

Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board

Annual Report - 2009

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Executive Summary

The Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board advises the County Executive, County Council, and Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center Director on issues facing the community and serves as an advocate for the priorities of local residents and businesses. In 2009, with the assistance of Regional Director Ken Hartman, the Board had informative presentations on a variety of topics by county staff and local elected officials from our region, both at our CAB meetings and the meetings of our individual committees.

This report covers the activities of the Board during the past year, in its formal meetings in Bethesda, Rockville, Glen Echo, Garrett Park and Potomac, and in the work of its committees and members serving on other advisory bodies.

These are some of the major concerns we heard from citizens and businesses and worked on in 2009:

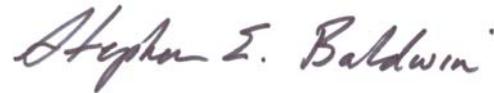
- **Rockville Pike Design** – The CAB supports a unified, multi-jurisdictional approach to the planning, design and redevelopment of Rockville Pike from Bethesda through City of Rockville particularly in light of BRAC plans and development in White Flint.
- **The White Flint Sector Plan** - The CAB endorsed the proposed transportation improvements, the need for a second elementary school within or near the sector plan in the Walter Johnson Cluster, and a satellite Regional Services Center
- **Purple Line** - The CAB supported the light rail alternative for the Purple Line following the master planned alignment and the completion of the Georgetown Branch Trail between Bethesda and Silver Spring.
- **Growth Policy** - The CAB recommended improvements in the forecasting model so that data generated by the model can accurately address present and future school and transportation needs.
- **Parking Costs and the Bethesda Parking Lot Revenue.** The CAB opposed increased parking fees in the Bethesda Parking Lot District and the extraction of funds from the Bethesda Parking Lot District Fund to support the County's General Fund. The Transportation committee also held a meeting concerning County plans for parking arrangements during the closure of Public Lot 31.
- **Farm Produce Stands** – the CAB supports Zoning Text Amendment 09-11 on agricultural vending.

While we recognize the budget crisis, the CAB and communities we represent:

- Continue to be opposed to the ambulance fee, and
- Continue to be opposed to cuts in transit services

On a positive note, the CAB is seeking ways to actively promote County-wide initiatives within the Regional Services area. We are proud of the active role taken the CAB's Quality of Life committee on positive youth initiative and aging in place. In 2009, the committee hosted forums on "greening your community" and summer jobs and internships for youth.

This report provides the full text of recommendations submitted to the County Executive and Council, and details the various presentations and discussions held by the Board and its committees on the issues of concern to our community.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen E. Baldwin".

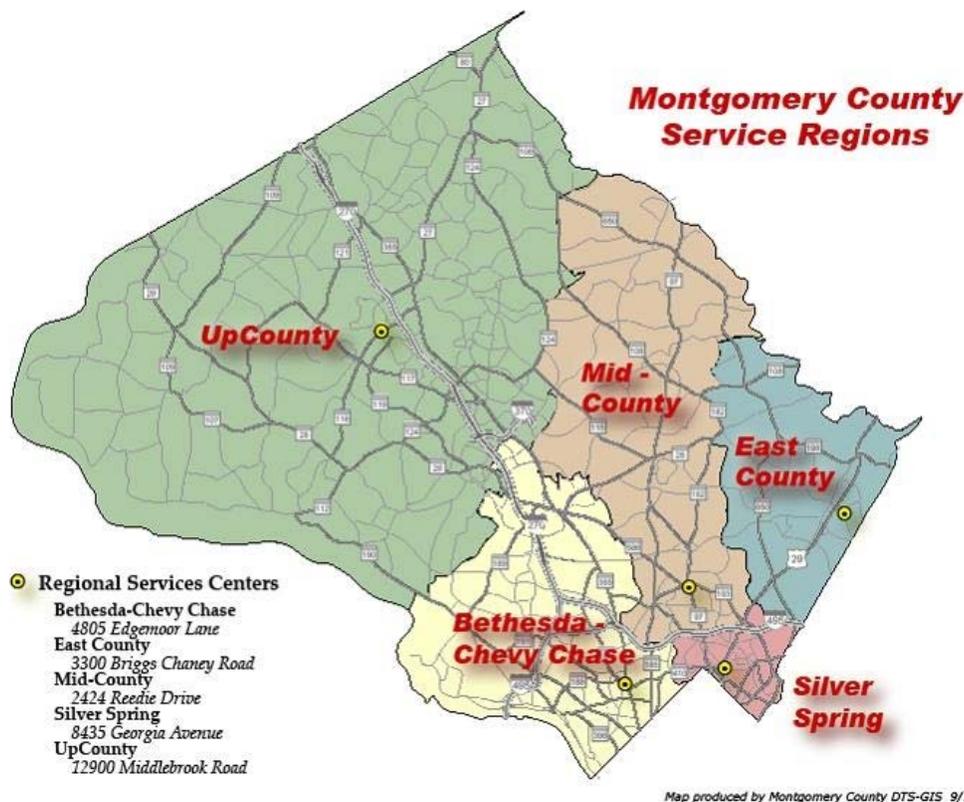
Stephen E. Baldwin, Chair

Background

The Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board advises the County Executive, County Council, and Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center Director on issues facing the community and serves as an advocate for the priorities of local residents and businesses.

Established as the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Citizens Advisory Board in April 1980, the Board's area of coverage grew in 1997 to include Potomac and North Bethesda and the name was changed to the Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board. In 2008, the regional services area was further expanded to include the City of Rockville.

The Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board is comprised of nineteen representatives from the residential, business, and non-profit communities located in Bethesda, Cabin John, Chevy Chase, Friendship Heights, Garrett Park, Glen Echo, North Bethesda, and Potomac, Rockville and Twinbrook. Board members are appointed by the Montgomery County Executive and confirmed by the County Council.



The CAB receives presentations on matters of public interest, many of which relate to budget, transportation, and land use issues. Community residents can express concerns to the Board during its monthly meetings. Issues raised by community members are sent to either to a committee to be vetted or to the appropriate County departments for action and tracked by the Regional Service Center staff. Discussions during CAB meetings provide a balanced assessment of problems faced by residents and businesses in the regional service area and help to identify potential solutions.

Members Serving in 2009

Residential Representatives

Stephen Baldwin (Chair)
Richard Blumstein
Alan M. Freeman (term expired 4/09)
Harlivleen (Livleen) Gill
Peter Gubser
Jeffrey Hearle
Daniel Hoffman
Ilaya Rome Hopkins
Marc Korman
Seth Maiman
Virginia Miller
Debra Nixon
Elizabeth A. Sandall

Planning Area

Bethesda-Chevy Chase
Potomac
Potomac
Potomac
Bethesda-Chevy Chase
Potomac
North Bethesda
Bethesda-Chevy Chase
Bethesda-Chevy Chase
Bethesda-Chevy Chase
Bethesda-Chevy Chase
Rockville
Bethesda-Chevy Chase

Business Representatives

Heather Dhopolsky
Michael C. Fomalont
Nancy Regelin
Larry Gordon (resigned 4/09)
Sue F. Knapp (Vice-Chair)
David M. Smith
Syed M. Salahuddin

Planning Area

Bethesda-Chevy Chase
Bethesda-Chevy Chase
Rockville
Potomac
Bethesda-Chevy Chase
Bethesda-Chevy Chase
Rockville

Sally Kaplan

Regional Area Non-Profit

Monthly Meetings

The Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board meets on the third Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. All CAB meetings are open to the public. There is time for community residents to express and discuss concerns with the CAB at each meeting.

During 2009, residents' comments to the CAB concerned:

- Street and road maintenance
- Pedestrian and bicycle safety
- Health care for the most vulnerable in the County
- Montgomery County Library funding
- Proposed ambulance fees
- Maintenance of Parks and Recreation Centers
- Adopt a Park Program
- Public safety
- Speeding on Major Roads
- Montgomery County Public Schools and surrounding sidewalks
- New and better maintained sidewalks
- Development
- Purple Line alignment
- Affordable housing
- Streetlight outages
- Traffic light outages
- Farmers Market Regulations
- Disposition of Rockwood Manor

The CAB dedicated its June 2009 meeting to a facilitated forum on Capital Improvement Projects.

In an effort to be more accessible to all residents, the CAB meets throughout the area it serves and participates in community events. The CAB met at the County Office Building (COB) Cafeteria in February, the Glen Echo Town Hall in March, the Garrett Park Town Hall in May, the Potomac Community Center in July, and the Potomac Library in November. Leaders of civic groups and business associations discussed the issues and concerns that are important to the

residents in their communities. At the Taste of Bethesda and Potomac Day, CAB members along with Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center staff distributed information and encouraged residents to attend Board meetings.

2009 Board Meetings

2009

January	Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center
February	Rockville Library
March	Glen Echo Town Hall
April	Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center
May	Garrett Park Town Hall
June	Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center
July	Potomac Community Center
September	Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center
October	Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center
November	Potomac Library
December	Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center

2009-2010 Priority Issues

- 1 355 Corridor – Traffic and Development
- 2 Bethesda Central Business District (CBD) Transit – Purple Line
- 3 BRAC
- 4 Development and its relationship to traffic
- 5 Improving the Land Use Review Process
- 6 Improving Transit
- 7 Maintaining and improving quality of education
- 8 Monitoring Development Projects
- 9 High Quality Police and Fire/Rescue Services
- 10 Public Safety – Resources
- 11 Promoting Smart Growth
- 12 Housing Affordability
- 13 Public Safety – promoting civilian engagement
- 14 Improving quality of life - Health, Education, Jobs, Safety
- 15 Senior Issues
- 16 Promoting Diversity
- 17 Education – Adequate School Facilities
- 18 Education – Adequate Staffing
- 19 Improving Pedestrian Safety
- 20 Street Paving – Ensuring repairs are completed after utility work
- 21 Tree Preservation/Stormwater Management - Infill Development
- 22 Promoting Youth Initiatives
- 23 Promoting Youth Sports

Presentations to the Board

During 2009, the CAB received the following presentations:

January 2009

The Honorable Isiah Leggett, County Executive

County Executive Isiah Leggett gave an overview of his FY10 budget priorities and the overall fiscal picture. Mr. Leggett answered questions from the Board and audience.

February 2009

The Honorable Phil Andrews, President, Montgomery County Council

Councilmember Andrews touted Montgomery County as having the most talented workforce in the Country and reviewed areas of County services that may have budget cuts to help close the \$500 million budget gap. Other topics of discussion included: disability retirement reform; relocation of Rockville (1st District) Police Station; demolition or renovation of the detention center; Broome Methadone Clinic – including possible relocation of the facility; and Germantown, Twinbrook and White Flint Sector Plans and how they will functionally interrelate with Rockville.

The Honorable John Britton, Rockville City Council Member for Mayor Susan Hoffmann

Councilmember Britton thanked Ken Hartman for taking the initiative to include the City of Rockville in the Bethesda-Chevy Chase regional area. Issue of concern and importance (but in no particular order) to the City Council are: Municipal Tax duplication; Broome Methadone Clinic; Rockville Core Facilities; Status of MCPS Stonestreet property; and pedestrian safety.

March 2009

Fritz Hirst, Downcounty Recreation Advisory Board

Mr. Hirst discussed his Board's priorities in the Downcounty area: Planned Life Cycle Asset Replacement (PLAR); Park Maintenance; Renovation of the Scotland Community Center; Grand opening of the Wisconsin Place Recreation Center – September; The Board took no position on the Purple Line, but advocated for a complementary trail, keeping it as wide and green as possible; and the OLO Report – Consolidation of Recreation Programs in Parks under the Recreation Department.

April 2009

The Honorable Marc Elrich, County Councilmember

Councilmember Elrich presented a proposal for a county wide Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system, emphasizing a route that could align with the Purple Line. Advantages of BRT are exclusive or shared transit ways; bus priority/HOV lanes; dedicated transit lines; and faster fare collection. Similar transit systems are in place in other cities: Chicago, Cleveland, Los Angeles and Boston. Boston launched its BRT system in three phases, the third phase scheduled to begin construction in 2011.

Councilmember Elrich emphasized that a BRT system could provide effective solutions to traffic overload and help alleviate East to West (Prince Georges County to Montgomery County) and North to South (Frederick to D.C.) congestion.

May 2009

Reed Dewey, Director, Montgomery County Volunteer Center

The Montgomery County Volunteer Center helps to connect people to volunteer opportunities. The Center has a robust database of 700 organizations that residents can select by zip code or by issue. The core goals of the center are to increase volunteering in Montgomery County, maximize volunteer retention and utilization, and identify and connect resources. Montgomery County has a wealth of residents with knowledge and skills who volunteer. Four priorities for the Volunteer Center in 2009 are: to increase the use of skilled volunteers to help non-profits and government to serve the common good; make volunteering more local and inclusive; support nonprofits/faith/government communities on volunteer management; and help volunteers to find the right match.

Martha Donnelly & Tom Rojas - Green Neighbors

Green Neighbors is an evolving group of local residents who want to engage in community solutions to environmental problems, continue the greening of Cabin John, Carderock Spring and surrounding Potomac River communities, and have fun doing it!

One community solution to environmental problems was creating a scrap metal recycling challenge. The Cabin John and Carderock Springs communities were challenged to see who could collect the most scrap metal. Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) supported the project through door hanger informational cards and a map divided into sectors. Parents volunteered to coordinate collections and DEP provided weighing and collection of the scrap metal from the parent coordinators. This challenge was a great way to build community ties. The Green Neighbors challenge for 2009 is to eliminate plastic bags in their communities. This project is also a perfect vehicle to talk to business owners/vendors about switching from plastic bags.

The Honorable Nancy Floreen, County Councilmember

Councilmember Floreen thanked the Board for their service and commitment and for encouraging others to volunteer. Councilmember Floreen reviewed budget issues. The Council is putting together a program certifying and recognizing Green Businesses. She also announced that Councilmember Trachtenberg presented a proclamation on May 12 recognizing the efforts of the NIH Bicycle Commuter Club for encouraging employees to seek alternate forms of transportation.

June 2009

Beryl Feinberg, Office of Management and Budget

Ms. Feinberg explained what the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is; when the CIP is submitted for review, recommendation and approval; how the CIPs are developed; role of the Citizen Advisory Boards and the CIP timeline.

Tom Pogue, Department of Public Works and Transportation

Mr. Pogue gave an overview and explanation of transportation projects including stand-alone projects and umbrella County-wide projects as well as County building and other facilities. He also discussed Facility Planning Studies for transportation projects.

James Stiles, Department of General Services

Mr. Stiles gave an overview of the Department, which is only a year old. General Service plans, scopes, and prices out improvements and construction of County buildings. This Department is the middle man between the Office of Management and Budget and the agency having the changes made or construction of a project.

Jeff Bourne, Department of Recreation

Mr. Bourne discussed the draft FY11-16 Proposed CIP Program which outlines the current and ongoing projects such as: the Montgomery Aquatic Center Dive Tower; the North Bethesda Community Recreation Center; the modernization of the Clara Barton Neighborhood Recreation Center; and the Scotland Neighborhood Recreation Center renovation (which may be replaced with an entirely new center because replacement would be cheaper than repairing). Also discussed was the soft opening of the Wisconsin Place Community Recreation Center on July 1st.

Adrienne Karamihas, Montgomery County Public Schools

Ms. Karamihas gave a brief overview of the MCPS CIP process and how it differs from Montgomery County and also discussed the County Council adopted FY 2010 Capital Budget and Amendments to the FY 2009-2014 Capital Improvements Program. Ms. Karamihas also noted that MCPS will not receive Federal stimulus dollars for the CIP and that elementary schools are going into a growth period, especially in the Down-County area.

Shuchi Vera, Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission

Ms. Vera, CIP Manager in the Parks Department, gave an overview of the FY09-14 CIP: 6 park renovations in our region; 4 major renovations to basketball courts; 7 major trail projects; 2 major renovations of historical structures; 2 large parking lot expansions and 3 large local park renovations.

June Evans, Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service

Ms. Evans discussed the continuation of existing CIP projects: Cabin John Fire Station #30 and Glen Echo Fire Station #11.

September 2009

Chief Richard Bowers, Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Service

Chief Bowers opened by announcing he works for us and his troops, who are 1200 career and 800 volunteers strong. Montgomery County has 34 stations and receives 125,000 calls a year; 50,000 to 60,000 are EMS calls transporting the ill or injured to hospitals. Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Services (MCFRS) is responsible for answering calls for all hazards - water main break to structure fire, to anyone ill or injured.

The EMS personnel are trained in advanced life support which means they can perform medical procedures typically used in operating rooms and emergency rooms. Montgomery County also has a highly skilled FEMA response team. Another highly skilled group is the Swift Water Recovery Team whose skills saved 11 lives during a dangerous water main break that became national news earlier this year.

Montgomery County is one of the national leaders in delivery of fire and rescue services systems. The Police Department and MCFRS share an outstanding relationship.

Thomas J. Street, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer, Office of the County Executive

Mr. Street asked the Board to urge the County Council to act expeditiously on a Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) to address off-street parking in residential and agricultural zones. A review of the changes proposed in the ZTA was given to Board members. Also reviewed was Bill 22-09 – Board of Appeals - Notice of Violation. The process for adjudicating a notice of violation or civil citation is too long. This Bill authorizes code enforcement staff to issue a citation for any code violation without first issuing a Notice of Violation (NOV). The last Bill reviewed was Bill 24-09 Buildings – permits and Inspections imposes an 18 month deadline for construction completion authorized under an issued building permit. This allows the Department of Permitting Services to extend a building permit for two six-month periods if the permit holder shows good cause.

Committees

The CAB has six committees that discussed and researched issues prior to consideration for action by the full Board. The following paragraphs summarize each committee's activities during 2009.

Land Use Committee

During 2009, the Land Use Committee conducted a series of public meetings at which presentations were made by public officials and staff on County land planning projects and legislation and by private sector developers/builders on new land development proposals. Additionally, the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center began generating a quarterly report on the status of proposed and ongoing development projects in the Bethesda CBD. Further, the Chair of the Land Use Committee served as Chair of the County's Citizens Advisory Committee to the Department of Permitting Services and provided regular updates on the Advisory Committee's activities to the CAB.

Specific government presentations were made by Council member Roger Berliner on infill development reform legislation, Planning Board staff members on the Twinbrook and White Flint Sector Plans and related rezoning recommendations, Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA) staff on Workforce Housing and Moderately Priced Dwelling Units (MPDUs). New development project presentations were made on Woodmont East, the PeriPoint Building, Suburban Hospital renovation and expansion, the Montrose Road Overpass, Christ Lutheran Church condominium and recreation center, and the Children's Inn at NIH Woodmont House special exception petition

Quality of Life/Education Committee

During 2009 with the permission of the Western Montgomery Citizens Advisory Board the Quality of life and Education Committees were made into one committee as there was overlap of issues and members. The Quality of Life (QOL) committee focused on supporting the BCC Regional services center on three main issues: positive youth initiative, aging in place and parks and recreation center. Towards this end the committee engaged in the following activities:

- In partnership with Bethesda Green the QOL committee hosted a forum on "Greening your Community". Ken Hartman, Dave Feldman of Bethesda Green, and Alan Pultyniewicz, DEP, Division of Solid Waste were the panelists.
- The committee hosted a Youth initiative forum in March focusing on summer jobs and internships. Councilmember Valerie Ervin the Chair of the Education Committee was part of a panel of experts composed of business leaders and career coaches.
- In October a teen Halloween party organized by Brandon Howard, Bethesda Urban District Manager was held at the B-CC Regional Services Center with support from the Quality of life Committee.
- In November, the QOL met with the Parks Department Director to discuss the status of Rockwood Manor and how the department could better inform the community about changes in ownership to the affected communities.

- The QOL Committee continued to participate in the Health and Wellness committee for senior citizens, a key issue that arose from the 2008 Senior Summit.
- The QOL Committee reactivated a program that recognizes contributions that have improved the quality of life in our community. These contributions may take many forms, and the Board has previously recognized homeowner organizations, businesses and non-profit organizations. This is not an award, but rather the Board's way of saying "Hats Off" to members of our community. In 2009 the Board recognized the Bethesda Elementary Parent Teacher Association (BEPTA), Playground Initiative Committee for its efforts to improve the quality of life in Montgomery County by designing a plan and raising the funds for a playground upgrade to serve the children of the Bethesda Elementary School and the greater community.

Public Safety Committee

The Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee focused its energy on ensuring that the downturn in the economy and corresponding difficult Cost Savings Plans did not have any untoward effects on the delivery of public safety resources to the citizens of our service area. We are happy to report that in 2009 there was no reduction in resources in our area.

The committee also produced a deliverable in layperson's terms that explains how the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service ("MCFRS") functions. Input was solicited from both career and volunteer resources. The committee looks forward to creating a similar document for the delivery of law enforcement in our area.

Committee members attended hearings, including one presenting the 2009 Fire, Rescue, Emergency Medical Services, and Community Risk Reduction Master Plan, as well as disaster preparedness coordination meetings.

As part of the CIP recommendations, the committee recommended to the County Executive as well the Fire Chief that the renovation or remodeling of existing or building of new fire stations should include provisions for the Montgomery County Police Department. Specifically, fire stations should function as "police substations" allowing officers to be able to complete reports via computer, refuel their vehicles in times of emergency, and locate in times of inclement weather or disaster.

The committee is grateful to the Station Commanders of the Montgomery County Police Department's first and second districts, Captain Russ Hamill and Captain Daryl McSwain, as well as to Battalion Chief Jim Resnick from MCFRS for providing regular and well delivered community updates.

Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee addressed a number of issues during 2009, in several cases collaborating with the Land Use Committee. Among the most salient are:

- Comprehensive planning for the Route 355 Corridor. The CAB has expressed its concern that plans for upgrading 355 from Bethesda to and through Rockville need to be made on a coordinated basis. In particular, the approaches taken by the City of Rockville and by the County in the White Flint Master Plan should be developed

and implemented together. The committee and the Board will continue their involvement with the White Flint Master Plan in 2010.

- The committee continued its monitoring of the Purple Line, and was glad that the locally preferred alternative for the Bethesda segment of the project was the same as that recommended by the CAB.
- Parking and transit issues were the subject of several committee meetings and CAB actions. In May, the CAB Chair testified before the County Council in opposition to higher parking fees in the Bethesda Parking Lot District, and to funds being diverted from the PLD.
- The committee held a meeting concerning County plans for parking arrangements during the closure of Public Lot 31. The committee advocates the development of real-time information on available parking spaces in Bethesda area garages and was pleased to be told that these improvements are being planned.
- The Transportation and Land Use Committees hosted a presentation on the redevelopment of the Safeway supermarket property at Bradley Boulevard and Arlington Road.

Executive Committee

In its first full year of operation the Executive Committee took the lead in coordinating the CAB's activities and its positions on a variety of issues. The committee consists of the Chair, Vice Chair, past Chair and the Director of the B-CC Regional Services Center. In 2009 the CAB expanded from 15 to 19 members with the addition of the City of Rockville to the service area. The Executive Committee acted as interviewers of applicants for the new positions as well as replacements for outgoing members.

Chair Steve Baldwin represented the CAB in presenting the year's priority issues to the County Executive on February 3 and in testifying before the County Council on May 5 in opposition to proposals to increase parking fees and divert funds from the Bethesda Parking Lot District. The Executive Committee also reviewed and approved letters drafted by the Land Use Committee to the Council concerning the White Flint Sector Plan and the proposed Zoning Text Amendment on agricultural vending. Other issues addressed by the committee during 2009 included a revision to the member orientation handbook and refinement of the CAB's priorities and workplan for 2010.

Budget Committee

At the January 2009 meeting of the full Board, County Executive Isiah Leggett gave an overview of his FY 10 operating budget priorities and the overall fiscal picture. The presentation and the lively discussion that followed reflected the fiscal constraints resulting from the current recession in the United States, but also the desire to maintain high quality services in Montgomery County.

At its June meeting, the Board held a Capital Budget Forum. Representatives from various Montgomery County agencies provided an overview of the FY 11-16 capital improvement program (CIP) and the projects therein, answered questions, and responded to suggestions for new projects. The members of the Board and citizens attending the meeting held a lively discussion on project priorities, especially about schools, recreational facilities, roads and sidewalks, fire and safety equipment, and police facilities.

In July, the Budget Committee met to discuss and prepare a draft letter of CIP budget recommendations to the County Executive. With full attendance, the members discussed details of what should be in the letter, including balancing priorities. The discussion reflected the input from the June meeting with Montgomery County agencies that included citizen's comments as well as observations of the Board members. Later in the month, the full Board discussed the draft letter and approved it as revised.

In August, Steven Baldwin and Sue Knapp met with representatives from each of the four other Citizens Advisory Boards and Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett to discuss the CIP recommendations. Mr. Baldwin gave a summary of the Board letter on the CIP and provided a printed copy of the letter and the summary to the County Executive. All participants had a lively and positive exchange with the County Executive and the other Montgomery County officials present at the meeting.

Board Actions

The primary purpose of the CAB is to advise the County Executive and County Council on matters that affect the residential and business communities in Bethesda, Cabin John, Chevy Chase, Friendship Heights, Garrett Park, Glen Echo, North Bethesda, Potomac and Rockville. During 2009, the CAB's positions on specific issues were:

Increase parking fees and use of Bethesda Parking Lot District funds.

Testimony of Stephen E. Baldwin, Chair
Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board
Before the Montgomery County Council Transportation & Environment Committee
May 5, 2009

I am writing to express the opposition of the Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) to both the proposal to increase parking fees in the Bethesda Parking Lot District (PLD) and to Expedited Bill 17-09, which would extract revenue from the PLD. The PLD has contributed to the development of Bethesda as an economically vibrant downtown that provides residents with a great place to live, work and play. At the same time, the PLD has been self-supporting and sustainable. The Board believes that both proposals are short-sighted, and will impose long-term damage on the PLD.

We oppose an increase in parking fees in the PLD for the following reasons:
A parking rate increase, especially in the current uncertain economic conditions, will negatively affect patrons of local businesses, employees who are not receiving raises and often experiencing pay or benefit cuts, those who use parking facilities to get to their jobs, and the residents of Bethesda.

A parking rate increase could push members of the Bethesda workforce, especially lower-paid employees, out of jobs in Bethesda, which would negatively affect both workers and businesses.

A parking rate increase could push cars out of public garages into neighborhoods and private garages, with a potential loss of revenue to the PLD.

A parking rate increase used to generate revenue for subsidizing public transportation in other parts of the County, as proposed in Expedited Bill 17-09 would be at the expense of workers, employers and residents of the Bethesda area.

We also oppose Expedited Bill 17-09 for the following reasons:

The funds generated by parking fees and fines generated within the Bethesda PLD are needed to support parking maintenance and improvements within the PLD; they should be reinvested within PLD projects. There are a number of critical parking investments that will be needed in the PLD, both in the short term, such as mitigating the impact during the replacement of Lot 31, and in the long term, such as the need to improve technology in lots and garages to bring them up to the standards of facilities in Rockville and Silver Spring.

The Bethesda PLD has become a finely-tuned organization that is self-sustaining if left alone; tampering with it, especially in these uncertain economic conditions, could seriously damage its ability to achieve its goals.

The Bethesda PLD already contributes approximately \$3.8 million for general funding of mass transit County-wide. No other PLD is able to do this. In addition, PLD revenues support the operation of the Bethesda Urban Partnership, a model of private-public cooperation, including the Bethesda Circulator.

This is not a case of turning our backs on other parts of the County. Bethesda supports mass transit. An example is the success of Bethesda Transportation Solutions in supporting the modal split, which we understand to be the highest of any Transportation Management District in the County.

The CAB and its Transportation Committee would be happy to discuss in further detail our findings and thoughts on either the proposed parking rate increase or Expedited Bill 17-09. Our opposition to these proposals is based on our desire to maintain Bethesda as a great place for businesses to locate, for everyone to enjoy the arts, shopping and dining, and, at the end of the day, a place to call home.

Sincerely,
Stephen E. Baldwin, Chair

Planning, Design and Redevelopment of the Rockville Pike Corridor

April 22, 2009

Honorable Isiah Leggett
Montgomery County Executive
Executive Office Building
101 Monroe Street, Second Floor
Rockville, MD 20850

Re: Planning, Design and Redevelopment of the Rockville Pike
Corridor

Dear Mr. Leggett:

I write on behalf of the Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board to express the Board's unanimous view that the State, the County and the City of Rockville should take a unified, multi-jurisdictional approach towards the planning, design and redevelopment of the Rockville Pike corridor. All stakeholders want Rockville Pike to become a more efficient transit-way, a more visually attractive boulevard, and a safe and pleasant environment for pedestrians and bicyclists. We are concerned, however, that the current approach will not serve these objectives. We make four recommendations.

First, we have observed that State, County and City officials are not pursuing a coordinated planning and design effort. Instead, they appear to be working independently of each other. This seems highly inefficient in view of the material impact that Rockville Pike will continue to have on all three jurisdictions, including countless public infrastructure and private development projects. All public stakeholders should be working together in the planning and design process.

Second, the planning and design process must take a unified approach to the entire Rockville Pike corridor, from Jones Bridge Road in Bethesda to Shady Grove Road at the northern end of Rockville. Instead of being viewed as a disjointed collection of

independent sections of road, Rockville Pike should be considered as, and designed to be, a single, maximally efficient and visually consistent transit-way from start to finish. To accomplish this, we suggest that all public and private stakeholders participate in the planning and design process for the entire Rockville Pike, and that the design process should reflect – and be reflected in – each pertinent sector plan.

Third, the construction phase must be implemented as a single project (albeit with several consecutively implemented phases), rather than in piecemeal and interrupted fashion. We are vitally concerned that if the improvements are not constructed as a single project, some will not be completed at all. Particularly if the redesigned Rockville Pike is designed to be a unified corridor, the impact of failing to implement all the improvements, or failing to implement them as efficiently as possible, would negatively impact the entire project.

Finally, we are mindful that our suggestion for a unified, multi-jurisdictional approach to the design, planning and implementation of improvements to Rockville Pike will require a level of inter-jurisdictional cooperation that is virtually (if not actually) unprecedented in recent memory for a public roads project in Montgomery County. Full participation and accountability will be critical, and to that end we suggest the formation of a multi-jurisdictional commission with responsibility for oversight of the entire project from the planning phase through design and construction (subject to strictures imposed by the elected leadership). We are eager to participate in that process by offering a member of our Board as a liaison.

We appreciate your consideration of these recommendations. As you know, our Board is comprised of residential and business representatives from (among other areas) Bethesda, North Bethesda, Chevy Chase, Potomac and the City of Rockville. As such, we have direct experience with Rockville Pike and a strong interest in its future. Moreover, our Transportation and Land Use Committees (where these recommendations originated) are comprised of representatives with substantial professional experience in these disciplines. We hope that you will solicit our views if we can provide further insight.

Sincerely,

Stephen E. Baldwin, Chair

Capital Improvement Budget Recommendations

July 13, 2009

The Honorable Isiah Leggett
Montgomery County Executive
101 Monroe Street
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Mr. Leggett:

The Western Montgomery County Citizen Advisory Board held its Capital Budget Forum on June 15, 2009 for the purpose of receiving input for the FY11-16 capital improvement program (CIP). The Forum was well attended by residents and representatives of various county agencies. We also solicited and received public comments via mail and e-mail. Based on the information we have gathered, we submit the following recommendations for your consideration.

I. Public Education

Montgomery County Public Schools. Excellent public schools are a hallmark of our county and our public schools' national reputation continues to be a primary motivating factor for young families and businesses moving into our community. In that context, we urge you to support the modernization of our public school facilities by committing to fully fund the modernization and capacity enhancement projects requested by the Board of Education. The current moratoriums that are in place and those projected to go into effect highlight the extreme situation our county is in due to insufficient school construction. The CAB believes this situation is not due solely to residential growth, but to mis-specifications in the forecasting models and variables taken into consideration by MCPS. The problem will not be solved by curbing development.

Regardless of the root causes, which we will address in another letter, the CAB recommends approaching this problem in two stages. First, fund a comprehensive study, through the CIP, to determine the extent of the problem and ascertain more accurate estimates for school enrollments over the next five to ten years. The CAB has heard from a number of citizens and organizations that there is a significant lack of public confidence in the projections being produced by MCPS. This public sentiment cannot be dismissed as invalid. Each school cluster represented by this CAB (Bethesda-Chevy Chase, Downcounty Consortium, Richard Montgomery, Rockville, Thomas S. Wootton, Walt Whitman, Walter Johnson, and Winston Churchill) is having significant capacity problems at one or more level of education. The problem is most pronounced at the elementary school level, where many students wait in long lines for lunch and are left with little time to eat. The issue can and should not be redefined so it will go away by increasing the threshold at which a moratorium goes into effect. This situation is most critical for the Bethesda-Chevy Chase cluster where almost every school struggles with overcrowding. We encourage a study to be funded to uncover the extent of the problem, direct appropriate expenditure of school construction funds, and to ensure no other surges in enrollment are "missed" by MCPS.

Second, rather than list a handful of schools in need of additions or construction, the CAB recommends a comprehensive school construction campaign that goes beyond any current waiting list or queue. With the analysis in hand from the study, planners should be provided with appropriate funding in the CIP to begin addressing each project, in order of need. Montgomery County remains a growth engine for the state and region in no small part because of the public education system we have built. The CAB feels it is time to rededicate ourselves to the notion that education comes first in this county, because there is no greater single area of need as we develop this CIP.

On a related note, we strongly support the continued dedication of CIP resources to modernize and expand the County's public libraries, which augment the facilities provided by our schools and also serve as a valuable resource for our post-graduate and preschool community.

II. Public Safety

Fire/Rescue. We laud your commitment to the needed renovations of both the Cabin John Fire Station #30 (CIP No. 450500) and the Glen Echo Volunteer Fire Department Station #11 (CIP No. 450702). In connection with our support for the Cabin John and Glen Echo modernizations, we suggest that anytime a fire station is renovated that consideration should be given to doing small build outs so that police officers can

treat the stations as quasi-satellite facilities. In other words, they can complete their reports, etc., in their beats, which keeps them in the communities they serve rather than forcing them to go to the district station. We believe that both MCFRS and MCPD would support this. It is also consistent with the county's improving disaster preparedness through integrating resources.

Department of Police. We support your efforts to secure new locations or rapid renovations for both the First District and Second District (CIP No. 470702) Police Stations which currently require extensive physical improvements in order to ensure the Department of Police is able to adequately meet the public safety needs in our region.

III. Recreational Opportunities.

Neighborhood Recreation Centers. We support the construction of a new Scotland Neighborhood Recreation Center (CIP No. 720916). We also encourage the County to devote funds to the design and construction of the North Bethesda Community Recreation Center (CIP No. 720100).

Skate Plaza. We urge the county to fully fund the design and construction of a skate plaza easily accessible through public transportation in Western Montgomery County. Many young people and their families are hoping the construction of a skate plaza would provide a safe place to congregate and play.

Glen Echo Park. We also urge you to fund the completion of the Glenn Echo Park (CIP No. 500004) renovations.

IV. Transportation Infrastructure

Roads. We realize the combination of the Walter Reed Army Medical Center with the National Naval Medical Center to create the Walter Reed Military Medical Center (CIP No. 501000) will have a substantial transportation impact on Western Montgomery County. Responding to this impact is our highest road-related priority. We appreciate your efforts to date, and encourage you to continue to be proactive in anticipating the infrastructure improvements that will be necessary and the challenges that will be associated with funding them.

Rockville Pike Corridor As noted in our earlier letter to you, the CAB urges that there be a unified, multi-jurisdictional approach towards the planning, design and redevelopment of this crucial artery from Jones Bridge Road to Shady Grove Road. We believe that the construction phase must be implemented as a single project, albeit in several successive parts, rather than in a piecemeal and interrupted fashion.

Pedestrian Facilities/Bikeways/Trails. Pedestrian safety should be among the forefront of issues considered when new developments and infrastructure projects are discussed, and the County should work with developers to ensure that appropriate pedestrian safety measures are implemented. We, therefore, encourage the County to fully fund the Bethesda CBD Streetscape (CIP No. 500102), including the installation of streetlights and underground conduits for upper Wisconsin Avenue.

We commend your commitment to the Falls Road East Side Hiker/Biker Path (CIP No. 500905), and we support the continued funding and scheduling of the Greentree Road Sidewalk (CIP No. 500506), the MacArthur Boulevard Bikeway Improvements (CIP No. 500718), and the Montrose Trail (CIP No. 038707).

Based on substantial citizen input, we have made multiple requests in prior CIP cycles for a number of pedestrian improvements. We renew our request for the construction of a sidewalk on Bradley Boulevard within the existing State right-of-way, along the east side of Bradley Boulevard from Seven Locks Road to Bethesda. We renew our request for the construction of a sidewalk/bikeway along Goldsboro Road between River Road and MacArthur Boulevard. We also renew our requests to implement sidewalk/bikeway improvements along Seven Locks Road, to construct a sidewalk/bikeway along Beech Avenue, and to construct a sidewalk/bikeway along Tuckerman Lane between Gainsborough Road and Seven Locks Road.

Transit Investments. We urge construction of the Bethesda Metro Station South Entrance (CIP No. 500929) and Bus Stop Improvements (CIP No. 507658), specifically on the east and west side of Wisconsin Avenue between Bradley Boulevard and Dorset Avenue which should improve pedestrian and vehicular traffic safety.

V. Environmental Preservation and Protection

Watershed Restoration Projects and Storm Water Management. Restoration of urban streams is a high priority. We support the watershed restoration projects under design and/or being planned by the Department of Environmental Protection, as well as the storm water management projects currently under design in Western Montgomery County.

Thank you for the participation of your departmental representatives in our Forum, and for the opportunity to share our thoughts at this early stage.

Sincerely,

Stephen E. Baldwin
Chair

Opposition to Ambulance Fee Proposal

A copy of the letter sent September 30, 2008 was again sent to the County Council expressing opposition to the ambulance fee proposal as it may come up again to the Council before the close of 2009.

The Honorable Isiah Leggett
Montgomery County Executive
101 Monroe Street, 2nd Floor
Rockville, MD 20850

Re: Bill 25-08, Emergency Medical Service Transport Fees

Dear County Executive Leggett:

On behalf of the Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board, I wish to thank you for asking Chief Thomas W. Carr, Jr. to attend our July, 2008 meeting for the purpose of presenting the proposal to authorize the County's Fire and Rescue Service to impose and collect a fee to recover costs generated by providing emergency medical

service transports via County ambulances. Chief Carr's presentation was thoughtful, and his responses to our and community members' queries were substantive.

Having considered Chief Carr's presentation, as well as a presentation by the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad and comments from Board members and the community, the Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board has determined, by unanimous vote, to voice its opposition to the proposal. This is consistent with the Board's prior opposition to Bill No. 32-04, though we note that there has been substantial turnover in the Board's membership in the intervening four years. Our opposition to an ambulance user fee remains both principled and pragmatic.

We believe that the provision of emergency medical service is a basic obligation of local government and that the cost to provide such service and to maintain the necessary equipment in first-class condition should be borne equally by all County residents, rather than just the unlucky few who find themselves in medical distress. As a matter of principle, we oppose any effort to impose user fees on basic services such as these, believing instead that their cost should be shared by all County residents.

We also have practical concerns regarding Bill No. 25-08. Initially, we are concerned that the administrative expense of managing the program has been understated and that, in practice, the user fees would replace, rather than supplement, current budget allocations for fire and rescue services. We discussed these particular issues with Chief Carr, but the substance of the legislation does not alleviate our concerns. Moreover, we are concerned by what we perceive to be undue reliance on health insurance providers to fully pay these fees without seeking authority to implement corresponding premium increases on County residents and the local employers who insure them. Finally, we are concerned that these fees might have an adverse effect on the very important fundraising activities of our volunteer fire and rescue companies.

Though we oppose Bill No. 25-08, we wish to commend Chief Carr's effort to resolve community concerns, and we do not quarrel with the premise that additional funds are needed in order to maintain our fire and rescue equipment in first-class condition. Indeed, the need for additional funding to support our Fire and Rescue Service is a paramount concern for the Board. However, to the extent additional funds are necessary to maintain our fire and rescue equipment; we believe those funds should be appropriated from existing or new revenue streams that derive from all County residents.

Very truly yours,

David Smith, Chairperson

Planning Board Draft of the 2009-2011 Growth Policy

September 24, 2009

The Honorable Phil M. Andrews, President
Montgomery County Council
Council Office Building
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Council President Andrews:

The Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board (the "CAB") considered the Planning Board Draft of the 2009-2011 Growth Policy (the "Draft Growth Policy") at several meetings held during the month of September. The Land Use Committee of the CAB received a presentation on the Draft Growth Policy from Planning Board Staff on September 9th, a meeting that was also well attended by residents and members of the business community. The Land Use Committee met again on September 21st to review the Draft Growth Policy, the materials received at its previous meeting, and comments submitted by the public at the September 9th meeting and via email. Ultimately, the full CAB met on September 21st to consider the Land Use Committee's discussions and recommendations.

Because of the complexity of the Draft Growth Policy and the sheer volume of information contained therein, the CAB has chosen to focus its recommendations on two primary areas that have been of longstanding concern to the CAB: schools and transportation. With regard to both of these topics, the CAB would like to iterate one primary, overarching recommendation: that forecasting models must be improved so that the data generated by such models can be accurately applied to address the present and future school and transportation needs of the County. Because important decisions are made based upon the results produced by such forecasting models, the CAB is concerned that efforts be made to improve the forecasting models so that the County does not find itself in a situation of unanticipated effects and consequences, such as the current case in, for example, the BCC School Cluster (discussed in more detail below).

Based on the information we have gathered, the CAB submits the following recommendations on the Draft Growth Policy for your consideration:

I. School Capacity-Related Recommendations

As the CAB recognized in its July 13, 2009 letter to the County Executive outlining the CAB's recommendations on the FY2011-2016 Capital Improvement Program, excellent public schools are a hallmark of our County and they are a prime motivating factor that guides many young families and businesses into our community. The current moratorium that is in place in the BCC School Cluster, and the over- and near-capacity of other area schools, highlight the necessity for forecasting models that are better able to predict changes in school enrollment. The CAB reiterates its belief that the current over-capacity of schools is not due solely to new residential growth or development, but to flaws in the forecasting models and the variables taken into consideration by the County and Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), and subsequent failure to direct funds to address such capacity issues. Regardless of the root causes, the CAB recommends that the County pursue a comprehensive study to uncover the extent of the flaws in the forecasting models in order to ensure that future changes in enrollment are more readily predicted, so that the County can be proactive rather than reactive in addressing such situations.

Aside from the above overarching concern, the CAB also discussed some of the Draft Growth Policy's specific recommendations related to school capacity issues. Specifically, draft Recommendation #10 would allow residential subdivision applications that are complete within the 12 months prior to imposition of a moratorium but have not yet been acted upon to proceed. Some members of the CAB support this recommendation and perceive that the intent of this recommendation is fairness and predictability in the subdivision approval process, where projects that have already expended significant resources could move forward without having to adjust to an unforeseeable shift in the playing field. However, other CAB members are concerned

that implementation of this recommendation could set a poor precedent whereby applications could move forward despite a finding of over-capacity. Therefore, the CAB as a whole does not take a specific position on this recommendation but rather presents the various viewpoints expressed by CAB members.

Similarly, the CAB discussed draft Recommendation #8, which would set the threshold for application of a school facility payment at projected enrollment greater than 110 percent (rather than 105 percent) of projected program capacity at any school level by cluster. Some members of the CAB disagree with this recommendation because it would again set a poor precedent by seemingly approving additional over-capacity before requiring collection of funds to address the situation. Other members of the CAB believe that this recommendation should be implemented, because it would more accurately reflect MCPS' facility planning policies and would be less susceptible to temporary blips on the enrollment radar. Aside from expressing the various views of the CAB members, the CAB as a whole does not take a specific position on this recommendation.

II. Policy Area Mobility Review

With regard to Policy Area Mobility Review (PAMR) and other transportation issues addressed in the Draft Growth Policy, the CAB again urges that forecasting models must be improved so that the data generated by such models can be accurately applied to best address the present and future transportation needs of the County. Specifically, draft Recommendation #5 would adjust the residential trip generation rates by 18 percent in Metro Station Policy Areas only. The CAB does not take a specific position on this recommendation as to whether these rates should be revised, but merely uses this recommendation to illustrate its caution that any revisions must be based on accurate data assessment and forecasting models, and that the data and models must be continually improved to reflect reality.

Specifically, the CAB discussed draft Recommendation #6 which would replace the LATR (Local Area Transportation Review) and PAMR mitigation with designated public entities and other funding mechanisms in the White Flint area. The CAB supports this recommendation, in recognition of the fact that the White Flint area, as envisioned in the draft White Flint Sector Plan, is a unique and important opportunity for the County. As such, and because the draft White Flint Sector Plan contains specific mechanisms for funding and implementation of transportation infrastructure and improvements which will be fully reviewed and evaluated by the County Council later this fall, the White Flint area should not be subject to the more general requirements of the Draft Growth Policy. The CAB is concerned that there could be unanticipated negative consequences if the more general recommendations of the Draft Growth Policy are applied prematurely to the unique situation in the White Flint area, and that such effects would not be remedied until the Growth Policy is again reviewed two years from now. Because the draft White Flint Sector Plan and its recommendations will be fully reviewed by the County Council after the Growth Policy review process has been completed, the CAB recommends approval of Recommendation #6 in the Draft Growth Policy.

Lastly, while the CAB as a whole does not take a position as to whether increased growth is desirable, the CAB does agree with the sentiment expressed on Page 9 of the Executive Summary of the Draft Growth Policy, which is that growth should generally be directed to the urban areas of the County, thereby implementing Smart Growth concepts.

Thank you for your consideration of the Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board's recommendations on the Planning Board Draft of the 2009-2011 Growth Policy.

Sincerely,

Stephen E. Baldwin, Chair
Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board

White Flint Sector Plan

October 29, 2009

The Honorable Phil M. Andrews, President
Montgomery County Council
Council Office Building
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Council President Andrews:

The Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board (the "CAB") considered the Planning Board Draft of the White Flint Sector Plan (the "Draft Sector Plan") at several meetings held during the month of October. The Land Use Committee of the CAB received a presentation on the Draft Sector Plan from Planning Board Staff on October 5th, a meeting that was also attended by residents living in the Sector Plan area and members of the business community. The Land Use Committee met again on October 14th to review the Draft Sector Plan, the materials received at its previous meeting, and comments submitted by the public at the October 5th meeting. Ultimately, the full CAB met on October 19th to consider the Land Use Committee's discussions and recommendations.

Because of the complexity of the Draft Sector Plan and the wide range of topics it addresses, the CAB has chosen to focus its recommendations on several key areas of primary concern to CAB members: (1) transportation and phasing; (2) schools; (3) the proposed satellite Regional Services Center; and (4) a recommendation made in response to testimony given by residents of The Forum Condominium (located in the Sector Plan area) at the Land Use Committee's October 5th meeting. Based on the information we have gathered, the CAB submits the following recommendations on the Draft Sector Plan for your consideration:

I. Transportation and Phasing

The Draft Sector Plan proposes numerous improvements to the overall transportation system in the Sector Plan area in order to support the proposed urban center of residences and businesses and the existing local neighborhoods in and near the Sector Plan area. While some CAB members support the development levels proposed by the Draft Sector Plan, others are concerned that these projected levels may be more than is desirable. However, the CAB as a whole feels that no matter the projected level of development, the transportation improvements outlined in the Draft Sector Plan are absolutely vital to the current and future health and success of the residents, businesses, and visitors in the Sector Plan area, as well as neighbors of the Sector Plan area. The CAB views the funding and reconstruction of Rockville Pike, the second entrance to

the White Flint Metro Station, and the MARC station as the top transportation priorities in the area. In particular, the Sector Plan portion of Rockville Pike is a crucial link between Bethesda to the south and Rockville and the communities to the north. The CAB supports the Sector Plan vision of the Pike as an urban boulevard that would accommodate bus priority lanes and be more pedestrian-friendly and accessible. As the CAB has stressed previously, most recently in its July 13, 2009 letter to the County Executive outlining the CAB's recommendations on the FY2011-2016 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), reconstruction of the Pike must be planned comprehensively and implemented in a coordinated manner with jurisdictions and neighborhoods to the north and south. Options should be kept open to accomplish the Sector Plan vision for Rockville Pike while also working with neighboring jurisdictions to plan comprehensively and in coordination. Streetscape and sidewalk improvements and bikeways must be planned and implemented – in conjunction with reconstruction of Rockville Pike, the second Metro entrance, and the MARC station – in order to ensure that residents, employees, and visitors can access these new and improved transportation facilities. It is imperative that the totality of these important improvements be implemented as early in the phasing process as possible in order to realize the non-auto driver mode share goals of the Draft Sector Plan.

II. Schools

As the CAB has consistently recognized both in its July 13th letter to the County Executive on the CAB's recommendations on the FY2011-2016 CIP and its September 24, 2009 letter to the County Council on the Growth Policy, excellent public schools are a hallmark of our County and they are a prime motivating factor that guides many young families and businesses into our community. The Draft Sector Plan recognizes the important role that our schools play, and currently proposes locating a future elementary school site at the Rocking Horse Road facility just outside the Sector Plan area. The CAB agrees that a local community elementary school within the Randolph Hills neighborhood (part of the Downcounty Consortium) is necessary to address current and serious school capacity issues. However, the CAB understands that residents in the Walter Johnson cluster also have concerns regarding school capacity. Given these concerns, in addition to locating an elementary school in Randolph Hills, a site should be identified for a second elementary school within or near the Sector Plan area in the Walter Johnson cluster that will be available to serve the Walter Johnson cluster.

III. Satellite Regional Services Center

The CAB strongly supports the Draft Sector Plan recommendation to locate a Satellite Regional Services Center in the Sector Plan area. Such a facility could be combined and share space with the proposed express library, with sufficient office and meeting room space to serve the needs of the White Flint community.

IV. Response to Citizen Testimony

At the October 5th Land Use Committee meeting on the Draft Sector Plan, representatives of The Forum Condominium spoke to the Committee and requested the CAB's support that the Draft Sector Plan recommend The Forum for rezoning to the proposed new

V. Commercial/Residential (CR) Zone.

The CAB supports this request on the basis that properties located near The Forum are currently recommended for rezoning, and in the interests of consistency it seems The Forum property should be recommended for rezoning as well. (Because the CAB itself has not yet held discussions on and the County Council has not yet approved the CR Zone, the CAB notes that this recommendation should not be considered an endorsement of the CR Zone itself, but rather is simply support of The Forum's request for a rezoning recommendation.) If the zoning recommendation for The Forum is altered, CAB members stress that the Draft Sector Plan's projections for future residential units in the Sector Plan area and anticipated trip generation should be revised accordingly. Further, the CAB urges the County Council and its Staff to examine whether there are any other properties in the Sector Plan similarly situated to The Forum that, for consistency purposes, should also be considered for rezoning recommendations.

Thank you for your consideration of the Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board's recommendations on the Planning Board Draft of the White Flint Sector Plan.

Sincerely

Stephen E. Baldwin, Chair

Representation on Other Committees

As required by County law or request, the CAB recommends members or residents for positions on other boards, committees, commissions or working groups.

Bethesda Urban Partnership, Inc. Board of Directors

Richard Blumstein provided monthly updates on Bethesda Urban District issues and other matters of interest to the general community including: the annual Taste of Bethesda (at which there is a Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board information booth), the annual Arts Festival, matters concerning the Arts & Entertainment District, and activities related to Bethesda commerce (e.g. restaurant week) and transportation (e.g. the Circulator and BRAC-related activities). These activities are reported for the public in the Board's meeting summaries. The Board recommended and the County Executive confirmed Jon Weintraub for a second term as the residential representative on the Bethesda Urban Partnership, Inc. Board of Directors.

Department of Permitting Services (DPS) Advisory Committee

Nancy Regelin reported on the Advisory Committee's study of four issues: restructuring DPS to improve customer service and service delivery; education of the public; development of a training system for DPS employees; and review and recommendation of improvements to the site plan enforcement process.

Sector Plan Advisory Groups

Sue Knapp monitored and reported on the progress of the Twinbrook Sector Plan Advisory Group and White Flint Sector Plan Advisory Group, respectively.

Purple Line Functional Master Plan Advisory Committee

Sue Knapp participated in this committee set up by Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission in order to obtain feedback from the community.

Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Implementation Committee

Seth Maiman reported on Committee interaction among representatives of the military, the government and the community as the region prepares for the impact of the move of Walter Reed Army Medical Center to the National Naval Medical Center by 2011.

Orphan Roads Policy Task Force

Steve Baldwin represents the CAB on the working group charged with developing a consistent policy to respond to requests from residents for improving and maintaining the roads. The group includes members or staff from the other four advisory boards, representatives of relevant County agencies and concerned citizens and meetings are open to the public. "Orphan" roads are publicly dedicated rights of way that are not maintained by Montgomery County.

National Institutes of Health (NIH) Community Liaison Council (CLC)

Sally Kaplan and Virginia Miller are CAB representatives on the NIH CLC. The CLC is composed of civic associations surrounding the National Institute of Health campus and two

representatives from the WMCAB. Civic Associations are most concerned with the increased volume of traffic and strains on both county/state roads and the Metro system. The BRAC project has heightened those concerns. The NIH Council meeting each month reviews NIH environment, facilities, transportation, and special projects. In addition, the Council reviewed Metro plans with regard to BRAC, emergency planning on the NIH campus, environmental needs and concerns of the FAES (Foundation for Advancement of Education in the Science). Presentations given about the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center; the Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board; and the status of the NIH Fire Department were significant. The committee is an important communication vehicle for WMCAB with regard to National Institutes of Health and the neighboring civic associations.

Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center
4805 Edgemoor Lane
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

Bethesda.citizen@montgomerycountymd.gov
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/bcc