

EAST COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

August 2, 2013

The Honorable Isiah Leggett
County Executive
Executive Office Building
101 Monroe Street, 2nd Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Mr. Leggett:

The East County Citizens Advisory Board (ECCAB) appreciates the opportunity to make recommendations regarding the County Executive's 2015-2020 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) budget. We urge that you support the following capital project requests: (1) Improvements to East County Parks/Recreation Facilities and Services, (2) Improvements to East County Transportation Infrastructure and Services, (3) Fire and Rescue Station.

On July 18, 2013 a community forum was held at the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center where approximately thirty two (32) East County residents provided input on the proposed CIP budget. ECCAB held a meeting immediately thereafter to discuss the priorities and concerns raised. It is on the basis of that meeting and subsequent board deliberations, we recommend the following capital projects:

- 1. Parks/Recreation Facilities and Services:** (A) The ECCAB supports the renovations plan for the **Good Hope Neighborhood Recreational Center**. The Center is vital for meeting the recreational and community development needs of the public stakeholders, particularly after school, evening and weekend programs and services for youth and seniors. The renovations will greatly increase center utilization by all residents. (B) We are pleased that the **White Oak Recreation Center** is open and serving the community's needs. However, increased utilizations created a demand for **additional parking**. We urge you to consider expansion of the parking facility as part of future planning for the area. (C) ECCAB, recommends building additional recreational **playing fields** and **aquatics centers** north of Burtonsville near Route 29 to accommodate the demand due to increased growth in the number of families with school age children and senior population. (D) In addition, ECCAB would urge you to include a pathway/open trail linking the Calverton area and White Oak communities. This would also

address the recreational needs and a sense of community for the biking enthusiasts. We would also welcome expansion of trails north of Burtonsville near Route 29 to connection communities and recreational areas in that part of the County.

2. **Transportation Infrastructure and Services:** (A) The ECCAB urges you to support a more aggressive resurfacing plan for secondary and tertiary (residential) roads in East County, including the Hillandale community, where many streets are in serious need of repair. (B) In addition, the board is advocating for additional local transit circulator buses and transit stop shelters for and within hard to reach neighborhoods in White Oak, Tech Road, Burtonsville and Briggs Chaney/Calverton. This will help connect these East County communities and provide greater opportunities for mobility for youth, working population and seniors. (C) Although there seems to be divided opinion, the idea to reopen the old bridge at Prosperity and Old Columbia is presented as a possible option for reducing congestion along Route 29.
3. **New Briggs Chaney/Calverton Fire Station.** We continue to be concerned about the potential gap in response time coverage for first-responder and fire suppression services within the Briggs Chaney/Calverton area and vicinity. This poses service risks for Riderwood Village, the Manors of Paint Branch and Rolling Acres neighborhoods, and the industrial and technology “parks” in the vicinity of Tech Road. We are concerned about the high call load within East County, particularly those for emergency medical services. With the much anticipated White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan and increasing population, this would greatly serve East County residents.

We thank you in advance for your kind considerations and attention to the needs of East County residents.

Sincerely,

Peter Myo Khin
Chair, East County Citizens Advisory Board

Cc: Jewru Bandeh, ECRSC Director

