



OFFICE OF RACIAL EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE


Marc Elrich
County Executive

Tiffany Ward
Director and Chief Equity Officer

MEMORANDUM

January 30, 2025

To: Jennifer Bryant, Director
Office of Management and Budget

From: Tiffany Ward, Director
Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice 

Re: Racial Equity Impact Assessment (REIA) Supplemental Appropriation (SA) #25-51
#25-51 Dickerson Radio Tower (No. P342302)

- I. **FINDING:** The Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice ORESJ finds that Supplemental Appropriation #25-51 *Dickerson Radio Tower (No. P342302)* neither advances nor impedes racial equity and social justice in Montgomery County. Due to the technical nature of the proposed amendment to this Capital Improvements Program (CIP) project, it's beyond the scope of this racial equity impact assessment (REIA) to more deeply evaluate the project and the distribution of similar public-safety communication resources, including whether that distribution is equitable and how the distribution impacts public safety outcomes for different communities across the County.
- II. **BACKGROUND:** The purpose of Supplemental Appropriation #25-51 Dickerson Radio Tower (No. P342302) is to appropriate \$1,800,000 in General Obligation funds to the Department of Technology and Enterprise Business Solutions for the replacement of the radio system antenna that is used to support emergency services radio communications in the Dickerson area of the County. The Dickerson Tower is one of the 22 Public Safety Radio System antenna sites in the County. According to available information, "the appropriation will cover the costs of moving the existing radio shelter, erecting a radio antenna tower, and connecting the existing radio equipment to the new antenna tower."¹

¹ Memo on January 8, 2025 from County Executive Marc Elrich to President, Montgomery County Council, Kate Stewart.

The project's cost has increased since the previously adopted CIP, and the amendment is being requested so that construction can begin in FY26 (ahead of planned demolition). Based on available information, there do not appear to be significant changes in the project's scope or purpose.

- III. **ANALYSIS:** Due to the technical nature of this supplemental appropriation amendment to the capital budget and the absence of pertinent details about the project's history, distribution, and relative age and utility of public safety radio systems across the County, and the percentage of County residents served by said systems, it's difficult to analyze whether this project enhances or diminishes the equitable distribution of public-safety resources in the County. Particularly those related to effective, reliable, and timely emergency response. Undertaking such an analysis is beyond the scope of this racial equity impact assessment.

cc: Gail M. Roper, Director, Technology and Enterprise Business Solutions
Alison Dollar, Chief Budget Officer, Technology and Enterprise Business Solutions
Tricia Swanson, Director, Strategic Partnerships, Office of the County Executive