



## **Montgomery County's Priorities for the 2013 Session** ***"Invest in Montgomery"***

For Montgomery County to continue to thrive as the State's key economic engine, the State must be a full partner in investing in the County's capital infrastructure. Without a stronger partnership, Montgomery will struggle to maintain its ability to compete regionally, nationally, and globally. Montgomery has strong assets: a nationally recognized public education system, a highly educated workforce, the home of key federal facilities and two biotechnology corridors, and a culturally rich population. Unfortunately, the area's reputation for having the worst traffic congestion in the country is a powerful detractor. The County has acted to help bridge gaps, including allocating nearly \$300 million to finance State transportation projects. However, the County cannot continue to go it alone. Other infrastructure challenges exist as well, particularly in education. Driven by burgeoning enrollment increases and program demands, the physical plants at Montgomery County Public Schools, Montgomery College, and the Universities at Shady Grove need a capital infusion.

### **Transportation Infrastructure Investment**

***The State must develop consensus on a plan that will produce significant and sustainable State revenues to be dedicated for transportation investments.***

In addition to the urgent need to address existing roadway congestion, all of Montgomery County's new master plans focus on transit oriented development and require new transportation investments. The economic development these plans enable, such as the Great Seneca Science Corridor and White Flint, will help transform Montgomery County from a maturing suburb to a 21<sup>st</sup> century destination for jobs, innovation, and high quality of life. This cannot occur without a plan in place to pay for the costs of the transportation investments that must be made, including the Corridor Cities Transitway and the Purple Line. With Northern Virginia's HOT lanes opening this month and the Silver Line opening next year, the regional competitive landscape has shifted. The County's economic well being — and the State's — depend on a plan to move forward with securing new transportation revenues for critically needed infrastructure.

### **Capital Investments in Education**

*Montgomery County Public Schools* – the school system's State request this year is \$147.3 million

*Montgomery College* – construction funds for the Rockville Campus Science West Renovation (\$13.3 million) and completion funds for the Germantown Campus Bioscience Education Center (\$5 million)

*The Universities at Shady Grove* – planning funds for the construction of a fourth building at USG, which will house its Biomedical Sciences and Engineering Academic Complex (\$5 million). The total project cost for the new building and parking garage is estimated at \$179 million. Because of the importance of this addition and to help USG leverage State dollars, Montgomery County agreed to fund the \$20 million garage.