



Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board

Serving Bethesda, Cabin John, Chevy Chase, Friendship Heights, Garrett Park,
Glen Echo, North Bethesda, Potomac, Rockville, and Twinbrook

May 9, 2025

The Honorable Marc Elrich
County Executive
Office of the County Executive
101 Monroe Street
Rockville, MD 20850

FY27 Capital Improvements Program – Board Recommendations

Dear County Executive Elrich:

On behalf of the Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board (WMCCAB), thank you for convening the Community Conversation on the FY27 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) budget on April 3 in Bethesda. We appreciate the opportunity for residents and board members to engage directly with County leadership and agency staff to address pressing infrastructure needs in our region.

Public feedback gathered during the breakout sessions revealed several priorities for our community. After reviewing this input and recommendations from our own communities, the WMCCAB respectfully offers the following recommendations as you prepare the FY27 CIP:

- 1. Establish a Recreation Center in Downtown Bethesda**
We have made this our top priority because Bethesda, one of the County's most densely populated and rapidly developing areas, lacks safe and accessible indoor recreation facilities. This center would provide equitable access to fitness, wellness, and community programming. We urge the County to initiate feasibility planning and site identification without delay to address this critical need.
- 2. Renovate the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Building**
Once again, we stress the urgent need for renovations at the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services building. This facility plays a critical role in delivering County services and hosting civic engagement. However, recurring infrastructure issues and safety failures compromise its effectiveness. Modernizing this building will ensure continued and improved service to the community.
- 3. Prioritize the Goldsboro Road Improvements Project (P501917)**
We recommend moving forward with the Goldsboro Road project using a phased approach, starting with the segment from River Road to Redwing Road. This stretch presents immediate pedestrian safety and traffic flow concerns, warranting prioritized investment to address the most pressing issues first.
- 4. Expand Sidewalk Funding and Reform the Allocation Process**
Sidewalk gaps and inadequate pedestrian infrastructure continue to be major concerns in our region. We recommend increasing CIP funding for new sidewalk construction and maintenance, focusing on neighborhoods affected by delays tied to other large-scale projects, such as the Purple Line.

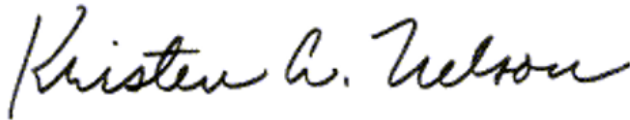
Additionally, we encourage the County to assess and reform the current sidewalk allocation and petition process. During the Transportation breakout session, residents expressed concerns that community opposition and high consent thresholds often stall necessary improvements. We recommend considering adjustments to reduce procedural barriers while maintaining community involvement, ensuring that essential infrastructure projects move forward efficiently.

5. Advance Planning and Funding for Civic Green Park and CCT Coordination

We urge continued support and funding for Civic Green Park near the Purple Line terminus. Moving forward with planning now is essential to synchronize the park's development with the Purple Line's completion. Additionally, we echo public calls for improved management coordination along the Capital Crescent Trail (CCT). Establishing clear inter-agency responsibilities and enhancing public communication between Montgomery Parks, the Bethesda Urban Partnership, and the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) will promote safe and efficient trail use.

We respectfully request that your office consider these recommendations in the development of the FY27 Capital Improvements Plan. Our Board remains committed to working collaboratively with County leadership to advance equitable, sustainable, and community-driven infrastructure investments in Western Montgomery County. We look forward to continuing our partnership with you on these important initiatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristen A. Nelson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kristen" being more prominent than the last name "Nelson".

Kristen A. Nelson
Chair
Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board

cc: Peter Fosselman, Director Regional Services

Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services