



Countywide Facade Easement Program

(P762102)

Category	Community Development and Housing	Date Last Modified	05/18/23
SubCategory	Community Development	Administering Agency	Housing & Community Affairs
Planning Area	Countywide	Status	Planning Stage

EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE (\$000s)

Cost Elements	Total	Thru FY22	Rem FY22	Total 6 Years	FY 23	FY 24	FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	Beyond 6 Years
Planning, Design and Supervision	1,065	92	144	829	132	138	140	139	140	140	-
Construction	3,300	-	300	3,000	250	1,050	500	400	400	400	-
Other	177	-	-	177	34	31	32	24	28	28	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	4,542	92	444	4,006	416	1,219	672	563	568	568	-

FUNDING SCHEDULE (\$000s)

Funding Source	Total	Thru FY22	Rem FY22	Total 6 Years	FY 23	FY 24	FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	Beyond 6 Years
Current Revenue: General	3,742	92	144	3,506	416	719	672	563	568	568	-
Recordation Tax Premium (MCG)	300	-	300	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
State Aid	500	-	-	500	-	500	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL FUNDING SOURCES	4,542	92	444	4,006	416	1,219	672	563	568	568	-

APPROPRIATION AND EXPENDITURE DATA (\$000s)

Appropriation FY 24 Request	1,219	Year First Appropriation	FY21
Cumulative Appropriation	952	Last FY's Cost Estimate	4,042
Expenditure / Encumbrances	92		
Unencumbered Balance	860		

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project provides for revitalizing commercial areas throughout Montgomery County with a focus on older commercial properties. The objective is to provide support to small businesses and to encourage private investment. Improvements will include gateway signage, pedestrian lighting, connectivity, streetscape elements, plant material installation, acquisition of long term facade and center signage easements, and other amenities. The Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA) will begin the project with a focus on commercial areas proximate to residential improvement projects currently underway in DHCA's Focused Neighborhood Assistance program, which will serve as a complement to existing redevelopment efforts that are already in progress. This program will provide a comprehensive approach and balance residential and commercial revitalization activities in these aging communities. This program is not limited to the initially identified commercial areas and may also be expanded to other communities in the County.

LOCATION

The project focus will initially include five commercial areas identified by DHCA, located in the Glenmont and Layhill Shopping Centers, Montgomery Village, Hillandale, and the Wheaton Central Business District. Three of the targeted areas, Wheaton, Montgomery Village and a portion of Hillandale were also selected in part due to their location in Montgomery County's Opportunity Zones. However, this program may expand to other commercial areas throughout the County for additional implementation flexibility.

ESTIMATED SCHEDULE

Schedule change to reflect accelerated implementation of a facade easement project in FY22. White Oak neighborhood facade improvements will begin in FY24.

COST CHANGE

Cost increase due to the addition of State Aid for White Oak neighborhood revitalization and facade improvements.

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

As older commercial areas throughout the County continue to age, it is important for the County to provide technical and financial assistance to assure those aging properties are improved to meet today's commercial standards and demands. The Countywide Facade Easement Program will require participants to maintain their properties for a negotiated term, with the intent to leverage investment provided by the public sector to encourage private property and business owners to make physical improvements to their buildings. The objective is to provide more attractive and aesthetically pleasing commercial environments that are safe shopping areas for residents and to generate a greater impact on the older commercial areas throughout the County.

OTHER

DHCA will review various M-NCPPC master and sector plans to evaluate and identify specific commercial areas to participate in the program.

FISCAL NOTE

Some areas may be eligible for the Federal Community Development Block Grant funding.

\$500,000 in State Aid reflects State grants for capital projects awarded during the 2024 Maryland General Assembly session.

DISCLOSURES

Expenditures will continue indefinitely. The County Executive asserts that this project conforms to the requirement of relevant local plans, as required by the Maryland Economic Growth, Resource Protection and Planning Act.

COORDINATION

Office of the County Executive, Regional Services Centers, Office of the County Attorney, Department of Permitting Services, Office of Procurement, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Maryland Department of the Environment, and Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation.