

Resolution No.: 16-1570
Introduced: October 5, 2010
Adopted: November 30, 2010

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

By: Council President at the Request of the County Executive

SUBJECT: White Flint Sector Plan Implementation Strategy and Infrastructure
Improvement List

Background

1. On March 23, 2010, the County Council, sitting as the District Council, adopted the White Flint Sector Plan, which approved a long range vision of transforming the Sector Plan area into a pedestrian-friendly transit-oriented urban setting.
2. The White Flint Sector Plan envisions conversion of Rockville Pike (MD Route 355) into a walkable boulevard with bus rapid transit along with road networks to the west and east of Rockville Pike that will provide effective alternatives to the highly congested Rockville Pike and connected blocks for development and connectivity.
3. The Plan's focus on access to Metro transit and redevelopment of the extensively built environment make White Flint a priority smart growth area.
4. The White Flint Sector Plan Area is expected to be a leading economic engine for the County.
5. To provide greater assurance of achieving this vision, the Plan identified a need for a public financing mechanism to fund a portion of the transportation infrastructure. This public financing mechanism anticipates assessments against property or other means of revenue generation and is intended to replace payments that projects redeveloping in the plan area would have to pay under current adequate public facilities requirements for local area transportation and policy area mobility reviews (LATR and PAMR).
6. The Council enacted Bill 50-10, creating the White Flint Special Taxing District to raise revenues to fund certain transportation improvements. The White Flint Special Taxing District will provide greater assurances of reliable and consistent revenue generation and materially greater funds for transportation improvements than would be anticipated from combined payments under otherwise applicable transportation development impositions, including LATR, PAMR, and transportation impact taxes.

7. The Council pursued certain goals in enacting Bill 50-10, including (a) creating a mechanism that will produce a reliable and consistent source of funds to secure debt service and pay for specific transportation infrastructure items; (b) imposing a manageable and sustainable payment for transportation infrastructure associated with new development in the White Flint Sector Plan area without unduly burdening property owners; and (c) setting and maintaining a tax rate that will allow development and businesses in White Flint to be competitive in attracting businesses to the area.
8. County Code Chapter 68C, enacted in Bill 50-10, establishes the White Flint Special Taxing District, authorizes the levy of an ad valorem tax to fund transportation infrastructure improvements in the District, and authorizes the issuance of bonds to finance the transportation infrastructure improvements.
9. Chapter 68C-4 requires a resolution that lists each transportation infrastructure improvement that is to be paid for by the District special tax, and the estimated costs of each improvement, which must include a contingency amount.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

To comply with the requirements of Chapter 68C and to successfully implement the White Flint Sector Plan, the Council takes the following steps and adopts the following implementation strategy to maximize acceptable growth in the Plan area and to move from Stage 1 to Stages 2 and 3 of development envisioned in the Plan.

1. The County's goal is that the White Flint Special Taxing District special tax rate must not exceed 10% of the total tax rate for the District, except that the rate must be sufficient to pay debt service on any bonds that are already outstanding.
2. If the revenues from the special tax at the level in the preceding paragraph are not sufficient to afford additional infrastructure improvements as are necessary and ready for implementation to execute the White Flint Sector Plan, the County Executive, before recommending any increase to the tax rate above the level in the preceding paragraph, must consider alternative approaches, including the timing and scope of each infrastructure item and the structure of the financing plan to pay for it, and alternative revenue sources.
3. Without limiting the specificity of the preceding paragraph, before issuing debt secured by or intended to be paid by the White Flint Special Taxing District, the County Executive must carry out a feasibility or other study to assess whether repaying the debt will require a district tax rate that will exceed the 10% policy goal. If this analysis concludes that a rate higher than the 10% policy goal would be

required, the Council intends that either (a) the debt will not be issued at that time; or (b) the County will manage the debt issuance or repayment in a manner that will have the White Flint Special Taxing District rate stay within the 10% policy goal.

4. For the tax year that began on July 1, 2010, the total base real property tax rate in the White Flint Special Taxing District is \$1.027 per \$100 of assessed value.
5. For the tax year that begins on July 1, 2011, the rate of the White Flint Special Taxing District special tax is estimated to be \$0.103 per \$100 of assessed value. The Council will set the actual Special Taxing District tax rate when it sets other property tax rates in May 2011.
6. The specific transportation infrastructure improvements that will be financed by the White Flint Special Taxing District are listed in Exhibit A, along with an estimated cost for each improvement, including a contingency amount. The District will remain responsible for the actual cost of each designated infrastructure improvement, including any future cost increase.
7. If a gap results between the White Flint Special Taxing District revenue generation and the aggregate cost of those transportation projects to be funded by District revenues, and to assure adherence to the 10% policy rate goal and the prompt building of necessary infrastructure in the Sector Plan area, the Council policy is that, to promptly implement the Sector Plan, the Capital Improvements Program for this area will include forward funding or advance funds to design and build the following:
 - (a) that portion of Market Street from Old Georgetown Road to Woodglan Road, including a bike lane;
 - (b) realignment of Executive Boulevard from Marinelli Road to MD Route 187;
 - (c) the redesign of Rockville Pike (these 3 items collectively may be referred to as “forward-funded items”); and
 - (d) up to \$15 million for other items assigned to the District in Plan stages 1 and 2.

Any forward funding or advance payment must be structured so that it does not count under applicable spending affordability guidelines.

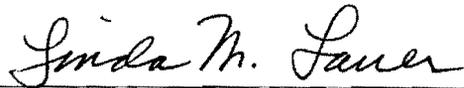
8. As used in the preceding paragraph, forward fund or advance funds means
 - (a) For items 7(a), (b), and (c), the County would include these items in the County Capital Improvements Program and fund them accordingly, and the District, subject to applicable provisions of Chapter 68C, would, on a dollar for dollar basis, without any interest accruing during the first 10 years after that Capital Improvements Program is approved, repay the County when every District improvement listed in Exhibit A has been

funded either directly or through debt secured by the District. However, the District may repay the County earlier for any item to the extent that revenue generation exceeds the funds needed to pay for other improvements assigned to the District and no stage of development under the Sector Plan would be delayed; and

- (b) For item 7(d), the County would coordinate with planned private development and include infrastructure items necessary for that development to proceed in a timely fashion in the County Capital Improvements Program, and the District would reimburse the County for all costs incurred in connection with any advance, including interest costs.
9. The specified items subject to forward or advance funding have estimated costs shown in Exhibit A as follows:
 - (a) The realignment of Executive Boulevard and Market Street from Old Georgetown Road to Woodglenn Road is estimated to cost \$24.8 million, not including right-of-way which is assumed to be dedicated by affected property owners.
 - (b) The redesign of Rockville Pike is estimated to cost \$7.7 million.
 10. The County Executive will include the projects comprising the forward funding in his January 2011 Capital Improvements Program Amendments, with initial expenditures in fiscal years 2015, 2016, and beyond until completed.
 11. Two items have been removed from District funding and must instead be paid for by County or other sources of public funds. These items are:
 - (a) the second entrance to the White Flint Metro Station, which is estimated to cost \$35 million; and
 - (b) the Nebel Street bike lane, which is estimated to cost \$9.2 million.
 12. One item has been modified for District funding: Market Street between MD Route 355 and Station Street (bridge across White Flint Metro station), at an estimated added cost of \$5.2 million and a total cost of \$7.2 million.
 13. The County Council intends that the annual joint State-County transportation priority letter would include a request to the Maryland Department of Transportation that the White Flint Sector Plan Area should receive a Transit Oriented Development designation, but also note that granting this status to the White Flint area does not mean that transportation infrastructure items in that area would supersede any other items in the priority letter.

14. The Council intends to amend the law authorizing the County transportation impact tax to create a White Flint impact tax district and to set the tax rate in that district at \$0. The Executive intends to submit a Bill to the Council to do this. The Council also intends that the transportation impact tax rate for the remaining buildings in LCOR Inc.'s North Bethesda Center development be set at \$0. This development had been approved under the former County Growth Policy's Alternative Review Procedure for Metro Station Policy Areas, under which its transportation impact tax rate is 75% of the applicable County-wide rate. This action would also be included in the transportation impact tax amendments bill.
15. The Council intends to fund, in the White Flint Special Taxing District Capital Improvements Program referred to in paragraph 10, to the extent legally allowable, personnel costs and other expenses of the development coordinator for the White Flint planning area that the Executive is required to designate under County Code §2-25(c), enacted in Council Bill 1-10. State law (including Maryland Code Article 24, §9-1302(a)(2), incorporating §9-1301(a)(3)(viii), and §9-1303(a)(2) and §9-1303(e)) authorizes funding of these costs by the District.

This is a correct copy of Council action.



Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council

Approved:



Isiah Leggett, County Executive

EXHIBIT A

WHITE FLINT SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT
DISTRICT-FUNDED IMPROVEMENTS

Improvement Description	Estimated Cost
Old Georgetown Road (MD 187): Nicholson La./Tilden La. to Executive Blvd.	\$17,774,000
Old Georgetown Road (MD 187): Hoya St. to Rockville Pike (MD 355)	1,789,000
Hoya Street (formerly Old Old Georgetown Rd.): Executive Blvd. to Montrose Pkwy.	15,344,000
Rockville Pike (MD 355): Flanders Ave. to Hubbard Drive	66,961,000
Nicholson Lane: Old Georgetown Rd. (MD 187) to CSX tracks	12,942,000
Executive Blvd. Ext.: Marinelli Rd. to Old Georgetown Rd (MD 187)	23,500,000
Main St./Market St.: Old Georgetown Rd. (MD 187) to Executive Blvd. Extended (Bikeway)	1,713,000
Main St./Market St.: Old Georgetown Rd. (MD 187) to Executive Blvd. Ext.	4,933,000
Main St./Market St.: Executive Blvd. to Rockville Pike (MD 355)	4,661,000
Market Street from Maryland Route 355 to Station Street	7,200,000
Executive Blvd. Ext. (East): Rockville Pike (MD 355) to Nebel St. Ext. (South)	16,700,000
Nebel St. Ext. (South): Nicholson La. to Executive Blvd. Ext. (East)	8,200,000
TOTAL	181,717,000