



2011 Session Priorities November 18, 2010

The short and long-term plans developed by the State to balance the State budget must respect the important nexus that exists between the State's fiscal stability and its counties' fiscal health.

Direct State aid, the State's payment for teachers' pensions, and other funds that flow from State agencies to the County are key to supporting the local delivery of public programs and services and infrastructure investment. For example, State funds for police protection and reimbursements to local jails are critical to meeting public safety needs. In addition, the State's full funding of Thornton and its contribution for teacher pensions help Montgomery County attract and retain high quality teachers. This has been the source of our education success, which underpins our ability to remain an economic engine for the State. On the health and human services front, funds provided for child and adult protective services allow the County to protect those who may be unable to protect or help themselves. The economic downturn has placed further strain on the County's working families and the vulnerable, resulting in greater demands on many of these safety net programs, which are supported in part with State funds.

The State's plans must recognize that the Great Recession has affected us all. It must be a fair and reasonable plan that will allow us together to emerge from the economic downturn in a position of strength so that we are able to capitalize on the opportunities that will arise.

Education

- Support legislation revising the current maintenance of effort waiver system to ensure a less subjective and fairer process for evaluating county hardship in waiver requests.
- Public School Construction -- \$163 million, which represents the State share of the Montgomery County Public Schools' projects eligible for State funding.

The \$163 million State request reflects:

Balance of Construction Funding: \$2.7 million

Carderock Springs Elementary School
Takoma Park Elementary School

Reimbursement of Forward-Funded Planning and Construction: \$9.2 million

Fox Chapel Elementary School
Poolesville High School Magnet Improvements
East Silver Spring Elementary School Addition
Sherwood Elementary School Addition

Systemic Renovations: \$9.6 million

Watkins Mill High School
Damascus Elementary School
Bradley Hills Elementary School
South Lake Elementary School
Albert Einstein High School
Germantown Elementary School
Broad Acres Elementary School
Col. Zadok Magruder High School
Rachel Carson Elementary School
Broad Acres Elementary School
Poolesville High School
Watkins Mill Elementary School
Fairland Elementary School
DuFief Elementary School
Olney Elementary School
Sherwood High School
Oak View Elementary School
Walt Whitman High School
Greencastle Elementary School

Planning and Construction: \$142.2 million

Cabin John Middle School
Cannon Road Elementary School
Farmland Elementary School
Garrett Park Elementary School
Redland Middle School
Jackson Road Elementary School
Ridgeview Middle School
Rock View Elementary School
Fairland Elementary School
Brookhaven Elementary School
Whetstone Elementary School
Seven Locks Elementary School
Downcounty Consortium Elementary School
Harmony Hills Elementary School
Montgomery Knolls Elementary School
Paint Branch High School
Herbert Hoover Middle School
Glenallan Elementary School
Beverly Farms Elementary School
Viers Mill Elementary School
Bradley Hills Elementary School
Wyngate Elementary School
Weller Road Elementary School
Georgian Forest Elementary School
Westbrook Elementary School
Darnestown Elementary School
Gaithersburg High School

- Montgomery College -- \$12.2 million to renovate the Science East building on the Rockville campus.
- Universities at Shady Grove -- continue to support funding for and strategic growth at the Universities at Shady Grove.

Public Libraries

- Montgomery County Libraries -- \$1,500,000 to help support the costs of planning and constructing the new Silver Spring Library (\$1,000,000) and renovating the Gaithersburg Library (\$500,000).

Transportation

- Recognizing the loss of hundreds of millions of dollars in State funds that had been programmed for Montgomery County transportation projects, the County's transportation priorities remain:

The two major transitways, listed alphabetically:

- Corridor Cities Transitway (CCT)
- Purple Line

Other regionally significant projects:

- Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) transportation improvements for the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, including multi-modal pedestrian access and traffic mitigation projects
- Rehabilitation of the Metrorail system
- I-270 widening for high-occupancy-toll (HOT) or high-occupancy-vehicle (HOV) lanes north of Shady Grove
- I-495 widening for HOT or HOV lanes between the I-270 West Spur and Virginia

Other locally significant projects, ready for construction funds:

- I-270/Watkins Mill Road Extended, bridge over I-270
- Rockville Pike/Montrose Parkway (Phase 2)
- Woodfield Road, widen to 6 lanes
- Georgia Avenue/Brookeville Bypass
- Georgia Avenue/Norbeck Road, grade-separated interchange
- Clopper Road intersection improvements from I-270 to Seneca Creek Park
- I-270/Watkins Mill Road Extended, complete interchange
- Spencerville Road, widen from Old Columbia Pike to US 29
- Norbeck Road, widen from Georgia Avenue to Layhill Road
- I-270/Newcut Road, grade separated interchange
- Woodfield Road, widen from Snouffer School Road to Airpark Road and from Fieldcrest Road to Warfield Road
- US 29/Fairland Road/Musgrove Road, grade separated interchange
- MD 28/198, widen from Layhill Road to Old Columbia Pike

- Support a gas tax increase and other new sustainable revenue sources that will result in the ability for the State to make substantial new investments to improve transportation infrastructure. For the State to underwrite its share of the aforementioned projects and to address the extensive backlog of projects not listed, substantial and sustainable new transportation revenues must be generated that will allow for a level of investment well beyond the amount necessary to maintain the status quo.
- Support transportation investment strategies that combine the best of urban planning and progressive transportation policies to support sustainable and vibrant communities.
- Support the restoration of Highway User Funds and Montgomery County's Ride-On operating subsidy.

Health and Human Services

In the wake of Federal health care reform:

- Support measures recommended at the State level that will have the potential to address many of the challenges Montgomery County faces in delivering affordable care to a diverse population, including strengthening the safety net, increasing the pool of health care workers, and improving public health.
- Promote Montgomery County as a good candidate for piloting reform initiatives, particularly in areas where Montgomery County has already begun working on solutions, such as developing a simplified and integrated approach to determining eligibility for all health and public assistance programs.

Public Safety and Corrections

- Reduce from 18 to 12 months the maximum amount of time that a judge may sentence a prisoner to serve in a county jail. County jails are not designed nor programmed for longer sentences. State prisons have greater program capacity and security infrastructure to accommodate this longer term population.