



Howard County Office of Transportation

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Memorandum

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

From: Clarence Dickerson III, Administrator *CD*

Date: March 21, 2025

Subject: Testimony in support of County Council resolution endorsing FY 2026 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 the Office of Transportation is requesting Capital Grants to 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 2026 budgets.

For these reasons, we are requesting Council approval of our FY 26 Transit Assurance Resolution.

Section I. General Information:

Title: FY 2026 Annual Transit Plan (ATP) Application

Funding Agency: Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)-Maryland Transit Administration (MTA)

Application Request: \$7,203,886 in Federal and State Grant Funds (subtotals below)

Purpose of Grant: Howard County Transportation Plan for FY 2026 Operating Assistance and Capital Assistance including facilities.

Section II Funding:

Operating Grant

Federal/State Funds: \$4,372,622

Howard County Required Match \$756,265.00 (match requirement varies by program)

Total Operating: \$5,128,887

Source of Cash Match: Office of Transportation

Fund: 1000000000

Business Area: 3220

Revenue (Farebox, Advertising): \$916,000

Fund: 2150000000

Business Area: 3220

Capital Grant Funds (bus replacement and vehicle preventive maintenance)

Federal/State Funds: \$1,660,000

Howard County Required Match: \$415,000

Total Capital: \$2,075,000

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