



Howard County Council

George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043-4392

COUNCILMEMBERS

Deb Jung, Chair
District 4

Liz Walsh, Vice Chair
District 1

Opel Jones
District 2

Christiana Rigby
District 3

David Yungmann
District 5

Minutes – Approved

Capital Budget Work Session #3

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

Hybrid Meeting (In-Person and WebEx)

Video Streamed on <https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/watch-us>

10:00 a.m.

Chair Jung opened the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

Council members present: Chair Deb Jung, Vice-Chair Liz Walsh, Council Member Opel Jones, Council Member Christiana Rigby, and Council Member David Yungmann.

Staff present: Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council; Gary Kuc, County Solicitor; Amanda Mihill, Office of Law; Lisa Geerman, Acting County Auditor; Lori Buchman, Auditor; Rebecca Gold, Auditor; Theo Wimberly, Administrative Manager; Owen Kahn, Legislative Analyst; Isaiah Anderson, Executive Assistant; and Brenda Smith, Administrative Aide were also present.

Administration staff: Noted below.

Agenda

The Department of Public Works gave a presentation on various capital budget projects and requests, including storm drainage projects, road construction, road resurfacing, bridge projects, traffic improvements.

Storm Drainage (D Projects)

The Department responded to questions from the Council storm drainage projects. Highlights included: the Scotswood project; details of stormwater ponds; storm gardens and small water quality facilities; funding changes, including potential changes to the fee; the status of the High Ridge drainage project; use of the Green Streets Improvement Program and the public expectations; details of the approximately 200 acres towards the national discharge pollutant system; what projects will be funded by the stormwater fee; why there is a proposed decrease in stream work in the next fiscal year; and the County's definition of what a stream restoration project is and how projects are funded.

Road Construction (J Projects) and Road Resurfacing (H Projects)

The Department responded to questions from the Council on the Marriottsville Road project; impact of acquiring right of way on various projects; the potential for the usage of a quick take authority for road projects and the feasibility of working with the State delegation on a proposed quick take authority; the plan to create a walking area or sidewalk on Old Columbia Pike and other similar roads; the status of various road projects; if the overall expenditure on road resurfacing compared to previous years; how the proposed budget differs from what was presented to the Planning Board; the extent of the road resurfacing backlog stemming from budget constraints in 2020; and changes in the cost of resurfacing.

Bridges (B Projects)

The Department responded to questions from the Council on what a border bridge is and how the costs are split between two counties; the status of the Pindell School Road Bridge and the delays with PepCo; and how the Department is saving money on bridge projects.

Sidewalk / Curb (K Projects)

The Department responded to questions from the Council on why the funding structure for bicycle plan projects changed this year; grants being pursued; request to split large projects in the capital budget for transparency; details of creating and maintaining safe school walk zones for students; if the County monitors actual use of painted pedestrian lines; the status of the Cedar Lane Road project and why the language “road diet” is still in the budget; if there is a spend down plan for the bike planning project; where the Troy Hill Park sidewalk project is located; and how a fee-in-lieu agreement can be reached in conflict with the requirements of the Zoning Board, in particular for a K5305 project that connects to Veterans Parkway.

Intersection Improvements (T Projects)

The Departments responded to questions from the Council on if there is an opportunity for a green street at the Cradlerock intersection; details of State-wide crash data; intersection improvements at State roads; the costs to redesign an intersection; the status of various intersections, including at Cedar Lane and Owen Brown Road; details of traffic calming efforts and research; the purpose and findings of the Downtown-Cordon line; and the design plan for the Clarksville Pike-River Hill project.

General County (C Projects)

Office of Transportation

The Administration gave a presentation on three major County wide projects: bus stops, transit center, and Route 1 safe streets. The Administration responded to questions from the Council on the cost and specifics of the BRT bus stops and how BRT would work into a proposed transit center; how to include apartments in the transit center plan while also alleviating traffic along Route 29; when the BRT service is expected to begin; if Howard Hughes is hitting development

threshold earlier than the County anticipated and if it will affect the acquisition of land; and the status of the site acquisition project at various specific locations.

DPW Director's Office

There was a general discussion about the status of High School 14. The Administration responded to questions from the Council on the plan to acquire land or put land in a land bank for the project; a comparison of the parcel size in Elkrige and if there are any large parcels available in Elkrige that could be large enough for a new high school; what the appraisal requirements are; when the County will have a more concrete timeline for completion of the project; and how the Department is planning for the use of the facility and the anticipated need.

DPW Facilities

The Administration responded to questions from the Council on the new correction facility, including what specialized treatment centers will be located on the new site that creates a balanced approach to incarcerations; what new standards are being considered in the construction of the project; and the potential expansion of the mental health unit.

There was a general discussion about how the County budgets for systematic building improvements, including when the County can expect to complete the facilities master plan.

The Administration responded to questions from the Council on the status of the High Ridge Renovations project; what the renovation plan is for the Ascend 1 building; and what is required to renovate space to accommodate the recent administration reorganization.

DPW Environmental Services

There was a general discussion about the status of the Ellicott City Safe and Sound Project, including the current capital budget request and a breakdown on the costs and status of each project, the effectiveness of stormwater ponds, how much the extended North Tunnel costs compared to the original proposed amount, how to prevent public access to the North Tunnel, the status of CSX agreements, the design plans for the areas where buildings have been removed for the Safe and Sounds project, and how the County is planning on managing the proposed P3s.

County Administration

The Administration responded to questions from the Council on why the energy management project contains a much higher budget request than in previous years; and how the budget request for the energy management project was affected by not being awarded a grant.

Finance

The Administration responded to questions from the Council on what is left and what the deadline is for spending ARPA money.

Chair Jung closed the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Council requested follow up:

- *Chair Jung requested the high level breakdown of what the County did this year to earn acreage credits towards the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System.*
- *Chair Jung requested information on how the County is saving money on bridge projects.*
- *Council Member Walsh asked the Office of Law how a community enhancement required by the Zoning Board from BGE can be subsequently revoked via a fee-in-lieu, in particular for a project under K5305.*
- *Council Member Walsh and Chair Jung requested a work session on intersection crash data, reporting, opportunities for intersection improvements; and funding sources.*
- *Council Member Yungmann requested the number of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) users.*
- *Council Member Rigby requested the contact information for someone who can walk her through the flow of Howard Hughes development thresholds and County obligations.*
- *Council Member Yungmann requested a detailed report on how much the Department has spent in the systemic improvements project for FY 2024.*
- *Council Member Walsh requested from the OOL for guidance on how to reduce funding in a contingency fund so that a specific project is defunded.*
- *Council Member Walsh requested an amendment that pulls capital projects over \$1 million into their own line item and if it is feasible this budget cycle.*
- *Council Member Yungmann requested a spreadsheet detailing the cost and status of each project under Ellicott City Safe and Sounds. Council Member Walsh requested that funding sources are included for each project with notes on when the grants will be available. Chair Jung requested that the spreadsheet show how the price has changed since the projects were first proposed. Chair Jung requested a 20 minute follow up meeting to review the spreadsheet.*
- *Council Member Walsh requested a list of properties that have been acquired for the Safe and Sound project.*

4/24/2024 CIP Work Session Attendee List:

Budget

Holly Sun
Brook Mamo

DPW

Yosef Kebede
John Seefried
Susan Voyce

Finance

Rafiu Ighile
Angie Price
John Vu

Executive Team

Brian Shepter
Felix Facchine

Storm Drainage

Abdul Akbari
Daniel Davis
Kris Singleton
Mark Kovach
Seifu Hailu
Mark Deluca
Mark Richmond

Road Construction

Abdul Akbari
Daniel Davis
Kris Jagarapu
Mark Kovach
Seifu Hailu

Road Resurfacing

Kris Jagarapu
Mark Kovach
Seifu Hailu

Bridge, Sidewalk / Curb

Abdul Akbari
Daniel Davis
Prasoon Shrestha
Kris Singleton
Christopher Eatough
David Cookson
Kris Jagarapu
Mark Kovach
Seifu Hailu

Intersection Improvements

Jennifer Woo
Kris Jagarapu
Chris Eatough
David Cookson
Abdul Akbari

Continued 4/19/2024 CIP Work Session Attendee List:

Budget

Holly Sun
Brook Mamo

DPW

Yosef Kebede
John Seefried
Susan Voyce

Finance

Rafiu Ighile
Angie Price
John Vu

Executive Team

Brandee Ganz
Raul Delerme
Angela Cabellon

General County

DPW

Sharon Walsh
Tae Jung
Zach Hollenbeck
Kenn Hamm
Mark Deluca
Mark Richmond
Emily Iacchei
Daniel Davis

Corrections

Margaret Chippendale
Gregory Smith
Scott Tilton

DCRS

Jackie R. Scott
Cheryl Mattis
Kellie Brown
Erin Bonzon
Ofelia Ross
Kim Eisenreich

OoT

Clarence Dickerson
Christopher Eatough
David Cookson
Carrie Anderson-Watters

Administration

Carl Delorenzo

Fleet

Robert Phillips
Gary Bois

OCS

Lindsay DeMarzo
Leah Miller
Britta Hahn
Timothy Lattimer

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Persons needing accommodations to fully participate in the meeting, please contact the Council Office, 410-313-2001.