

# Economic Impact Statement

Montgomery County, Maryland

## Bill 30-23

## Rustic Roads Program – Rustic Roads Advisory Committee

### SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) anticipates that enacting Bill 30-23 would have an insignificant impact on economic conditions in the County in terms of the Council's priority indicators.

### BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF BILL 30-23

Rustic roads are historic and scenic roadways that reflect the agricultural character and rural origins of the County.

Rustic and exceptional rustic roads are preserved under the Rustic Roads Program (Chapter 49, Article 8), which provides a system for evaluating, protecting, and enhancing these scenic roadways. The program includes 99 roads. These roads are listed and described in the Rustic Roads Functional Master Plans and in other area master plans.

The purpose of Expedited Bill 30-23 is to enact recommendations from the Rustic Roads Functional Master Plan (RRFMP) Update regarding the composition and duties of the Rustic Roads Advisory Committee (RRAC) as follows:

- Change the number of voting members from seven to nine members who are County residents, including three at-large members with general connection to Rustic Roads through their profession, business, or as users.
- Expand the Committee's duties to include providing reviews and comments on subdivision applications, proposed improvements to rustic roads, and proposed signs within the right-of-way of a rustic road.

Expedited Bill 30-23 also directs the County Executive to strive to achieve diversity on the RRAC in support of racial equity and social justice (RESJ).

Expedited Bill 30-23, Rustic Road Program – Rustic Road Advisory Committee, was introduced by the Council on behalf of the Planning Board on June 20, 2023. The Planning Board Draft of the Rustic Roads Functional Master Plan Update is currently under review by the County Council pending public hearing in July 2023.<sup>1</sup>

### INFORMATION SOURCES, METHODOLOGIES, AND ASSUMPTIONS

Per Section 2-81B of the Montgomery County Code, the purpose of this Economic Impact Statement is to assess the impacts of Bill 30-23 on County-based private organizations and residents in terms of the Council's priority economic indicators and whether the Bill would likely result in a net positive or negative impact on overall economic conditions in the County.<sup>2</sup> OLO sees no direct connection between increasing the size of voting members from seven to nine and the

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<sup>1</sup> Introduction Staff Report for [Bill 30-23](#).

<sup>2</sup> Montgomery County Code, [Sec. 2-81B](#).

Council’s priority economic indicators. Also, the Planning Staff Packet for the Bill states that modifying the RRAC’s duties “is intended to codify activities that the RRAC is already undertaking.”<sup>3</sup> For these reasons, OLO anticipates that the Bill would have insignificant impacts on private organizations, residents, and overall economic conditions in the County in terms of the indicators prioritized by the Council.

## VARIABLES

Not applicable

## IMPACTS

WORKFORCE ▪ TAXATION POLICY ▪ PROPERTY VALUES ▪ INCOMES ▪ OPERATING COSTS ▪ PRIVATE SECTOR CAPITAL INVESTMENT ▪ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ▪ COMPETITIVENESS

Not applicable

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

Not applicable

## WORKS CITED

Montgomery County Code. [Sec. 2-81B, Economic Impact Statements](#).

Montgomery County Council. [Introductory Staff Report for Bill 30-23, Rustic Roads Program – Rustic Roads Advisory Committee](#). Introduced on June 20, 2023.

## CAVEATS

Two caveats to the economic analysis performed here should be noted. First, predicting the economic impacts of legislation is a challenging analytical endeavor due to data limitations, the multitude of causes of economic outcomes, economic shocks, uncertainty, and other factors. Second, the analysis performed here is intended to *inform* the legislative process, not determine whether the Council should enact legislation. Thus, any conclusion made in this statement does not represent OLO’s endorsement of, or objection to, the Bill under consideration.

## CONTRIBUTIONS

Stephen Roblin (OLO) prepared this report.

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<sup>3</sup> Planning Board Staff Packet is included in the Bill’s Introductory Staff Report.