



## **Montgomery County Priorities for the 2025 General Assembly Session**

### **Education**

- Support efforts to maintain the State's commitment to the goals of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future in the face of implementation challenges and State fiscal constraints.
- Support efforts to provide funding for free breakfast and lunch for all students in public schools to ensure that every child has access to nutritious meals.

### **Climate Change, Energy, and Environment**

- Support bold and equitable efforts to reduce climate pollution through clean and renewable energy use, solar development, building decarbonization, data center and electricity grid management, transportation, and other solutions while seeking to minimize costs to ratepayers.
- Support initiatives to strengthen resilience to climate change, including through flood mitigation and extreme heat preparedness.

### **Health and Human Services**

- Support efforts to develop and implement a Statewide plan to address the shortage of inpatient and crisis beds needed for individuals with behavioral health care needs, and support policy initiatives to reduce emergency room wait times, including establishment of improved protocols for referral to behavioral health treatment facilities and other strategies being considered by the Maryland Emergency Department Wait Time Reduction Commission.
- Support efforts to create more transparency in the State oversight process for nursing homes and assisted living facilities and to give the County authority to conduct on-site visits and investigations with an equitable cost share split between the State and County.

### **Housing**

- Support greater investment in solutions for households facing eviction and utility shutoffs, such as rental and home energy assistance programs and Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing, and support initiatives to increase the production and preservation of affordable housing.
- Support efforts to give counties clear authority to enact local laws that prohibit landlords from failing to renew a residential lease during the lease period or seeking to terminate a holdover tenancy without good cause.

### **Economic Development**

- Support revisions to the Regional Institution Strategic Enterprise (RISE) Zone program to enable the RISE Zone on Montgomery College's Pinkney Innovation Complex for Science and Technology (PIC MC) in Germantown to more effectively fulfill the economic development goals which undergird the purpose for the RISE Zone designation.

### **Transportation and Vision Zero**

- Enable new funding mechanisms and authorization to fund transportation investment to support job creation and economic growth, held back by insufficient mobility in the region and a transportation financing structure in need of modernization.
- Support a long-term plan to stabilize funding for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.
- For the American Legion Bridge project, request that the Maryland Department of Transportation clearly convey to the County and others in the region its financial strategy for replacement of the bridge, protections for the public from excessive tolls, and plans to fund complementary County investments in transit coincident with implementation of the highway improvements.
- Support legislative efforts prioritizing Vision Zero policies and investments to increase safety and eliminate serious injury and fatal collisions on State and County roads, with a focus on improving safety for vulnerable users, including pedestrians and cyclists.

### **Public Safety**

- Support efforts to enhance penalties for reckless, negligent, and aggressive driving.
- Expand automated speed traffic unit enforcement on high injury network roadways, and support the authorization of new automated technology to curb dangerous driving and other innovative alternatives to police traffic enforcement.
- Support prosecuting fentanyl-related cases in the jurisdiction where fentanyl was sold or consumed (not shared) when consumption results in serious injury or death.
- Support efforts to create and fund a broader spectrum of support services for youth involved in or at risk of becoming involved in criminal activity, including residential and community-based programs addressing behavioral health, substance abuse, truancy, and other risk factors.

### **Local Autonomy**

- Support efforts to retain and, where needed, expand the County's Home Rule Authority to allow the County to continue to implement current local laws or to enact new laws addressing challenges and priorities that are not fully addressed at the State level, including efforts to enhance the County's authority and flexibility regarding revenue generation and efforts to oppose bills that would impose an unreasonable burden on County government or undermine the goals of County laws and policies.

last revised November 16, 2024



## **Montgomery County Capital Projects State Funding Request 2025 General Assembly Session**

### **General**

- **American Film Institute Silver Theater Upgrades – \$300,000**  
To replace seating and install power in every other row of the theatre.
- **Strathmore Roof Replacement – \$5,000,000**  
To replace two roofs at Strathmore Hall.
- **Glen Echo Park Service Spanish Ballroom Renovation – \$2,500,000**  
To rehabilitate the historic Spanish Ballroom by restoring the dance floor, installing new HVAC systems, insulation, moisture protection, windows, and electrical and fire protection systems, and modifying the mezzanine for visitor use. This project is in collaboration with the George Washington Memorial Parkway and Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture.
- **White Flint Land Acquisition – \$5,000,000**  
To purchase two properties at 11900 and 11908 Chapman Avenue to expand previously acquired land in the White Flint area for construction of a new fire station and affordable senior housing and to accommodate a vehicular road to connect Rockville Pike to Chapman Avenue.
- **Stormwater Pond Retrofits – \$5,200,000**  
To update existing stormwater management ponds to comply with current design standards and meet Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit restoration goal requirements and to comply with the County's adopted water quality goals.
- **Wheaton Branch Flood Mitigation – \$3,785,000**  
To mitigate flooding by excavating and expanding the stream channel upstream of the Wheaton Regional Pond and modifying its riser structure. The project will also include reforestation planting to meet MS4 permit restoration goal requirements.
- **White Oak Infrastructure Build Out to Support Viva White Oak – \$13,500,000**  
To support existing planning and infrastructure development efforts needed to implement the redevelopment of a 110-acre parcel on Industrial Parkway in White Oak (Viva White Oak).

- **Troubled and Distressed Common Ownership Communities Revitalization – \$5,000,000**  
To support a pilot program designed to combat deterioration, failing infrastructure, and lack of maintenance in low- and moderate-income Common Ownership Communities across the County, through the establishment of two revolving loan fund options – one to evaluate capital needs and the other to address gap financing for eligible projects.
- **Western County Recreation Center Design and Construction – \$7,500,000**  
To design and construct a new community facility to serve the Town of Poolesville and neighboring communities in Western Montgomery County.
- **Electric Vehicle Infrastructure, Planning, Design, and Installation – \$1,500,000**  
To plan, design, and install electric vehicle charging stations at County facilities.
- **Child Care Playground Renovation and Replacement – \$850,000**  
To renovate and replace playgrounds at County child care facilities.
- **Diversion Center Walk-In Support Renovation Project – \$2,000,000**  
To renovate the previous Stabilization Room at the Mid-County Department of Health on Human Services Building in Rockville to accommodate walk-in clients, as part of the County’s Diversion Center program model.
- **Small Congregation Men’s Shelter Facility Planning – \$200,000**  
To develop plans for constructing a new smaller-in-size congregate men’s shelter for the purpose of improving rehabilitation success rates.
- **Wheaton Regional Park, Adventure Sports Park Construction**  
To construct a new Adventure Sports Park within the Rubini Sports complex of Wheaton Regional Park, for the purpose of providing additional amenities for all age groups.

## **Transportation**

- **New Transit Maintenance Depot – \$200,000,000**  
To construct a new bus operations and maintenance facility in Derwood to support a dedicated fleet of 255 zero emissions buses operating out of a new net zero bus facility that will be co-located with the existing Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) bus facility to help achieve economies of scale and allow sharing of spaces to reduce overall cost. The bus depots will include a smart microgrid, on-site renewable energy sources, and high-capacity storage to power buses and buildings with renewable energy towards achieving net zero and 2035 emissions targets.
- **North Bethesda Metro Station Northern Entrance – \$9,000,000**  
To plan and do preliminary engineering of access improvements to the North Bethesda Metro Station. Access is currently limited to the southern end of the

platform. The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) has conducted a feasibility study of providing addition access at the end the northern end of the platform, including potential pedestrian underpass connections of MD 355 (Rockville Pike). The project scope, schedule, and budget will be revised once WMATA selects a development partner, which is expected to occur in the first quarter of 2025.

- Storm Drain Culvert Replacement – \$6,800,000  
To replace failed storm drainpipes and culverts in the County.
- Bus Rapid Transit – \$110,000,000  
To support bus rapid transit (BRT) projects Countywide. While funding exists for Veirs Mill Road BRT, the MD 355 Central BRT assumes opportunity lanes funding which may not come to fruition and additional lines, such as MD 355 North/South, US 29 Phase 2, New Hampshire Avenue and North Bethesda are in various stages of design, but no construction funding has been identified.
- Bethesda Metro South Entrance – \$12,000,000  
To provide access from Elm Street west of Wisconsin Avenue to the southern end of the Bethesda Metrorail station and ultimately integrate the Metro system with the new Purple Line light rail system, allowing the completion of the connection between the Purple Line and the existing Metrorail Red Line.
- Bowie Mill Road Bikeway – \$6,000,000 \*  
To design and construction a new eight to 10-foot wide side path for three and a third miles along Bowie Mill Road from Olney Laytonsville Road (MD 108) to Muncaster Mill Road (MD 115), continuing along Muncaster Mill Road to Needwood Road. The project also provides a new pedestrian bridge over Rock Creek North Branch for continuation of the side path along Bowie Mill Road.
- Randolph Road - CSX Grade Separation – \$750,000  
To advance concept designs to do preliminary design and prepare the project to compete for a new federal program in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to eliminate at-grade rail crossings.

The County also strongly supports the Montgomery County Public School’s \$24,732,000 request for school construction projects, Montgomery College’s \$11,100,000 request for the Rockville Campus library and \$6,200,000 request for the Germantown Campus Student Services Center, and the City of Gaithersburg’s \$8,000,000 request for its municipal complex.

\* The amount listed for this project is in addition to the preauthorized amount shown below.

**Projects Already Preauthorized by the General Assembly for Fiscal 2026**

*County Projects*

- Bowie Mill Bike Trail – \$2,100,000
- White’s Ferry Project – \$1,500,000
- Viva White Oak – \$6,000,000

*Other Projects Located Within the County*

- Shady Grove Medical Center – \$3,000,000
- Olney Boys and Girls Club - Performance Sports Center – \$1,000,000
- Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School – \$1,000,000

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