Resolution No.: 16-214

Introduced:

April 10, 2007

Adopted:

June 26, 2007

## COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: Councilmember Floreen, Council Vice President Knapp, and Councilmembers Berliner, Ervin, and Trachtenberg

SUBJECT: Creation of a Working Group on Infrastructure Financing for County Government Facilities

## **Background**

- Montgomery County has substantial infrastructure needs in many of its geographic and functional areas. Government facilities, ranging from fire and police stations to libraries and recreation centers to new and expanded transit and road projects, sidewalks and bikeways, all need resources to become a reality. Development consistent with most of the County's Master Plans and continuation of our quality of life is based on implementing these projects.
- 2. However, Federal, State, and County governments have not kept up with the growing revenue needs. Critically-needed County government projects remain on paper; libraries have been postponed; congested intersections wait for funding for long-planned improvements; new or improved recreation centers are delayed; and possible new senior centers remain in the future column. County residents are denied the facilities they expect and desire.
- 3. Unfunded transportation projects in the County total more than a billion dollars, not including the Corridor Cities Transitway and the Purple Line, which await federal construction authorization. The County's funding needs for transit, road, sidewalk, and bikeway improvements over the next decade could easily reach \$1 billion.
- 4. The County government should address infrastructure financing by developing a strategy to raise substantial funds annually to fund much-needed projects across the County.

## **Action**

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

The County Council must appoint a Working Group on County Government Infrastructure Financing to recommend funding strategies, including strategies for which the County does not now have legal authority to implement, that will raise significant funds for County Government capital budget projects. The Working Group in developing its recommendations should consider already identified long-term facility needs and propose strategies that are likely to meet these needs on an on-going basis. The Group should recommend an equitable allocation of financial obligation with a clear and predictable revenue stream.

The Working Group consists of 7 voting members, including a chair designated by the Council. The members should be persons with experience in public infrastructure finance, tax, and economics.

The Working Group must also include 3 non-voting government representatives: a Council staff member designated by the Council Staff Director; an Executive Branch staff member designated by the Chief Administrative Officer, and a Planning staff member designated by the Planning Director.

The Working Group must issue its final report to the County Council by September 18, 2007,

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council