



# 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  
Monday, April 28, 2025  
Hybrid Meeting (In-Person and WebEx)  
Video Streamed on <https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/watch-us>  
10:00 a.m

Chair Walsh called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

**Council Members Present:** Liz Walsh, Opel Jones, Deb Jung, Christiana Rigby, and David Yungmann.

**Council Staff Present:** Michelle Harrod, Council Administrator; Theo Wimberly, Administrative Manager; Isaiah Anderson, Executive Assistant; Virginia Gambrell, Administrative Support; Nick Rinehart, Legislative Analyst; Jim Almon, Legislative Analyst; Christopher Ashman, County Auditor; and Amanda Mihill, Assistant County Solicitor.

## Agenda

### *Grant Funding to General County Projects*

Dr. Holly Sun, Budget Administrator, gave an overview of unmaterialized grants for General County (C) projects as of Fiscal Year 2025. Dr. Sun shared the amount of grants appropriated, the source of the grant (Federal, State, etc.), and the amount unmaterialized.

Discussion with Council members ensued. Topics included clarification about grants received for Tax Increment Financing (TIF) projects in Downtown Columbia, distinguishing between the amounts unmaterialized and the amount actually spent, and clarification about the grants received and not received for Capital project C0337 for Ellicott City flood improvements.

### *C0337 – FY14 Ellicott City Improvements & Enhancements*

Yosef Kebede, director of Department of Public Works (DPW), was joined by Mark DeLuca, Mark Richmond, and Zach Hollenbeck of DPW to give an overview of project C0337 and answer questions from the Council.

Mr. DeLuca gave a short presentation to update the Council on the status of the project and the status of the various sub-projects. Currently, there are 2 sub-projects completed (Quaker Mill and H-7), 2 sub-projects in construction (North Tunnel and H-4), and 3 sub-projects currently in design (T1, Maryland Ave Culverts, and NC-3). Mr. DeLuca also shared what the next steps are for each sub-project as part of the presentation.

Discussion with Council members ensued. Topics of discussion included a request for a breakdown of all sub-projects and their associated timelines and costs to date and future costs organized by sub-project, and a discussion about what will happen if the sub-projects in design are no longer financially feasible due to the freeze in spending and grant awards at the Federal level.

Council agreed to continue this discussion at the May 7<sup>th</sup> Operating Budget Work Session, once the requested materials are received.

#### *Downtown Columbia*

##### *C0319 – FY2010 Tax Increment Financing Projects*

Carl DeLorenzo, Policy & Programs Director, Rafiu Ighile, Director of Finance, and Emily Metzler of Muncipal were present to give an overview of project C0319 to the Council. Ms. Metzler gave a presentation on the fiscal impact analysis of the Downtown Columbia TIF area, the remaining Downtown area, Capital Improvement projections, and a fiscal results summary over the past fiscal year.

Discussion of the TIF projects ensued. Topics included a discussion of the projection of revenue and expenditures for FY26 in the TIF area, which buildings are generating the most TIF revenue, the residential totals in the TIF area and whether there is a risk of exceeding the residential cap in the TIF area.

##### *C0353 – FY2024 Transit Center*

Trey Dickerson, director of Howard County Department of Transportation (DoT), and Kristy Smith of Howard Hughes joined Mr. DeLorenzo and Mr. Ighile to answer questions on project C0353. Mr. Dickerson shared that DoT plans to go back and reassess potential locations and engage a consultant as part of the feasibility/due diligence process.

Discussion with Council ensued. Topics of discussion included the milestones needed to be achieved, what locations are being considered for this transit center, what operations would look like at this proposed center, and concerns associated with the current transit hub located in downtown Columbia.

##### *L0020 – FY2021 New HCLS Central Branch & Relocation*

Tonya Aikens, President/CEO, and Angela Brade, Chief Operating Officer for Support Services, of the Howard County Library System (HCLS) joined Mr. DeLorenzo to give an overview of project L0020, and answer questions from Council.

Discussion with Council ensued. Topics of discussion included whether housing should be collocated with the new library, feasibility of the proposed Lakefront site, whether Howard Hughes/HRD is going to be a willing partner with HCLS and Howard County to make the project happen, and whether the original Downtown Columbia agreement should be revisited.

*C0364 – FY2021 New Cultural Center*

Mr. DeLorenzo and Mr. Ighile continued to be available to answer Council questions about the proposed New Cultural Center project. Topics of discussion with Council included whether the Administration was in violation of Howard County Code related to Sole Source Contract award to a developer for the project. Ms. Mihill committed to getting a follow-up response to that inquiry.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm.

Following the open session, the Council met in Closed Session on April 28, 2025, at 2:00 pm in the Council office in accordance with Section 3-305(b)(1) to discuss a personnel matter. The topic was compensation for one or more specific employees.

Visit the Council's website (<http://cc.howardcountymd.gov>) to view legislation, send written testimony, and sign-up electronically to testify at public hearings.

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

**4/28/2025 CIP Work Session Attendee List:**

**Budget**

Holly Sun  
Brook Mamo

**DPW**

Yosef Kebede  
John Seefried  
Susan Voyce  
Emily Iacchei

**Finance**

Rafiu Ighile  
Angela Price  
John Vu

**Safe and Sound (C0337)**

Mark Deluca  
Mark Richmond  
Zach Hollenbeck

**Downtown Columbia**

**TIF (C0319) Projects**

Carl Delorenzo  
Rafiu Ighile  
Emily Metzler  
Kristi Smith

**New Cultural Center (C0364)**

Carl Delorenzo

**Transit Center (C0353)**

Clarence Dickerson

**Libraries (L0020)**

Tonya Aikens  
Angela Brade