

MEMORANDUM

April 23, 2010

TO: Planning, Housing and Economic Development Committee

FROM: Minna K. Davidson, Legislative Analyst *MKD*
Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst *LMC*

SUBJECT: Worksession: Recommended FY11-16 Capital Improvements Program,
Housing and Community Development – Long Branch Pedestrian
Linkages

The PHED Committee reviewed the Executive's recommendations for the Long Branch Pedestrian Linkages Project on March 1, and recommended approval as recommended by the Executive. When the Council reviewed the project on March 9, questions arose about the amount that had been spent on the Long Branch Bridge and Trail to date, the total cost for the bridge and trail, the origin of the federal earmark of \$742,000 and whether or not the earmark must only be used for the bridge and trail.

The Council President removed the project from the agenda, and requested that Council staff work with DHCA staff to respond to the questions and clarify the PDF. In late March, the Council received an amended PDF for Long Branch Pedestrian Linkages which added a sentence about the federal earmark, but was otherwise unchanged.

DHCA staff clarified that to date, \$616,000 has been spent on the Long Branch Bridge and Trail (excluding staff costs) and about \$741,000 has been spent on Arliss Streetscape improvements. The total cost for the Long Branch Bridge and Trail is currently estimated at about \$2.4 million (excluding staff costs). The total cost for the Arliss Streetscape improvements is about \$750,000 (excluding staff costs). A spreadsheet provided by DHCA which shows the distribution of expenditures and funding for the PDF, and the costs for the parts of the project is attached on © 1.

DHCA staff also clarified that a request for a federal earmark was included in the County's Congressional Delegation Briefing dated February 4, 2005. The request said:

Specifically, the funds will be used to construct an elevated walkway through a steep stream valley park, connecting the Long Branch Recreation Center to the Long Brach library and extending this link to the retail center. Restoration of a section of the overgrown, trash filled Long Branch Stream Valley Park into a community amenity is also part of this request.

Congressman Wynn first expressed interest in this request, and later Congresswoman Edwards continued to support it. An award of \$750,000 was authorized in an appropriations bill in 2006. The amount was later slightly reduced to \$742,500.

Council staff recommendations:

Update the expenditure and funding schedules in the PDF to reflect the current status of the project, as shown in the spreadsheet on © 1.

Appropriate all of the additional federal grant funding (\$742,500 from the earmark and \$263,000 in additional EDI funding) at this time so that DHCA will not have to request a supplemental appropriation later.

A marked-up PDF showing these Council staff recommendations is on © 2.

Amend the PDF text to more clearly describe the project and the funding status as shown below.

Council staff recommendations for PDF Text Changes

DESCRIPTION

No change.

ESTIMATED SCHEDULE

Two elements of this project are currently in progress. The Long Branch Bridge and Trail will be advertised for construction bids in late spring 2010 and will be constructed in FY2011 with a public art component. The Arliss Streetscape improvements will be completed in FY2011.

COST CHANGE

Increase is due to the redesign of the Long Branch Bridge and Trail to meet ADA standards as required by the State Highway Administration, and the addition of construction costs for the bridge and trail.

JUSTIFICATION

This is one of the oldest, most densely populated, and most diverse areas of Montgomery County and it suffers from higher than average poverty, older housing stock, changing population and increased youth and pedestrian injury issues. Based on the assessment of

the Long Branch Task Force, improvements in this area are a critical part of the overall action plan to upgrade the quality of life in the Long Branch area.

Additional plans and studies: Long Branch Village Center: Urban Design Concept, prepared by Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Baltimore; East Silver Spring Master Plan; Urban Land Institute's Technical Assistance Panel Report titled "The Long Branch Community, Dated February 2005.

OTHER

The Department is working closely with DEP on clean-up (removing trash and invasive species) in the Long Branch Stream Valley from Piney Branch Road north for approximately 200 linear feet. Also, in coordination with DEP and the Parks Department of M-NCPPC, the Department will try to correct some of the erosion and re-plant the area with native species.

The design and planning stages, as well as final completion of the project, will comply with the Department of Transportation (DOT), Maryland State Highway Administration (MSHA), Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), American Association of State Transportation and Highway Officials (AASTHO), and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. Pedestrian safety will be considered during design.

FISCAL NOTE

This project includes approximately \$2.4 million for design and construction of the Long Branch Bridge and Trail, \$750,000 for Arliss Streetscape improvements from Flower Avenue to Garland Avenue, \$611,000 for staff costs from FY06-11, \$240,000 for contingency, and \$30,000 for a Long Branch Pedestrian Linkage Concept.

Federal aid includes federal Economic Development Initiative (EDI) funding of \$461,000, and a Federal Surface Transportation Projects grant of \$742,000 which is administered by the State Highway Administration. Funds from the Federal Surface Transportation Projects grant must not be expended until the County and the State Highway Administration sign a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the use of the grant funds.

Expenditures	Total	Thru FY09	FY10 Est.	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16
Planning, Design, Supervision	1,291	1,051	120	120					
Land									
SIU									
Construction	2,740	86	899	1,755					
Other									
Total	4,031	1,137	1,019	1,875					
Funding									
CDBG	2,828	982	976	870					
Federal Earmark	742			742					
EDI previous	198	155	43						
EDI new	263			263					
Total funding	4,031	1,137	1,019	1,875					
Overview									
Long Branch Pedestrian Linkage Conc	30,000								
Long Branch Walkway Bridge and Trail estimate @ March 2010	2,400,000								
Arliiss (Phase I & II)	750,000								
Salaries FY06-11 (Balance FY10 est.)	611,000								
Contingencies*	240,000								
Total project expenditures	4,031,000								
*Includes SHA required reviews such as NEPA, plans, specification, structural analysis and estimates. SHA reimbursement based on the project and services deemed necessary by SHA, includes DOT Bridge Inspector fees; and other associated costs.									

Long Branch Pedestrian Linkages -- No. 760600

Category
Subcategory
Administering Agency
Planning Area

Community Development and Housing
Community Development
Housing & Community Affairs
Silver Spring

Date Last Modified
Required Adequate Public Facility
Relocation Impact
Status

March 25, 2010
No
None.
On-going

EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE (\$000)

Cost Element	Total	Thru FY09	Est. FY10	Total 6 Years	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	Beyond 6 Years
Planning, Design, and Supervision	1,242,200	1,051	1,201,019	120	120	0	0	0	0	0	0
Land	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Site Improvements and Utilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Construction	2,740,099	86	899,811,735	1,813	1,257,013	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	4,033,289	1,137	1,019	3,051,833	1,975,123	0	0	0	0	0	0

FUNDING SCHEDULE (\$000)

Community Development Block Grant	2,828	982	978	870	870	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Aid	1,163,481	155	43	1,005,285	1,005,285	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	3,289	1,137	1,019	1,875	1,875	0	0	0	0	0	0

DESCRIPTION

This project will provide for a series of linkages in the Long Branch community that will connect the high-density residential areas with the Village Center and other key activity/service centers such as the Long Branch Library, playground, and Long Branch Community Center through signage and enhanced streetscaping. The objective is to support the vitality of the businesses in the commercial area and create new opportunities for private investment; to improve visual appearance of the main streets, Piney Branch Road between University Boulevard West and Flower Avenue, and Flower Avenue between Piney Branch Road and Arliss Street; to improve vehicular, bike, and pedestrian accessibility and circulation between the existing public facilities; to establish a more pedestrian-friendly environment throughout the Village core; and to stabilize, protect, and enhance existing streamside areas and nature paths in the Village Center. This project will be closely coordinated with all activities undertaken in connection with the recommendation of the Urban Land Institute's Technical Assistance Panel Report titled "The Long Branch Community", dated February, 2005. The scope has been refined and funding for implementation of this project is identified.

COST CHANGE

Increase is due to cost associated with construction of the Long Branch Bridge and Trail.

JUSTIFICATION

This is one of the oldest, most densely populated, and most diverse areas of Montgomery County and it suffers from higher than average poverty, older housing stock, changing population and increased youth and pedestrian injury issues. Based on the assessment of the Long Branch Task Force, improvements in this area are a critical part of the overall action plan to upgrade the quality of life in the Long Branch area.

Long Branch Village Center: Urban Design Concept, prepared by Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Baltimore; East Silver Spring Master Plan. Pedestrian safety will be considered during design. Urban Land Institute's Technical Assistance Panel Report titled "The Long Branch Community", dated February, 2005. The Department is working closely with DEP on clean-up (removing trash and invasive species) in the Long Branch Stream Valley from Piney Branch Road north for approximately 200 linear feet. Also, in coordination with DEP and the Parks Department of M-NCPPC, the Department will try to correct some of the erosion and re-plant the area with the native species. The Long Branch Walkway Bridge and Trail will be constructed in FY 2010 and 2011 with a public art component. The Arliss Streetscape will be completed in FY 2011.

OTHER

The design and planning stages, as well as final completion of the project will comply with the Department of Transportation (DOT), Maryland State Highway Administration (MSHA), Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), American Association of State Transportation and Highway Officials (AASHTO), and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.

FISCAL NOTE

The project will be advertised for bids in late spring 2010. A \$742,500 earmark is pending execution of an MOU with the State of Maryland. The proceeds will support the construction of the Long Branch Walkway Bridge and Trail.

OTHER DISCLOSURES

- A pedestrian impact analysis will be performed during design or is in progress.

APPROPRIATION AND EXPENDITURE DATA	COORDINATION	MAP
Date First Appropriation	Department of Transportation	
First Cost Estimate	Department of Permitting Services	
Current Scope	Department of Recreation	
Last FY's Cost Estimate	Department of Public Libraries	
	Utility Companies	
	M-NCPPC	
Appropriation Request	Maryland State Highway Administration	
Appropriation Request Est.	Department of Environmental Protection	
Supplemental Appropriation Request	FY11 - CDBG Appropriation: \$870,000	
Transfer	FY12 - CDBG Appropriation: \$0	
		See Map on Next Page
Cumulative Appropriation		
Expenditures / Encumbrances		
Unencumbered Balance		
Partial Closeout Thru		
New Partial Closeout		
Total Partial Closeout		