



Montgomery County Priorities For the 2009 Legislative Session

The final plan developed by the State to balance the State budget must not include structural or permanent adjustments to the existing fiscal relationship between the State and Montgomery County.

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. For example, State funds for police protection and reimbursements to local jails are critical to meeting public safety needs. In addition, the State's contribution for teacher pensions allows Montgomery County to 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 final plan must recognize that the faltering economy is affecting us all. It must be a fair and reasonable plan that will allow us together to emerge from the current economic downturn in a position of strength so that we are able to capitalize on the opportunities that will arise.

Education

Public School Construction -- \$114 million

- Support a Statewide allocation of \$325 million in public school construction funds and Montgomery County Public Schools' request of \$114 million. Although the historic averages have been lower, it is reasonable for the County to request funding from the State in an amount that reflects its share of the school age population relative to the Statewide total, which is 16%.
The \$114 million request reflects:

Balance of Construction Funding: \$18.9 million

Walter Johnson High School
Galway Elementary School

Reimbursement of Forward-Funded Planning and Construction: \$5.4 million

Stedwick Elementary School
Travilah Elementary School
Westland Middle School
Silver Spring Intl. Middle School / Sligo Creek Elementary School

Systemic Renovations: \$4.9 million

Watkins Mill High School
Sherwood High School
Bannockburn Elementary School
Strathmore Elementary School
Robert Frost Middle School
Stone Mill Elementary School
Fox Chapel Elementary School
Burning Tree Elementary School
Poolesville Elementary School
S. Christa McAuliffe Elementary School
Ritchie Park Elementary School
Germantown Elementary School
Oakview Elementary School
Quince Orchard High School

Planning and Construction: \$84.8 million

Francis Scott Key Middle School
Bells Mill Elementary School
Cashell Elementary School
Takoma Park Elementary School
Poolesville High School
Cresthaven Elementary School
Carderock Springs Elementary School
Redland Middle School
East Silver Spring Elementary School
Jackson Road Elementary School
Fairland Elementary School
Brookhaven Elementary School
Sherwood Elementary School
Rockview Elementary School
Cabin John Middle School
Fox Chapel Elementary School
Seven Locks Elementary School
Farmland Elementary School
Whetstone Elementary School
Montgomery Knolls Elementary School
Harmony Hills Elementary School

Montgomery College -- \$36.5 million

These funds will be matched by County funds to complete design and begin construction of the \$73 million Bioscience Education Center at the Germantown Campus, a project integral to the County's efforts to foster and develop the biotechnology industry.

Transportation

- Recognizing the loss of over \$100 million in State funds that had been programmed for Montgomery County transportation projects this year due to revenue declines, 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
- 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 new sustainable revenue sources for the Transportation Trust Fund

- Support legislation requiring the repayment of any funds diverted from the Transportation Trust Fund for non-transportation-related purposes
- Pass an amendment to the WMATA Interstate Compact to satisfy the requirements attached to Federal legislation passed by Congress in October that commits \$1.5 billion in Federal funds to support WMATA improvements
- Should Congress move forward with another economic stimulus package that includes funding to the states for transportation infrastructure investment, support an allocation of funds to Montgomery County that reflects its long list of unfunded projects

Economic Development and Environment

- Support the Governor's Biotechnology Initiative, which includes improving the Maryland Biotech Investment Tax Credit and increasing State investment to develop a stronger technology incubator network
- Support locating the Maryland Biotechnology Center in Montgomery County
- Support funding for an initial grant, augmenting Montgomery County, University of Maryland, and private sector contributions, to ensure a successful launch of the Maryland Clean Energy Center in Montgomery County
- Support only those revisions to local planning authority that strengthen coordination and collaboration between the State and local jurisdictions and do not interfere with the National Capital Region's coordinated planning and growth policies which are considered a model for other parts of the country
- Support continued efforts at the State and regional level to limit greenhouse gas emissions

Housing

- Support Montgomery County's application to the Department of Housing and Community Development for a \$7 million allocation of HUD foreclosure funds which will allow the County to purchase foreclosed properties for use in the low income rental market
- Support Montgomery County's request to the Department of Housing and Community Development for an additional \$200,000 in Federal funds which will match County funds, enabling the County to hire additional counselors for home owners at risk of foreclosure
- Support Montgomery County's request for \$500,000 of Community Legacy funds to underwrite a homeownership program utilizing foreclosed properties in the County's Wheaton, Long Branch, and Silver Spring Community Legacy Area