Montgomery County’s Priorities for the 2014 Session

1. Public School Construction

In addition to the annual State aid request, Montgomery County is seeking supplementary funding from the State to address the overutilization at many of its schools. While it remains vital that Montgomery County Public Schools fully participates in the State’s pool of funds set aside each year for public school construction, the annual allocation approved by the Board of Public Works will not be enough to address MCPS capacity needs. Based on projected enrollments, MCPS will require approximately $750 million to complete addition projects at schools that are projected to be overutilized over the next six-year period. This level of additional investment will not resolve the system’s capacity problems; however, they will be significantly mitigated.

2. Transportation

Montgomery County’s economic competitiveness depends on its ability to address urgent transportation infrastructure needs that will reduce traffic congestion. While new State transportation revenues made possible by the recent passage of landmark legislation will allow key transportation projects in the County to advance, the needs remain great. Therefore, the State must be a full partner in investing in the County’s transportation infrastructure, for projects that have been longstanding priorities and for those that are still in the earlier stages of development. The County is in the process of updating its transportation priorities list, which will be made available upon completion.

3. Other Capital Projects

Libraries – Kensington Park renovations ($259,000); Twinbrook renovations ($128,000); and Silver Spring construction ($1.75 million)

Health and Human Services – Dennis Avenue Health Center construction ($10 million) and Children’s Resources Center construction ($2.5 million)

Potomac Recreation Center – converting the in-line skating rink into a therapeutic recreation amenity to better serve the County’s disabled residents ($100,000)

Montgomery College, Rockville Campus – Science West construction ($12.2 million) and furniture and equipment ($2 million)

The Universities at Shady Grove – planning for the construction of a fourth building at USG, which will house its Biomedical Sciences and Engineering Complex ($6 million). Because of the importance of this addition and to help USG leverage State dollars, Montgomery County is funding the $20 million parking garage.

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