

INTRODUCTION

Resolution No.: _____
Introduced: _____
Adopted: _____

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

By: Councilmember Trachtenberg, Council President Andrews, and Councilmember Elrich

SUBJECT: Establishment of a Health Impact Assessment Working Group

Background

1. Health impact assessment (HIA) is a combination of procedures, methods and tools that systematically judges the potential effects of a policy, program, or project on the health of a population and the distribution of those effects within the population. HIA identifies appropriate actions to manage those effects.
2. The County currently has several programs that address potential health concerns of certain projects, including:
 - environmental assessments and accident analyses for County road projects;
 - pedestrian and bicycle safety impact statements for certain projects in the Capital Improvements Program; and
 - Community Health Improvement Process, a project aimed at addressing the priority health areas for County residents and improving access to needed health and social services.
3. On September 29, 2009, the Council, sitting as the Board of Health, introduced a resolution to adopt Board of Health Regulation requiring a health impact assessment for major road projects. The regulation would require the Department of Health and Human Services to conduct a health impact assessment on each major road project. In this regulation, major road projects mean any new road or improvement of an existing road that (a) adds vehicle capacity or improves transit service on a road classified arterial or higher; and (b) is within 1,000 feet of a master-planned sensitive land use.
4. The Council believes that it would benefit from the formation of a Health Impact Assessment Working Group to provide comprehensive advice on developing an appropriate health impact assessment program in the County.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

1. The Council establishes a Health Impact Assessment Working Group to recommend how the County could best establish a health impact assessment program. The Working Group's report should include information on:
 - HIA methodology and best practices including review of case studies of HIA in other jurisdiction;
 - Range of costs associated with conducting health impact assessment;
 - how long a health impact assessment generally takes to develop; and
 - how HIA will relate to existing County efforts and programs that address health outcomes
2. The Working Group must consist of 8-10 members with significant knowledge of the issues involved. The Working Group must include one representative from the County Council staff, the County Department of Health and Human Services, the County Department of Transportation, the County Department of Environmental Protection, and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission Department of Planning.
3. The County Council must provide staff support for the Working Group.
4. The Working Group must submit a report to the Council by March 1, 2010.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council