

IN REPLY REFER TO:
NCPC File No. CP13

May 4, 2022

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

Dear Mr. Alborno:

We have reviewed the Montgomery County Executive's *Recommended FY23 Capital Budget and FY23-28 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 adverse impacts. The CIP is consistent with the planning principles and policies of the *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital: Federal Elements* (Comprehensive Plan).

The CIP includes multiple projects that will improve regional mobility, which is keenly important for the effectiveness of the federal workforce. We particularly support the **Bus Rapid Transit: MD 355 South/North (P502309)**, **Seneca Science Corridor Transit Improvements (P502202)**, and **Facility Planning: Mass Transit (P502308)** projects, which help to support multiple Comprehensive Plan policies related to advancing an interconnected transportation system, sustainable transportation, equitable mobility, and smart growth.

Likewise, we support the continued funding of multiple trail development and maintenance projects, including **Metropolitan Branch Trail (P501110)**, **Capital Crescent Trail (P501316)**, **Bicycle-Pedestrian Priority Area Improvements (P501532)**, and **Falls Road Bikeway and Pedestrian Facility (P500905)**. These investments are consistent with multiple Comprehensive Plan policies to improve water quality and protect the Chesapeake Bay, enhance the existing trail network, and increase access to parks and open spaces. The region's watersheds, trails and open spaces represent valuable, and in many respects, unique natural resources.

The County's CIP also embraces a commendable program of environmental improvements. Several projects would include stream and water quality restoration of the Capper-Cramton stream valleys and other regional watersheds including **Misc Stream Valley Improvements (P807359)**, and **Stormwater Management Retrofit: Countywide (P808726)**.

Overall, the recommended CIP represents a remarkable investment in the region. Successful implementation on these projects will require continued coordination with applicable federal agencies including the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Department of Transportation, and National Park Service. For your reference, the National Capital Planning Commission's Comprehensive Plan is available at www.ncpc.gov/plans/compplan.

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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 Urban Planner, Brittney Drakeford at 202-482-7210 or brittney.drakeford@ncpc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marcel C. Acosta". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Marcel" being more legible than the last name "Acosta".

Marcel C. Acosta
Executive Director