FY10-15 FISCAL PLAN
GENERAL INFORMATION: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM

Investment in the construction of public buildings, roads, and other facilities planned by County public agencies is generally budgeted in the Capital Improvements Program (CIP). The six-year CIP is the County's plan for constructing the infrastructure to implement approved master plans and the facilities required to deliver government programs and services and to complement and support private development. The CIP is a multi-year spending plan, including capital expenditure estimates, funding requirements, and related program data for all County departments and agencies with capital projects. The capital budget includes required appropriation, expenditures, and funding for the upcoming fiscal year.

The CIP is by law (for the first year) and by policy (for the second through sixth years) a balanced plan, where planned expenditures do not exceed anticipated resources to fund them. The CIP is supported by a variety of funding sources.

The tax supported portion of the CIP is funded by General Obligation and other long- and short-term debt (for which debt service is paid from revenues from one of the County taxes), Current Revenues from a County tax source, or an inter-governmental source.

The non-tax supported portion of the CIP may be funded by current revenues from a non-tax source, or debt, with the debt service paid from the non-tax source.

Impact of the CIP on the Public Services Program/Operating Budget

The CIP impacts the six-year Public Service Program and Operating Budget in several ways.

Debt Service is the annual payment of principal and interest on general obligation bonds and other long- and short-term debt used to finance roads, schools, and other major projects. Debt service is budgeted as a fixed cost or a required expenditure in the Public Services Program and Operating Budgets of the General Fund and various other funds which issue debt.

An additional amount of County current revenues may be included in the operating budget as a direct bond offset to reduce the amount of borrowing required for project financing. This is called Pay-As-You-Go (PAYGO) Financing.

Selected CIP projects are funded directly with County current revenues in order to avoid costs of borrowing. These cash amounts are included in the operating budget as specific transfers to individual projects within the capital projects fund. Planning for capital projects is generally funded with current revenues, as are furniture, equipment and books (as for libraries).

The construction of government buildings and facilities also results in new annual costs for maintenance, utilities, and additional staffing required for facility management and operation. Whenever a new or expanded facility involves program expansion, as with new school buildings, libraries, or fire stations, the required staffing and equipment (principals, librarians, fire apparatus) represent additional operating budget expenditures. Operating Budget Impacts are calculated to measure the incremental changes in spending against spending which would occur whether or not the capital investment occurs. Hence, for new school facilities, building maintenance and administrative staff are considered to impact the operating budget. Teachers, who would be hired in any case, based on numbers of students, are not considered impacts of the capital improvements program.

The implied Operating Budget Impacts of the Recommended CIP are included among the projected expenditure changes described in the Public Services Program.

Explanation of Charts:

Debt Capacity Analysis
This chart displays the performance of the G.O. bond funded portion of the Capital Improvements Program and various long- and short-term leases, against a variety of economic and fiscal indicators. Taken together, these comparisons are considered, along with other factors, by credit rating agencies in determining the County's G.O. bond rating. Therefore, the County manages its debt-related decisions against these same criteria to ensure continuation of our AAA rating, the best available.

General Obligation Bond Adjustment Chart
This chart compares the General Obligation bonds available for programming, with recommended programmed bond funded expenditures for the FY09-14 Amended program. The line labeled "Bonds Planned for Issue" generally follows Spending Affordability Guidelines set by the County Council for general obligation debt. Amounts in the line labeled "Less Set Aside: Future Projects" indicate the amount available for possible future expenditures not yet programmed in individual projects. The debt service implied by these planned bond issues is budgeted in both tax supported and non-tax supported operating budgets.

Schedule A-3, for the Capital Improvements Program Current Revenue Requirements
This chart displays the CIP current revenue requirements of County agencies, by fund, across the six years of the Capital Improvements Program. Generally, current revenue assumptions made for the January Recommended CIP are conservative, and, if resources allow, additional current revenue may be recommended at the time PSP decisions are made in March. Because of the non-recurring nature of capital projects, the CIP is a good place to invest "one time" funds. The Total Current Revenue Requirement also includes PAYGO contributions made as direct offsets to debt obligations. Inflation and set-asides for future projects are unallocated amounts to cover increased costs due to inflation and for future unprogrammed projects.