

Dear Councilmembers,

I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to virtually testify in support of the County Executive's recommended Capital Improvement Program (CIP). In particular, I'd like to strongly advocate for his proposal for \$1 million in the upcoming FY25 budget and \$2.5 million in the FY26 budget for the long-expected relocation of the MCPS bus depot located on Crabbs Branch Way.

The bus depot relocation aligns strategically with the Council's previously approved Shady Grove Sector Plan which serves to strengthen a growing community of residents who are financially and emotionally invested in making our slice of Montgomery County a safe and thriving place to live. Beyond being a pivotal development, this move holds significant financial and social benefits for those living in nearby neighborhoods. Moving the bus depot will allow for additional housing and other mixed-use resources to be built in the location providing the County with desperately-needed housing and the community with more places to live, learn, and grow.

As a proud resident of District 7 and the Westside at Shady Grove community, I am directly impacted by this decision and am calling on your support to make this move happen. To demonstrate the dedication of our community's collective action, I'll call attention to the MoveOn petition of over 800 individuals who have pledged their support of the bus depot relocation (<https://sign.moveon.org/petitions/derwood-deserves-betternow>).

Beyond the financial and social impact to our community, this move provides an opportunity for the Council to benefit our entire County by dovetailing this move with a transition of the bus fleet away from fossil fuels to alternative sources of energy. This has clear environmental benefits for the entire county by reducing the environmental impact associated with the buses currently stationed at the Crabbs Branch Way facility.

For these reasons, your support of the County Executive's recommended CIP is essential, as is the County Executive's continued commitment to completing this project in cooperation with MCPS.

Thank you for your time,

David Swiderski