

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
NCPC FILE No. CP13

April 6, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Navarro  
President  
Montgomery County Council  
Council Office Building  
100 Maryland Avenue, 6th Floor  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Honorable Nancy Navarro:

We have reviewed the Montgomery County Executive's *FY21 Recommended Capital Budget and FY21-26 Capital Improvements Program (CIP)* to determine the program's potential impact on federal properties or other federal interests in the National Capital Region. None of the recommendations appear to have any adverse impacts. The CIP is consistent with the planning principles and policies of the *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital: Federal Elements (Comprehensive Plan)*.

We support the accelerated project schedules recommended for **Bus Rapid Transit: Veirs Mill Road (P501913)**, **Bus Rapid Transit: MD 355 (P502005)**, **White Flint Metro Station Access Improvements (P502106)**, **Bus Rapid Transit: System Development (P501318)** and **Bus Rapid Transit: US 29 (P501912)**. These projects are integral toward providing alternatives that address the region's road congestion.

We are looking forward to the completion of the County's new light rail program: including the **Purple Line (P501603)** and **Bicycle-Pedestrian Priority Area Improvements - Purple Line (P502004)** projects. We note the later includes improved trail connections to Northwest Branch and Sligo Creek: two Capper-Cramton stream valley parks.

We support the CIP's transit-oriented development projects, including the **White Flint Redevelopment Program (P151200)**, **Boyd's Transit Center (P501915)**, and **White Oak Science Gateway Redevelopment Project (P361701)**—which includes improvements to FDA Boulevard.

Four projects expand access to Metrorail, including **Bethesda Metro Station South Entrance (P500929)** and **White Flint Metro Station Northern Entrance (P501914)**. The **MD 355 Crossing (BRAC) (P501209)** constructs a multi-modal grade-separated connection between the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and the Medical Center Metrorail station. The **Forest Glen Passageway (P501911)** will improve access to the nearby Walter Reed Army Institute of Research by constructing a new grade-separated connection under Georgia Avenue.

The Honorable Nancy Navarro  
Page Two

We appreciated working with your staff to update NCPC's parking standards for federal facilities in Montgomery County and likewise, we welcome three projects in the County's CIP to study parking supply and demand: **Facility Planning Parking: Bethesda Parking Lot District (P501313)**, **Facility Planning Parking: Silver Spring Parking Lot District (P501314)** and **Facility Planning Parking: Wheaton Parking Lot District (P501312)**.

Three projects: **Capital Crescent Trail (P501316)**, **Metropolitan Branch Trail (P501110)** and **Beach Drive Bridge (P501903)** particularly support Comprehensive Plan Policies Related to Active Commuting and Bicycling for Federal Employees. We note the Beach Drive project includes improvements to Rock Creek Trail.

The CIP also includes several important resource stewardship projects through the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission including **Misc. Stream Valley Improvements (P807359)** and two open space acquisition projects: **Legacy Open Space (P018710)** and **Acquisition: Non-Local Parks (P998798)**. These projects support Comprehensive Plan Policies Related to Waterbodies and Wetlands.

We recognize successful implementation on these projects will require continued coordination with applicable federal agencies including the National Park Service and U.S. Department of Transportation. For future guidance, the Transportation and Workplace Elements of NCPC's Comprehensive Plan are anticipated to be updated and available this summer at [www.ncpc.gov](http://www.ncpc.gov).

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on your recommended CIP. We look forward to working with you to continue advancing our shared regional goals in the future. If you have any questions, please have a member of your staff contact Kael Anderson at 202-482-7273 or [kael.anderson@ncpc.gov](mailto:kael.anderson@ncpc.gov).

Sincerely,



Marcel C. Acosta  
Executive Director