts prioritizing Vision Zero policies and investments needed to eliminate serious-injury and fatal collisions on roadways for motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists by expanding automated traffic unit enforcement on high injury network roadways and innovative alternatives to police traffic enforcement.

Public Safety

- Support efforts to protect judges and prosecutors to ensure the safety of these individuals and their families and preserve judicial and prosecutorial integrity and independence.
- Support efforts to enhance penalties for reckless and aggressive driving, including fleeing and eluding police in a vehicle, by increasing fines, imposing imprisonment, and revoking an offender’s driver’s license.

Local Autonomy

- Support efforts to retain and where needed expand the County’s Home Rule Authority to allow the County to continue to implement current laws or enact new laws regarding priorities that are not fully addressed at the State level, including enhancing the County’s authority and flexibility regarding revenue generation.



Montgomery County Capital Projects 2024 General Assembly Session Listing

Priority Projects*

1. Montgomery County Bus Rapid Transit System (BRT) – \$110,000,000
2. Housing Matching Funds -- \$10,000,000
3. Burtonsville Park & Ride – \$2,500,000
4. New Zero Emission Ride On and BRT Bus Depot– \$50,000,000
5. Boyds Transit Center Historic Hoyles Mill Station – \$550,000
6. MD 355 Widening Study - \$250,000
7. Bethesda Metro Station South Entrance - \$12,000,000
8. Countywide Façade Easement Program – \$1,000,000
9. Recreational Facilities Playground Equipment Replacement – \$1,400,000
10. Holiday Park Senior Center – \$1,500,000
11. North Bethesda Metro Station North Entrance - \$18,000,000

The County also strongly supports the Montgomery County Public School's \$237,925,000 request for school construction projects, Montgomery College's \$10,500,000 request for the Rockville Campus library renovation, and the Institute of Health Computing's request for \$2,000,000 for a permanent home.

* the amounts listed for the aforementioned projects that already have amounts preauthorized are in addition to the preauthorization amounts listed below.

Projects Already Preauthorized by the General Assembly for FY 2025

County Projects

1. North Bethesda Metro Station North Entrance – \$12,500,000
2. Bowie Mill Bike Trail – \$2,100,000
3. Montgomery College – Germantown – Student Services Center – \$4,800,000
4. Montgomery County Public Schools Playgrounds – \$1,350,000

Other Projects Located Within the County

1. Institute for Health Computing - \$2,000,000
2. MedStar Montgomery Medical Center – \$2,000,000
3. Shady Grove Medical Center – \$2,000,000
4. Children’s National Hospital – \$1,000,000
5. Olney Boys and Girls Club - Performance Sports Center – \$2,000,000