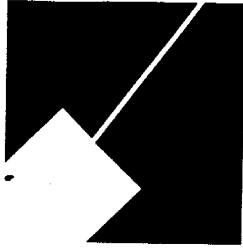


M-NCPPC



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARK AND PLANNING**

THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL  
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

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July 14, 2005

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Montgomery County Planning Board

**FROM:** John A. Carter, Chief, Community-Based Planning Division (301/495-4575) *JAC*  
Khalid Afzal, Team Leader, Georgia Avenue Team  
Bill Barron, Team Leader, Eastern County Team  
Judy Daniel, Team Leader, Rural Team  
Sue Edwards, Team Leader, I-270 Corridor Team  
Glenn Kreger, Team Leader, Silver Spring/Takoma Park Team  
Callum Murray, Team Leader, Potomac Team

Larry Cole, Highway Coordinator, Transportation Planning *LC*  
Countywide Planning Division

**SUBJECT:** Recommended Additions to the FY07-12 CIP  
Montgomery County Capital Improvements Program (CIP)

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**RECOMMENDATION**

Transmit comments to the County Executive.

**DISCUSSION**

During each CIP cycle, the M-NCPPC identifies priority projects for addition to the Montgomery County Capital Improvements Program. The recommendations are intended to assist the County Executive by identifying priority projects that implement recommendations in master plans. Comments are sent to the County Executive to be considered for use in the final preparation of the next Capital Improvements Program. This staff report includes the following:

- Summary of Countywide Priorities
- Specific Priorities by Geographic Team of the Community-Based Planning Division
- Transportation Priorities (Attachment)

The transportation recommendations for pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements, and transportation priorities are enclosed in the last section of this report to be transmitted directly to the Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT).

Since the completion of the FY1996 Capital Improvements Program, the County Executive's Recommended CIP contains a chapter that reviews each recommendation. If the recommendation is not included in the CIP, the County Executive explains the reasons. Several of the priorities recommended by the M-NCPCC were included in the recent CIP.

## **SUMMARY OF COUNTYWIDE PRIORITIES**

The following paragraphs summarize the countywide priorities. These priorities include general topics that apply to several geographic areas. The priorities identified in this set of recommendations emphasize community center projects, housing initiatives, pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements, and transportation facilities.

**Community Center Projects** – Improvement of several community centers to serve the recreation needs of our existing communities should receive high priority. A general fund is needed for facility planning for community centers. This fund would be used to recommend sites, establish joint development options, identify costs, and set priorities for the next series of community centers to be funded in Montgomery County. Priority projects include the following:

- Brookmont Elementary School – This former school site should be incorporated into Sangamore Local Park if the existing lease is not renewed
- Friendship Heights Community Center – Operational funds and limited CIP funds are needed
- North Bethesda Community Center – Facility planning and construction funds are needed
- North Potomac Community Center – Facility planning and construction funds are needed
- Scotland Community Center – Facility planning and construction funds for the renovation or replacement of this facility are needed
- Wheaton Community Center – Facility planning, site assessment and construction funds are needed.

**Housing Initiatives** – CIP funds are needed to provide joint development opportunities for affordable housing projects in Montgomery County. Joint development of selected sites owned at least partially by Montgomery County should receive high priority. Potential joint development sites that will require funds for facility planning to initiate affordable housing projects include the following:

- Maintenance Facilities at the Shady Grove Metro Station – DPWT and MCPS
- Parking Lot 31 in the Bethesda CBD – DPWT
- Silver Spring Transit Center – DPWT, MTA and WMATA

The WMATA owns the following sites that will be available for joint development including affordable housing. These sites will not require specific funds from the CIP. They will require staff time from County agencies to implement joint development.

- Glenmont Metro Station – WMATA
- Twinbrook Metro Station – WMATA
- Shady Grove Metro Station – WMATA and Montgomery County
- Wheaton Metro Station – WMATA

The Shady Grove Sector Plan, the Gaithersburg Vicinity Master Plan, the Twinbrook Sector Plan, and Woodmont Triangle Amendment to the Sector Plan for the Bethesda CBD will be reviewed in the next 18 months. Providing opportunities for affordable housing in each of these planning areas through joint development of public land will be a significant recommendation in each of these plans.

**Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Improvements** – Pedestrian and bicycle safety concerns continue to be emphasized in the work program of the Department of Park and Planning. The CIP should place special emphasis on pedestrian safety including augmenting the sidewalk program and improving the design of intersections. The list of priorities is located in the Transportation Priorities section.

**Transportation Facilities** – The priority road and transit facilities are included in a separate memorandum from the Transportation Section of the Countywide Planning Division.

**Transportation Demand Management** – A general fund for Transportation Demand Management continues to be needed to address traffic concerns in the major employment centers. Funds for transportation management are included in the operating budget. Transportation Demand Management is mentioned because it should be coordinated with the funds for roads and transit facilities, and pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements that are included in the CIP. Providing an option to the single occupant vehicle is the primary goal of Transportation Demand Management.

## **SPECIFIC PRIORITIES BY GEOGRAPHIC TEAM OF THE COMMUNITY-BASED PLANNING DIVISION**

The following paragraphs summarize more specific priorities for each geographic area. Transportation projects including roads, transit and bikeways, and pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements are included in the transportation recommendations.

### **SILVER SPRING/TAKOMA PARK AREA**

**Downtown Silver Spring Ice Rink and Pavilion** – This project would fund the public facility at Veterans Plaza that was deleted from the last CIP due to cost concerns.

**Silver Spring Transit Center** – This project would provide funds for the Silver Spring Transit Center to construct an extension of Ramsey Avenue/Bonifant Street to Ripley Street within the boundaries of the property owned by Montgomery County and WMATA. Private development is required to dedicate and construct streets shown in an approved and adopted master plan. These funds would allow the public sector to meet the obligation to dedicate and construct this connection as indicated in the Sector Plan for the Silver Spring CBD. Private development is expected to implement the improvements to the central segment of Ripley Street. These funds would allow the public sector to ensure coordination between public and private projects.

### **BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE/NORTH BETHESDA AREA**

**Brookmont Elementary School** – This former school site should be incorporated into Sangamore Local Park if the existing lease is not renewed. Funds for facility planning are needed to determine if the existing school could be used for recreation or other community needs.

**Friendship Heights Community Center** – The private developer for Wisconsin Place will construct a community center for Montgomery County. Funds are needed to complete the interior furnishings. Funds are also needed for future operation and maintenance of the community center. An advisory committee has been formed to monitor the progress of this effort.

**North Bethesda Community Center** – The private developer for Rock Spring Park will dedicate a site for a future recreation center. Funds for facility planning and construction are needed for this project.

### **I-270 CORRIDOR AREA**

**Clarksburg Fire Station** – Funds are needed for a “temporary” fire station (e.g. at the M-NCPPC Maintenance Facility located in Little Bennett Regional Park). The Master Plan recommends that consideration be given to locate a fire station in Clarksburg, close to the Town Center.

**Clarksburg Library** – Funds are needed for a library in close proximity to other public facilities in the Town Center, and to retail and office areas.

**Germantown Service District** – An implementation study for a community-level service district to augment maintenance in the Germantown Town Center is needed. The service district would be funded through a service tax on commercial and institutional uses in the Town Center to cover additional trash pick-up, snow clearing, mowing, and landscape maintenance.

**Shady Grove Elementary School at Casey at Mill Creek** – An elementary school will be needed for the Shady Grove area. Preliminary Plan No. 1-02022: Casey at Mill Creek has reserved an elementary school site until December 2006. Private developers may dedicate this site, but if that does not occur, funds will be needed to acquire the site before the expiration of the reservation period.

**Shady Grove Stormwater Management Pond** – This existing stormwater management pond is owned by Montgomery County. This pond is used for passive recreation. The Planning Board Draft of the Shady Grove Sector Plan recommends that this area be developed with trails and passive nature-oriented recreation. These recreational improvements to the existing pond are needed to serve the existing community.

## **POTOMAC SUBREGION**

**North Potomac Community Center** – This project provides for the design and construction of a 33,000 square foot community center and a site of approximately 17 acres on Travilah Road, adjacent to Big Pines Local Park. This project is a priority for North Potomac, as the center is projected to serve a population of over 30,000 citizens, and the area has no existing community center. The project includes a Senior Center, and the need was identified in both the 1998 Park Recreation and Program Open Space Master Plan and the 2002 Potomac Subregion Master Plan.

**Scotland Neighborhood Community Center** – The focal point of the Scotland community is a neighborhood community center that is undersized and inadequate to handle the diverse social and recreational needs of the residents. The site is constricted and the available space in the center is approximately half that for a typical elementary school gymnasium. Expansion and renovation is necessary in order to facilitate athletic and recreational activities for the children and youth population of Scotland. The need for facility planning for this center was identified in the 2002 Potomac Subregion Master Plan and should be considered a priority.

## **GEORGIA AVENUE AREA**

**Wheaton Community Center** – The Wheaton Community Center is another public facility that needs improvement. A major renovation of this facility is needed. A potential for joint development on the site of the existing Good Counsel High School should be explored. The cost to design, acquire the site, and renovate a portion of the existing Good Counsel High School should be compared with the cost to renovate the existing Wheaton Community Center.

## **EASTERN COUNTY AREA**

**Burtonsville Regional Stormwater Management** – Funds for facility planning and construction are needed for the regional stormwater management system in Burtonsville. This facility would serve the existing elementary school, and other existing and new development.

**Burtonsville Streetscape Improvements** – Streetscape improvements are needed along Old US 29 and MD 198. In addition to any funds from DPWT, these streetscape funds for improvements are needed in this area to coordinate the future development of the private and public sectors.

**Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Improvements** – The Transportation Priorities section includes the additional recommendations. In the Sandy Spring/Ashton area a sidewalk along MD 108 between Brooke Road and MD 650; also in the Sandy Spring/Ashton area a pedestrian connection between existing and new residential and commercial development, the Sandy Spring Museum, and Sherwood High School; in the Kemp Mill area a sidewalk along Auth Lane between Stonington Road and Hermleigh Road; and a crosswalk at the intersection of Norwood Road and New Hampshire Avenue should be a high priority.

**Vital Way Streetscape Improvements** – In addition to funds from DPWT, funds are needed to provide curb, sidewalk and streetscape on this commercial street carrying increased traffic between Randolph Road and New Hampshire Avenue.

## **RURAL AREA**

**Magruder Branch Stream Valley Park Trail** – Funds are needed to connect the Town Center to the Magruder Branch Trail system adjacent to the retail area.

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Attachment:  
Transportation Priorities