



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION

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Memorandum

To: Brandee Ganz, Chief Administrative Officer, Department of County Administration

From: Bruce Gartner 

Date: March 20, 2023

Subject: Testimony in support of County Council resolution endorsing the FY 2024 Annual Transportation Plan Application

Each fiscal year, on behalf of Howard County, the Office of Transportation (OOT) prepares an Annual Transportation Plan for submission to the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) of the Maryland Department of Transportation. Through the application the OOT requests funding for operating and capital grant funds. The grants allow the County to use federal and state funds to subsidize Howard County's portion of the expenses for the Regional Transportation Agency of Central Maryland (RTA), which provides the County's local bus and paratransit service.

The grant requirements for financial assistance imposes certain obligations upon the County, including the provision of the local share of the project costs in the transit program. Therefore, the MTA requires that the Annual Transportation Plan (ATP) application include an authorizing resolution endorsing the application. The resolution being submitted to the Howard County Council for this year is similar to last year's resolution.

This year, however, the Office of Transportation is assuming that operating grant funds will increase to pre-pandemic levels. Capital Grants will support the purchase of up to four heavy duty buses and provide \$75,000 to assist with the preventive maintenance of the RTA fleet. Grant information including Agency detail, purpose and the local required match is included on the following page and will be provided for in the FY 2024 budgets.

For these reasons, we are requesting Council approval of our FY 24 Transit Assurances Resolution.

Section I. General Information:

Title: FY 2024 Annual Transit Plan (ATP) Application
Funding Agency: Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) – Maryland Transit Administration (MTA)
Application Request: \$5,608,771 in Federal and State Grant Funds (subtotals below)
Purpose of Grant: Howard County Transportation Plan for FY 2024 Operating Assistance and Capital Assistance including facilities.

Section II. Funding:

Operating Grant

Federal/State Funds: **\$4,061,771**
Howard County Required Match \$489,486 (match requirement varies by program)
Total Operating: \$4,551,257
Source of Cash Match: Office of Transportation
Fund: 1000000000
Business Area: 3220
Revenue (Farebox, Advertising): \$850,000
Fund: 2150000000
Business Area: 3220

Capital Grant Funds (bus replacement and vehicle preventive maintenance)

Federal/State Funds: **\$1,872,968**
Howard County Required Match: \$187,300
Total Capital \$2,060,268

The Office of Transportation has provided more detailed information, including funding amounts and matching requirement by program in our fiscal impact statement