



SILVER SPRING CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

July 11, 2017

Ike Leggett, County Executive
Montgomery County

[delivered via e-mail]

Advice from the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board re:
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Dear County Executive Ike Leggett:

The Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board received presentations on Capital Improvement Projects (CIPs) from the County's Office of Management and Budget, with several County departments present, at our June 26th CIP Public Forum. In consideration of these presentations, and our own understanding of priorities from citizen input, we would like to urge you to support the following:

Transportation

The SSCAB unanimously urges you to support and implement the full \$34 million investment in road repair. Silver Spring is a growing urban area, especially downtown, and is plagued by streets in disrepair, hazardous to vehicles and a major frustration to motorists. Well-maintained roadways are critical not only to the convenient use of residents, but in support of economic activity vital to our region's overall vitality.

Education

We urge you to continue full funding for the development of education facilities in order to reduce overcrowding and continue to provide our County with an education system second to none. We recognize that a top-notch education system is valuable well beyond the students it serves. A quality education system is an investment in our economic and social strength well worth County dollars, whether residents have students in the schools, or benefit indirectly with increased property values, workforce development, a more healthy and active citizenry and lower crime rates.



Health and Safety Net

While the County's prosperity continues to be the envy of the region, we are not immune from social problems that affect our residents, especially seniors, veterans, the disabled and the mentally ill. The growing opioid crisis has also highlights our recognition that the delivery of social services, delivered through Health and Human Services, as well as our libraries (with free parking), and recreation facilities, help create a safety net of services for vulnerable citizens essential in all decent and responsible societies. All compassion aside, such investments are also wise policy in reducing the costs of crime and minimizing homelessness and other social problems. We urge you not to underestimate the value of maintaining these facilities and supporting full staffing and programs.

Finally, the aforementioned priorities notwithstanding, we ask that the County Executive and Council keep in mind that we believe that our successful future is as much dependent on the well-functioning and maintenance of our existing facilities and infrastructure as it is with public pleasing new projects. We ask that you assess the condition of facilities currently in operation and make necessary repairs and modernization as a precondition to launching new projects.

On behalf of the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board,

Signature on file

Matt Losak, Chair

CC:
County Council
Department and Agency Directors present at Forum
Reemberto Rodriguez, Director (Silver Spring Regional Area)