



Bus Rapid Transit: Veirs Mill Road

(P501913)

Category	Transportation	Date Last Modified	04/08/25
SubCategory	Mass Transit (MCG)	Administering Agency	Transportation
Planning Area	Rockville	Status	Final Design Stage

EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE (\$000s)

Cost Elements	Total	Thru FY24	Rem FY24	Total 6 Years	FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 30	Beyond 6 Years
Planning, Design and Supervision	25,114	7,887	4,055	13,172	3,100	3,600	2,100	1,784	2,588	-	-
Land	19,507	24	631	18,852	1,300	6,000	9,000	2,552	-	-	-
Site Improvements and Utilities	29,683	-	-	29,683	400	6,000	10,000	10,000	3,283	-	-
Construction	99,506	397	-	99,109	-	-	24,000	36,000	39,109	-	-
Other	32,932	-	-	32,932	-	-	32,932	-	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	206,742	8,308	4,686	193,748	4,800	15,600	78,032	50,336	44,980	-	-

FUNDING SCHEDULE (\$000s)

Funding Source	Total	Thru FY24	Rem FY24	Total 6 Years	FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 30	Beyond 6 Years
Current Revenue: Mass Transit	9,865	1,471	1,029	7,365	-	-	7,365	-	-	-	-
Federal Aid	4,343	-	-	4,343	-	-	4,343	-	-	-	-
FTA Capital Investment Grant	132,323	-	-	132,323	-	14,135	22,872	50,336	44,980	-	-
G.O. Bonds	3,996	-	-	3,996	922	937	2,137	-	-	-	-
Impact Tax	3,674	3,674	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
State Aid	25,381	2,603	897	21,881	-	-	21,881	-	-	-	-
State Bus Rapid Transit Fund	27,160	560	2,760	23,840	3,878	528	19,434	-	-	-	-
TOTAL FUNDING SOURCES	206,742	8,308	4,686	193,748	4,800	15,600	78,032	50,336	44,980	-	-

OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (\$000s)

Impact Type	Total 6 Years	FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 30
Maintenance	10,984	-	-	-	-	5,411	5,573
Cost Savings	(3,230)	-	-	-	-	(1,591)	(1,639)
NET IMPACT	7,754	-	-	-	-	3,820	3,934

APPROPRIATION AND EXPENDITURE DATA (\$000s)

Appropriation FY 26 Approp. Request	20,657	Year First Appropriation	FY20
Cumulative Appropriation	55,146	Last FY's Cost Estimate	196,502
Expenditure / Encumbrances	10,768		
Unencumbered Balance	44,378		

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project will design and construct a new Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line on Veirs Mill Road (MD 586) between the Wheaton Metro Station and Montgomery College in Rockville. Planning conducted by the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) resulted in a recommended alternative in late 2017. The recommended alternative includes queue jumps for use by BRT and other buses at congested intersections along the corridor, new BRT stations with level boarding and off-board payment, Transit Signal Priority, purchase of new, zero-emission BRT buses, and other associated pedestrian and bicycle improvements along the corridor. The study retains curbside dedicated lanes as the long-term BRT alternative for Veirs Mill Road. In addition, MCDOT intends to accelerate the Veirs Mill and Randolph Road BiPPA project to provide expanded pedestrian and bicycle facilities along the corridor. The addition of a shared use path along the north side of Veirs Mill Road, completing sidewalk gaps along the south side, and improving pedestrian crossings along Veirs Mill Road will improve access to Flash stations.

LOCATION

Veirs Mill Road and Hungerford Drive between Wheaton and Rockville

ESTIMATED SCHEDULE

Project planning was completed in FY18 and preliminary engineering was completed in FY22. Final design began in FY23 and will be completed in FY25. Property acquisition activities are estimated to begin in FY25, utility relocation is expected to begin in FY26, and construction is anticipated to start in FY27. Construction will be completed in FY29, and Flash service will start in that year.

COST CHANGE

Cost increase due to an increase in vehicle costs and adjustments to estimated project costs following 95 percent design completion.

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

The project will transform mobility options with the implementation of a seven-mile, premium, branded, limited-stop BRT service along Veirs Mill Road. This new service will improve transit travel time and increase opportunity for a broad range of users, including a significant number of minority and low-income riders living along a highly congested corridor. The project will improve passenger transit mobility by connecting riders to high density housing and employment centers. The incorporation of bicycle and pedestrian access and safety improvements will facilitate improved access to stations and improve overall corridor safety.

Plans and Studies: MCDOT Countywide Bus Rapid Transit Study, Final Report (July 2011); County Executive's Transit Task Force (May 2012); Countywide Transit Corridors Functional Master Plan (November 2013); Maryland Department of Transportation/Maryland State Highway Administration MD 586/Veirs Mill Road Draft Corridor Planning Study (September 2016); Veirs Mill Corridor Master Plan (April 2019).

FISCAL NOTE

The County intends to secure Federal funding for this project through the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Capital Investment Grant (CIG) Small Starts program. The project was accepted into Small Starts in September 2022. The CIG eligible project is estimated at approximately \$174 million. It is assumed that 80% of the CIG project will be eligible for Federal funds. Federal funding assumptions will be fine-tuned once the project is rated and the County enters into a fully funded grant agreement with FTA.

Vehicles are excluded from the scope of the CIG project due to cost limits of the CIG Small Starts program, but funding for vehicles is

included in this project. Vehicles acquisition will be funded using a combination of Current Revenue, State Aid, and a Low and No Emission Federal grant. The vehicle cost is shown in the "Other" cost element in the expenditure schedule.

State Aid reflects state grants for capital projects in Montgomery County programmed during the 2022 and 2023 Maryland General Assembly sessions. The State Bus Rapid Transit Fund was created by the Maryland General Assembly using State lottery proceeds, and is available to Maryland jurisdictions to fund eligible BRT projects. The funds programmed were made available to Montgomery County in 2023 and 2025.

Federal aid in this project includes funding from the Low-No grant, the remainder of which is programmed in the Hydrogen Fuel Cell Buses and Fueling Site project (P502408). To ensure that grant funds are spent in accordance with the FTA grant agreement, \$1.385 million in Federal Aid was swapped in FY26 from P502408 for an equivalent amount of Current Revenue.

FY25 funding switch of \$674,000 from G.O. Bonds to Impact Tax to reflect prior year actuals.

DISCLOSURES

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

Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration and Maryland Transit Administration, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, City of Rockville, Commission on People with Disabilities, Transit Advisory Group, Neighborhood and Civic Associations, and Veirs Mill Road BRT Corridor Advisory Committee, Federal Transit Administration

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