BALTIMORE COUNTY COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE AGENDA
LEGISLATIVE SESSION 2024

Issued: December 5, 2024
Reissued: December 10, 2024
Work Session: December 10, 2024
Legislative Day No. 23: December 16, 2024

The accompanying notes are compiled from unaudited information provided by the Administration and other sources.

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY AUDITOR

BALTIMORE COUNTY COUNCIL

December 16, 2024

NOTES TO THE AGENDA

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BALTIMORE COUNTY COUNCIL
LEGISLATIVE SESSION 2024, LEGISLATIVE DAY NO. 23
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Council **Fiscal Note** December 16, 2024

Bill 97-24 **Council District(s) _All_**

Mr. Marks

Baltimore County Floodplain Ordinance – Substantial Improvement Definition

Bill 97-24 amends the definition of "substantial improvement" regarding property that was damaged by certain natural events and is under the ownership of a specific type of entity.

With the enactment of Bill 6-24, Baltimore County updated its local floodplain ordinance to be in conformance with the Maryland Model Floodplain Ordinance. In general, floodplain ordinances adopt floodplain maps published by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that govern the availability of federal flood insurance. These ordinances also mandate specific construction standards – or prohibit certain development – in areas identified on those maps as flood-prone. Generally, flood-prone is either identified as the annual likelihood the area floods (i.e., 1% or 100-year floodplain; 0.2% or 500-year floodplain) or a mapped and categorized hazard area, such as the Coastal High Hazard Areas (V Zones) and Coastal A Zones.

Under the County's floodplain ordinance, for any existing building or structure in certain flood-prone areas, special construction standards are required if the construction constitutes a "substantial improvement." "Substantial improvement" means any reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvement of a building or structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the building or structure before the start of construction of the improvement. The term includes structures which have incurred substantial damage, regardless of the actual repair work performed.

Currently, substantial improvement does not include:

- Any project for improvement of a building or structure to correct existing violations of state or local health, sanitary, or safety code specifications which have been identified by the local code enforcement official prior to submission of an application for a permit and which are the minimum necessary to assure safe living conditions; or
- Any alteration of a historic structure, provided that the alteration will not preclude the structure's continued designation as a historic structure.

Bill 97-24 (as amended) would except from the definition of substantial construction any reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvement of a building or structure to address damage caused by fire, storm, or other casualty, provided the building or structure is owned by a community, homeowners, or improvement association and is not located in the FEMA 100-year flood zone.

At the request of the bill's sponsor, the Council voted at its December 2 legislative session to extend the vote on Bill 97-24 until its legislative session on December 16.

With the affirmative vote of five members of the County Council, Bill 97-24 will take effect 14 days after its enactment.

Bill 101-24 (Supplemental Appropriation) **Council District(s) _All_**

Mr. Patoka (By Req.)

Department of Housing and Community Development

Homeless Solutions Program – HSP (State DHCD)

The Administration is requesting a supplemental appropriation of State funds (pending amendments) totaling $580,476 to the Homeless Solutions Program – HSP (State DHCD) [Department of Housing and Community Development] Gifts and Grants Fund program. The Department advised that the funds will be used to provide homeless prevention and rapid rehousing services. See Exhibit A.

Fiscal Summary

Funding Source	Supplemental Appropriation	Current Appropriation	Total Appropriation
County	--	--	--
State [1]	$ 580,476	$ 1,224,179	$ 1,804,655
Federal	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--
Total	$ 580,476	$ 1,224,179	$ 1,804,655

[1] Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development funds. No County matching funds are required.

Analysis

The Department advised that the purpose of the Homeless Solutions Program – HSP (State DHCD) program is to facilitate the delivery of homeless prevention and rapid rehousing services (e.g., short-term rental assistance, shelter diversion, direct cash assistance). The Department further advised that the proposed $580,476 supplemental appropriation will be distributed among four key service providers (Baltimore County Department of Social Services, Cornerstone Franciscan Ministries, Family Crisis Center, St. Vincent de Paul), and will be submitted to the Council via the 14-day grant notification process. The Department also advised that the program will assist approximately 283 individuals/116 households throughout FYs 2025 and 2026.

The grant period is July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026. The Department advised that no County matching funds are required.

With the affirmative vote of five members of the County Council, Bill 101-24 will take effect December 29, 2024.

Executive Summary

The Baltimore County Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is seeking approval from the County Council to accept a one-time allocation of Bonus Funding in the amount of $580,476. This funding is provided by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development through their allocation of State general funding and aims to bolster the initiatives already in place under the current Homeless Solutions Program allocation.

The bonus funds will be distributed among four key service providers that specialize in delivering Homeless Prevention Services and Rapid Rehousing services. These initiatives are crucial for effectively responding to the immediate needs of those facing homelessness.

DHCD anticipates that the Bonus Funding will assist approximately 283 individuals throughout fiscal year 2025 and FY 2026, helping to improve their living situations and promote greater stability within the community.

Prepared by: Department of Housing and Community Development

Bill 102-24 (Supplemental Appropriation) **Council District(s) _All_**

Mr. Patoka (By Req.)

Department of Health and Human Services

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) LHD Project

The Administration is requesting a supplemental appropriation of federal funds totaling $17,000 to the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) LHD [Local Health Department] Project Gifts and Grants Fund program. The Department advised that the funds will be used to facilitate increased acceptance of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits among County farmers offering produce through CSA programs in order to improve health outcomes for low-income County residents. The Department advised that due to the grant period expiring for $10,000 of the supplemental appropriation, it will restrict those funds. See Exhibit A.

Fiscal Summary

Funding Source	Supplemental Appropriation	Current Appropriation	Total Appropriation
County	--	--	--
State	--	--	--
Federal (1)	$ 17,000	--	$ 17,000
Other	--	--	--
Total	$ 17,000	--	$ 17,000

(1) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention funds passed through the Maryland Department of Health, Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Control (CCDPC). No County matching funds are required.

Analysis

The Department advised that the proposed funding will support farmers in establishing a SNAP-eligible CSA program to provide healthy fruits and vegetables to low-income residents to improve health outcomes, including supporting farmers through the application process to accept SNAP benefits using the Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) payment system, assisting farmers in developing SNAP-eligible food boxes, and linking SNAP-eligible families to farmers (establishing CSA membership where interested members purchase a share, and in return, receive a box of seasonal produce weekly throughout the farming season). The Department further advised that FY 2025 is the planning phase in preparing for activities that will be conducted during FY 2026, including the distribution of food boxes. The Department also advised that the funds will be used for printing, advertising, educational supplies, and indirect costs. The Department estimates that the program will serve 150 County residents in FY 2026.

The grant periods associated with the $17,000 supplemental appropriation are July 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024 ($10,000) and October 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 ($7,000). The Department advised that it was initially anticipating an extension to the grant period for the $10,000 award, which was not granted; however, the Department needed to first apply for the $10,000 grant in order to receive the subsequent $7,000. The Department further advised that it will restrict $10,000 of the appropriation. The Department advised that no County matching funds are required.

With the affirmative vote of five members of the County Council, Bill 102-24 will take effect December 29, 2024.

Executive Summary

Community Supported Agriculture Supplemental Appropriation Request

The Baltimore County Department of Health is seeking an appropriation in the amount of $17,000 for the Community Supported Agriculture grant.

BACKGROUND
Diet-related diseases, including diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, and obesity, are among the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in the United States and disproportionately affect low-income communities where access to healthy food alternatives is limited. The rate of both adult and childhood obesity has been on the rise both nationally and in Maryland. Data from the 2022 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System showed that 33.2% of Maryland adults are obese. Ten percent of Maryland residents lack adequate access to food, despite Maryland ranking as the wealthiest state with the highest median household income based on the 2021 Census data. Lack of access to nutritious food is a well-established social determinant of health. Community Supported Agriculture is a popular way for consumers to buy local, seasonal food directly from a farmer who offers a certain number of "shares" to the public. The share typically consists of a box of vegetables, but other farm products may be included. Interested consumers purchase a share (aka a "membership" or a "subscription") and, in return, receive a box (bag, basket) of seasonal produce each week throughout the farming season. Several low-income families/individuals living in low-access areas utilize federal benefits such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program aka SNAP (formerly food stamps). SNAP provides low-income Americans with monthly benefits on Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards used to purchase food at authorized retailers, which include farmers' markets. Studies have shown that families that utilize SNAP benefits eat more healthy food in locally thriving communities with an increase in income among farmers, making it a win for all.

This funding opportunity will support farmers in establishing a SNAP-eligible CSA program to provide healthy fruits and vegetables to residents to improve health outcomes. This project will also include supporting farmers through the application process to accept SNAP benefits using the Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) payment system, assisting farmers in developing SNAP-eligible boxes, and linking SNAP-eligible families to farmers to establish CSA membership.

PURPOSE
The goal of this project is to engage farmers with the intent of increasing access to fruits and vegetables to improve the health of families. Fiscal Year 25 is primarily a planning and engagement phase: food boxes will be distributed in Fiscal Year 26.

FISCAL
The award is $17,000.

Prepared by: Department of Health & Human Services

Kevin Reed | **Fiscal Note** | December 16, 2024

Bill 103-24 **Council District(s) _All_**

Mr. Patoka (By Req.)

Office of Budget and Finance

Bond Ordinance

The Administration is requesting approval of an ordinance that authorizes the issuance, sale, and delivery of: up to $418 million in (short-term) bond anticipation notes (BANs) for Consolidated Public Improvements ($177 million) and Metropolitan District ($241 million) projects; $418 million in (the associated long-term) General Obligation (G.O.) bonds; and $3,107,825,500 in refunding bonds (related to the entire callable amount of G.O. bond debt issued by the County between 2010 and 2024, which then could be refinanced). This ordinance also authorizes the County to purchase development rights (Installment Purchase Agreement Program) and to pursue the use of tax-advantaged bond status. The ordinance sets a $418 million limit on the aggregate principal amount of BANs outstanding at one time.

Fiscal Summary

Proposed Debt Issuance		Maximum Amount	
Consolidated Public Improvement (CPI)	$	177,000,000	
Metropolitan District		241,000,000	
Total – General Obligation Bonds	$	418,000,000	(1)
CPI Bond Anticipation Notes (BANs)	$	177,000,000	
Metropolitan District BANs		241,000,000	
Total – BANs	$	418,000,000	(2)
CPI/Metro District Bonds (Refunding Series)	$	3,107,825,500	(3)

(1) Authorization for issuance expires on the latter of December 31, 2025 or upon the expiration of any outstanding BANs.
(2) BANs are limited to no more than this amount outstanding at one time.
(3) Represents 130% of outstanding bonds totaling $2,390,635,000. Amount to be issued depends on interest rates, issuance costs, and other variables at the time of refunding.

Analysis

This bill authorizes the County to issue up to $418 million in new G.O. debt, to consist of $177 million for Consolidated Public Improvements (CPI) and $241 million for the Metropolitan District. Specifically, the bill authorizes the issuance, sale, and delivery of: up to $418 million in (short-term) bond anticipation notes (BANs) for CPI ($177 million) and Metropolitan District ($241 million) projects; $418 million in (the associated long-term) G.O. bonds; and $3,107,825,500 in refunding bonds (related to the entire callable amount of G.O. debt issued by the County between 2010 and 2024, which then could be refinanced). In addition, this bill authorizes the County to purchase development rights (Installment Purchase Agreement Program) and to pursue the use of tax-advantaged bond status.

Bond Anticipation Notes (BANs): BANs are short-term notes sold in anticipation of issuing long-term bonds at a later date when more favorable market conditions may occur. When issued, long-term bond proceeds are used to retire the BANs. The bill limits the aggregate principal amount of BANs outstanding to no more than $418 million at one time. The bill further provides that the face value of all BANs outstanding may from time to time exceed the limit. According to the bill, the BANs may be issued at a private sale in the nature of commercial paper or other variable rate demand notes, which are more flexible than issuing fixed-rate notes. Proceeds from the sale of BANs are reinvested until the funds are needed, thereby creating a legal arbitrage profit (i.e., interest earnings from investments exceeding interest cost on BANs). Issuing BANs also allows capital projects to proceed while awaiting more favorable market conditions for issuing long-term bonds. The Office advised that there are no current plans to issue commercial paper BANs; in the event that the County issues BANs, it plans to continue with non-commercial-paper, fixed-rate BANs. However, this ordinance retains the authority to issue commercial paper for flexibility purposes.

Consolidated Public Improvement (CPI) Bonds: This bill authorizes the issuance of CPI bonds, up to the following amounts, for the following types of capital improvements:

Type of Improvement	Maximum Amount
Schools	$ 126,000,000
Public Works (roads, bridges, sidewalks, storm drains)	31,000,000
Waterway Improvements	8,000,000
Community College	6,000,000
Agricultural Land Preservation	5,000,000
Refuse Disposal	1,000,000
Total	$ 177,000,000

The voters previously authorized this borrowing, on prior-year referenda, as required by the Baltimore County Charter, Section 718. The Council subsequently approved the borrowing as a funding source for the County's capital budgets.

Repayment of the principal and interest (collectively known as debt service) on the County's CPI debt is guaranteed by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit – and unlimited taxing powers – of the County. This debt service cost is financed by General Fund revenues and is subject to the Spending Affordability Committee's (SAC) debt service guideline, which states that County debt service, including non-general obligation debt, should not exceed 9.5% of General Fund revenues. In addition, the County's debt policy states that the County will maintain a Debt Service to General Fund Revenues ratio in the range of 8.5% to 9.5%.

The bonds must be sold at competitive bid, except for $5 million in Agricultural Preservation bonds (see next section, below) that may be designated for agricultural property owners according to the Installment Purchase Agreement (IPA) Program and any bonds designated as financed from the Maryland Water Infrastructure Financing Administration (MWIFA).

Agricultural Preservation Bonds/Installment Purchase Agreement (IPA) Program: In lieu of issuing all or any of the CPI bonds under the Agricultural Land Preservation Borrowing Plan Ordinance, the bill authorizes the issuance of IPAs to purchase development rights in accordance with Section 12-902 of the Local Government Article.

The IPA option was established in June 2007 to encourage agricultural landowners to sell land or land preservation easements to the County. Many landowners would have to pay high capital gains tax when selling land or easements for cash. Through the IPA Program, the County pays the purchase price in a lump sum after a period of up to 30 years, thus allowing the seller to defer capital gains tax, and the seller receives tax-exempt interest at a pre-established rate on the purchase price in the interim. The interest paid by the County is exempt both from federal and State income tax. The Office advised that other benefits of IPA bonds for landowners include better estate planning since heirs can use cash from the sale to pay estate taxes. Landowners can also sell IPAs to bond investors for cash prior to their maturities. An IPA has two payment components, interest paid semi-annually and a balloon principal payment after a period of up to 30 years. The Office advised that the County has not utilized the IPA tool in over a decade.

Metropolitan District Bonds: The purpose of the Metropolitan District bonds is to finance the construction of improvements to the Metropolitan District sewer and water system. The debt service on these bonds is financed by sewer and water assessments and charges levied against all users in the Metropolitan District. If the sewer and water revenues are insufficient to finance the debt service, the County may levy a tax on all properties in the Metropolitan District or in the County to finance any deficiency. Metropolitan District debt does not require voter approval. The Office advised that the bill will be amended to indicate that the total outstanding balance of Metropolitan District debt as of September 30, 2024, plus the net of additional Metropolitan District debt authorized by this bill, totals $2,550,951,419. This level of Metropolitan District debt is compliant with the County Code limitation (3.2% of assessed property value).

General Obligation Refunding Bonds: This bill also authorizes the County to sell $3,107,825,500 of refunding bonds to refinance the callable amounts of outstanding CPI and Metropolitan District bonds issued between 2010 and 2024, which total $2,390,635,000. Exhibits

A and B, respectively, list the callable bonds by issuance date for CPI bonds ($1,179,510,000) and Metropolitan District bonds ($1,211,125,000). The refunding bond authority totals 130% of the outstanding principal amount.

Under a refunding, the outstanding debt is "defeased" (nullified) by the issuance of new debt, the proceeds of which are placed in a trust fund. The amount of proceeds required depends on factors such as current interest rates, the remaining term of the original bonds, bid discount, and costs of issuance. The trust fund invests the proceeds in U.S. Government obligations and guarantees the debt service (interest and redemption payments) on the original debt. The County is then obligated to make debt service payments only on the new issue. Approval of the refunding is requested without an expiration date so that the Office can access the credit market as favorable market conditions occur. The benefit to the County is derived from the difference between the interest rate paid on the original debt, and the related costs and the rate to be paid on the issuance of the refunding bonds. The debt service savings to be realized due to this refinancing authorization are dependent upon the timing of the refunding and the applicable interest rates and, therefore, cannot be determined at this time.

The refunding bonds may be sold at such times and in such manner as shall be determined by the County Executive; the Executive must give the County Council prior notice of such issuance. The refunding bonds may be sold at a private, negotiated sale unless the County Executive determines that it is in the best interest of the County to sell the bonds through a competitive bid process. The Office advised that the County's most recent refunding, which occurred via a private, negotiated sale on September 4, 2024, consisted of $72,855,000 of Metropolitan District bonds and $104,175,000 of CPI bonds with a net present value savings of $2.12 million.

Tax-Advantaged Obligations: The Administration is requesting authority to take necessary action, when entitled, to ensure bonds and notes authorized by this ordinance are afforded a tax-advantaged status. The necessary actions may include, but are not limited to, covenants or agreements relating to proceeds and earnings and elections and designations as required under the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) to assure proper entitlement to a subsidy or tax credit benefit for both the issuer and holder. The County has previously issued tax-advantaged obligations (e.g., Qualified School Construction Bonds and Build America Bonds); these programs expired on December 31, 2010. However, the Office previously advised that retaining the authority to issue tax-advantaged obligations is in the best interest of the County in the event that Congress should choose to renew these provisions.

The Office advised that in September 2024, the County refinanced the last of its outstanding Build America Bonds that were originally sold in 2010.

Administrative Costs: The Office advised that estimated one-time administrative costs associated with this borrowing ordinance total $465,200 as follows:

Rating agencies	$ 400,000
Bond counsel	50,000
BAN auction agent	12,000
Financial printing, advertising, other	3,200
Total	$ 465,200

The Office further advised that rating agency fees for the G.O. bonds will be paid from the premium proceeds anticipated from each issuance.

Other: The bill states that any premium funds received from the sale of bonds and BANs shall be set apart in a separate account and can be used for the first interest payments on those bonds and BANs or allocated for other expenditure purposes permitted under federal income tax law. The bill also states that any earnings from the investment of proceeds of CPI bonds and BANs and Metropolitan District bonds and BANs may be treated as general revenues and applied to the general purposes of the County and Baltimore County Metropolitan District, respectively. The bill further states that the County Executive or County Administrative Officer may designate specific expenditures to be paid from such earnings. The Office previously advised that such language regarding the use of premium funds and earnings constitutes appropriation authority, despite its lack of specificity as to the amount(s), program(s), and fiscal year(s) of the expenditure authorization.

In July 2024, the County issued $115 million in CPI bonds (new debt) at a true interest cost of 3.64% and $45 million in Metropolitan District bonds (new debt) at a true interest cost of 4.12%, with a 5% interest rate payable by the County for both the CPI and Metropolitan District bonds. The Office advised that the County received a total of $14.4 million in CPI bond premium and $4.9 million in Metro bond premium funds from the issuance (net of underwriter's discount and issuance costs). The premiums were used to fund capital projects. The Office further advised that it chose long-term bonds over short-term BANS for issuing new debt because short-term rate increases made locking in on longer-term bond rates a more favorable alternative to BANs. The

Office also advised that the decision to issue bonds or BANS in March 2025 will be determined at the time of sale.

Planned Issuance

The Office advised that in March 2025, it plans to issue up to $177 million in CPI bonds and up to $241 million in Metropolitan District and Maryland Water Infrastructure Financing Administration (MWIFA) bonds. The Office further advised that the Metropolitan District and CPI bond issuances will be structured to have level total payments after the first year. The Office also advised that its March 2025 CPI bonds and Metropolitan District bonds issuances are expected to have true interest costs of 3.5% and 4.0%, respectively, both with an anticipated interest rate of 5.0%. True interest costs will be subject to the market environment at the time of sale.

The Office advised that it currently projects premiums of $20 million and $15 million, respectively, from the March 2025 CPI and Metropolitan District bond issuances. The Office noted that the premiums will be based on bids from the underwriter. The Office further advised that the premiums will be used to pay rating agency fees (estimated at $465,200), and the balance will be used to fund capital projects. In addition, the County expects to commit approximately $100 million in MWIFA bonds at an anticipated interest rate of 2.5% to 3.0%, with issuances to occur at various times throughout the year.

Interest payments from the March 2025 CPI and Metropolitan District bond issuances are anticipated to begin in September 2025; principal payments from the March 2025 CPI and Metropolitan District bond issuances are anticipated to begin in March 2027. The Office advised that if the County were to issue BANs in March 2025, there would be no principal payments due in FY 2026; the decision whether to sell BANs will be determined based on the interest rate environment at the time of sale.

The Office advised that the bill will be amended to indicate that the outstanding balance of County G.O. debt as of September 30, 2024 plus the net balance of additional G.O. debt authorized by this bill, totals $2,459,664,000. This level of outstanding debt (including pension obligation debt) is compliant with the County Charter limitation (4% of assessed property value). Projected debt as of June 30, 2025 subject to the guidelines adopted by the Spending Affordability Committee (excluding pension obligation debt) remains within maximum recommended levels. See Exhibit C.

According to the County's financial consultant Public Resources Advisory Group (PRAG) in its 2024 Debt Study, the County is anticipating a net-tax supported debt position of $2.273 billion at the end of FY 2029, an increase of $279.9 million from the net-tax supported debt position of $1.993 billion that was anticipated at the end of FY 2029 in the 2023 Debt Study. The Office of Budget and Finance projects that at its planned level of borrowing and projected level of General Fund revenues, the County may begin to exceed the Spending Affordability Committee's 9.5% debt service to revenues guideline during 2025; however, as noted, projected debt as of June 30, 2025 subject to the guidelines adopted by the Spending Affordability Committee (excluding pension obligation debt) remains within maximum recommended levels.

The authority to issue the G.O. bonds proposed by Bill 103-24 expires on the latter of December 31, 2025 or upon expiration of any outstanding BANs.

Bill 103-24 will take effect 45 days after its enactment.

CHART II

Outstanding Issues	Dated Date	Callable Maturities	Aggregate Principal Amount of Callable Bonds
Baltimore County Consolidated Public Improvement Bonds – 2010 Series B (QSCBs)	11/9/10	11/1/29	$19,950,000
Baltimore County Taxable General Obligation Bonds – 2012 Series	12/13/12	8/1/24-8/1/27, 8/1/32, 8/1/42	$187,270,000
Baltimore County Consolidated Public Improvement Bonds – 2015 Refunding Series	6/30/15	8/1/26-8/1/27	$17,735,000
Baltimore County Consolidated Public Improvement Bonds – 2016 Series	3/8/16	2/1/27-2/1/36	$58,000,000
Baltimore County Taxable General Obligation Bonds – 2016 Series	8/3/16	7/1/24-7/1/36, 7/1/46	$121,700,000
Baltimore County Consolidated Public Improvement Bonds – 2017 Series	3/15/17	3/1/28-3/1/37	$52,100,000
Baltimore County Consolidated Public Improvement Bonds – 2018 Series	3/16/18	3/1/29-3/1/38	$77,310,000
Baltimore County Consolidated Public Improvement Bonds – 2019 Series	3/18/19	3/1/30-3/1/39	$152,425,000
Baltimore County Consolidated Public Improvement Bonds – 2020 Series	3/19/20	3/1/31-3/1/40	$157,180,000
Baltimore County Consolidated Public Improvement Bonds – 2021 Series	3/22/21	3/1/32-3/1/41	$89,845,000
Baltimore County Consolidated Public Improvement Bonds – 2021 Refunding Series	3/22/21	8/1/32	$11,055,000
Baltimore County Consolidated Public Improvement Bonds – 2022 Series	3/23/22	3/1/33-3/1/42	$139,415,000
Baltimore County Consolidated Public Improvement Bonds – 2023 Series	3/24/23	3/1/34-3/1/43	$18,590,000
Baltimore County Consolidated Public Improvement Bonds – 2024 Series	7/24/24	7/1/35-7/1/44	$71,595,000
Baltimore County Consolidated Public Improvement Bonds – 2024 Refunding Series	7/24/24	2/1/35	$5,340,000
Total			$1,179,510,000

CHART III			
Outstanding Issues	**Dated Date**	**Callable Maturities**	**Aggregate Principal Amount of Callable Bonds**
Baltimore County Metropolitan District Bonds (75th Issue)	12/12/12	8/1/33-8/1/39, 8/1/42	$20,000,000
Baltimore County Metropolitan District Bonds 2012 Refunding Series	12/12/12	8/1/28-8/1/32	$8,205,000
Baltimore County Metropolitan District Bonds 2015 Refunding Series	6/30/15	8/1/26-8/1/30	$47,865,000
Baltimore County Metropolitan District Bonds (78th Issue)	3/8/16	2/1/27-2/1/41, 2/1/46	$58,000,000
Baltimore County Metropolitan District Bonds 2016 Refunding Series	3/8/16	2/1/27-2/1/38	$64,205,000
Baltimore County Metropolitan District Bonds (79th Issue)	3/15/17	3/1/28-3/1/37, 3/1/42, 3/1/47	$68,000,000
Baltimore County Metropolitan District Bonds (80th Issue)	3/16/18	3/1/29-3/1/45, 3/1/48	$185,190,000
Baltimore County Metropolitan District Bonds (81st Issue)	3/18/19	3/1/30-3/1/40, 3/1/44, 3/1/49	$203,275,000
Baltimore County Metropolitan District Bonds 2019 Refunding Series	8/6/19	11/1/30-11/1/39	$32,315,000
Baltimore County Metropolitan District Bonds (82nd Issue)	3/19/20	3/1/31-3/1/50	$34,050,000
Baltimore County Metropolitan District Bonds (83rd Issue)	3/22/21	3/1/32-3/1/51	$167,010,000
Baltimore County Metropolitan District Bonds 2021 Refunding Series	3/22/21	8/1/32-8/1/41	$33,505,000
Baltimore County Metropolitan District Bonds (84th Issue)	3/24/23	3/1/34-3/1/53	$182,405,000
Baltimore County Metropolitan District Bonds (85th Issue)	7/24/24	7/1/35-7/1/54	$36,480,000
Baltimore County Metropolitan District Bonds 2024 Refunding Series	7/24/24	2/1/35-2/1/45	$43,115,000
Baltimore County Metropolitan District Bonds 2024A Refunding Series	9/17/24	7/1/35-7/1/40, 7/1/42, 7/1/43	$27,505,000
Total			$1,211,125,000

CAPITAL BUDGET - DEBT AFFORDABILITY GUIDELINES

Debt Service[1] as % of General Fund Revenue			
Guideline - 9.5% of General Fund Revenue [2]			$ 244,591,394
FY 2025 Budget			(224,848,970)
Under (Over) Guideline			$ 19,742,424
Debt Outstanding[1] as % of Total Property Value			
Guideline - 2.5% of Assessed Property Value			$ 2,681,857,225
Estimated Debt Outstanding as of 6/30/2025			(1,948,088,983)
Under (Over) Guideline			$ 733,768,242
Legal Debt Limit [3]			
Estimated Assessable Base			$ 107,274,289,000
			x 4%
Debt Limit Equal to 4% of Assessable Base			$ 4,290,971,560
Estimated Debt Outstanding as of 6/30/2025			
Public Facility Bonds	$	658,578,000	
Public School Bonds		949,919,000	
Pension Obligation Bonds		296,611,000	
Community College Bonds		118,568,000	(2,023,676,000)
Under (Over) Legal Debt Limit			$ 2,267,295,560

(1) Excludes Pension Obligation and Metropolitan District bonds, and Component Unit Capital Leases not budgeted under Primary Government.

(2) Estimated total revenues as provided by the Office of Budget and Finance.

(3) Excludes Certificates of Participation, Capital Leases, and Metropolitan District bonds.

Bill 104-24 **Council District(s) _All__**

Mr. Marks

Vehicles and Traffic – Operation of a Golf Cart on County Highways

Bill 104-24 establishes a process for permitting the operation of a golf cart on certain County roads. This process is established as a time-limited pilot program which will expire on December 31, 2026 unless extended by the County Council.

In Maryland, the operation of golf carts on State, county, or municipal roads has historically been a facet of rural waterfront communities and permitted on a limited basis by the Maryland General Assembly. In its 2024 legislative session, the Maryland General Assembly enacted House Bill 43, which authorizes counties and municipalities to designate county or municipal highways under their respective jurisdictions on which a person may operate a golf cart. Baltimore County has several waterfront communities that may benefit from the flexibility of operating a golf cart in certain rural areas, but implementation of a program to designate public roads where drivers may operate a golf cart must be thoughtful in order to ensure the safety of all drivers, passengers, and pedestrians.

In general, Bill 104-24 sets the same requirements as State law regarding the operation of a golf cart on public roads. Specifically, a golf cart may only be operated between dawn and dusk and on public roads where the maximum posted speed limit does not exceed 30 miles per hour. Also, the golf cart must be equipped with lighting devices as required by State law, regulation, or policy. Last, the operator of the golf cart must possess a valid driver's license and must keep the golf cart as far to the right of the roadway as feasible.

Bill 104-24 also limits the operation of a golf cart to public roads which have proper signage stating the operation is permitted. The Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) may only place such signage on public roads authorized by a resolution passed by the County Council. A resolution authorizing golf cart signage can only do so for one Council district, meaning each Council district must receive its own authorizing resolution. Last, the DPW&T Director, in consultation with the Police Department, shall provide the Secretary of the County Council with an annual report on the use of golf carts on public roads in the County.

With the affirmative vote of five members of the County Council, Bill 104-24 will take effect 14 days after its enactment and shall expire December 31, 2026, without the necessity of further action by the County Council.

Fiscal Note

December 16, 2024
First Consideration

Bill 105-24 **Council District(s) _All__**

Mr. Patoka

Zoning Regs. – Special Regulations for a Cemetery in the Density, Residential 2 (D.R. 2) Zone

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Bill 105-24 clarifies that a cemetery in the Density Residential (D.R.) 2 Zone is permitted by special exception except under certain circumstances and in certain locations in which the use is permitted by-right.

Currently, Section 1B02.1 of the Zoning Regulations permits a cemetery by special exception in the D.R. 1, D.R. 2, D.R. 3.5, and D.R. 5.5 Zones. However, this section is silent as to whether a D.R.-zoned lot that was part of a cemetery with an approved special exception and was subsequently subdivided requires a special exception to remain a cemetery.

Bill 105-24 clarifies Section 1B02.1 by adding a new section to the special regulations governing cemeteries and alternative burial grounds. The new section states that a D.R. 2-zoned lot that is adjacent to an existing cemetery and was subject to an approved special exception for a cemetery at any point prior to January 1, 2024, may be used as a cemetery by right, even if the lot does not still retain the special exception. If these conditions are not met, a cemetery on a lot in the D.R. 2 Zone is still permitted by special exception.

With the affirmative vote of five members of the County Council, Bill 105-24 will take effect 14 days after its enactment.

Council **Fiscal Note** December 16, 2024
First Consideration

Bill 106-24 **Council District(s) _5__**

Mr. Marks

Zoning Regs. – Uses Permitted in the Business, Local (B.L.) Zone –
Special Regulations for Commercial, Community Core (C.C.C.) District

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Bill 106-24 permits a combination of apartments and housing for the elderly in the Business Local (B.L.) Commercial, Community Core (C.C.C.) District if located within a geographic area.

Currently, apartments are permitted in the B.L. C.C.C. District, but only above the first story of a building. However, elderly housing facilities and apartments restricted to those age 55 and older are permitted in any story of such a building. Bill 106-24 permits a combination of apartments and elderly housing facilities in any story of a building in the B.L. C.C.C. District if the building is located east of Perring Parkway, north and northeast of I-695, and north of MD-Route 702 and Eastern Boulevard.

With the affirmative vote of five members of the County Council, Bill 106-24 will take effect 14 days after its enactment.

FM-1 (Contract Amendment) **Council District(s) _All_**

Department of Recreation and Parks

Technical Assistance, Workshops, Counseling – Recreation & Nature Councils

The Administration is requesting approval of an amendment to a contract with Maryland Association of Nonprofit Organizations, Inc. to provide capacity building services (training sessions and one-on-one consulting) for the County's 39 Recreation and 5 Nature Councils. The proposed amendment, which commences upon Council approval, extends the agreement for 1 year and increases the maximum compensation by $169,125, from $299,288 to $468,413 for the entire amended 2-year and 6-month term. The original contract commenced November 6, 2023. See Exhibit A.

Fiscal Summary

Funding Source	Contract Amendment	Current Maximum Compensation	Amended Maximum Compensation	
County	--	--	--	
State	--	--	--	
Federal[1]	$ 169,125	$ 299,288	$ 468,413	
Other	--	--	--	
Total	$ 169,125	$ 299,288	$ 468,413	[2]

[1] U.S. Department of the Treasury, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.
[2] For the entire amended 2-year and 6-month term.

Analysis

The Department advised that as part of the Re-Imagining Recreation and Parks Plan, the County is assisting County Recreation and Nature Councils to successfully transition to the new operating model outlined in the plan. Under the proposed amendment, the contractor will provide capacity-building services for the County's 39 Recreation and 5 Nature Councils as follows: preliminary discovery work and overall project coordination, including meetings with interested Recreation and Nature Council executive committees ($34,125); up to five virtual training sessions for each of two cohorts of 12-15 organizations and two individual coaching sessions for each organization ($40,000); and one-on-one consulting engagements with 20 individual organizations, comprised of 10- and 20-hour engagements designed to address specific organizational needs such as risk management, legal compliance, and financial management ($95,000). The contractor will bill the County at a blended hourly rate of $250.

On November 6, 2023, the Council approved the original 1-year and 6-month contract not to exceed $299,288 for the entire term, including the renewal and extension periods, which provided technical assistance, training, and capacity-building services to the County's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)-eligible community-based organizations and County ARPA subrecipients. According to the County's financial system, as of November 25, 2024, $200,000 has been expended under the contract. The proposed amendment, which commences upon Council approval, incorporates the additional scope of services related to the Recreation and Nature Councils, extends the agreement for 1 year, and increases the maximum compensation by $169,125, from $299,288 to $468,413 for the entire amended 2-year and 6-month term. All other terms and conditions remain the same.

The County awarded the original contract through a competitive procurement process based on qualifications and experience from four proposals received; the Department of Planning previously advised that two proposals were deemed nonresponsive. According to the procurement documents, there is a 30% M/WBE participation requirement.

On October 28, 2024, the Administration submitted administrative support grants totaling $68,266 in ARPA funds to the Council via the 14-day notification process for seven Recreation Councils' costs (e.g., insurance, bookkeeping) during the transition to the new operating model.

The Department of Planning previously advised that it planned to use an additional $200,000, beyond the cost of this contract, of previously-appropriated ARPA funds for direct capacity-building financial support to ARPA-eligible community-based organizations that have accessed technical assistance services through this contract; on November 1, 2024, the Administration submitted capacity building grants totaling $165,000 in ARPA funds for various community-based organizations to the Council via the 14-day notification process. The Departments of Planning and Recreation and Parks advised that additional ARPA-funded direct grants are not anticipated; however, the Department of Recreation and Parks advised that additional General Fund grants to Recreation and Nature Councils may be forthcoming.

County Charter, Section 715, requires that “any contract must be approved by the County Council before it is executed if the contract is…for services for a term in excess of two years or involving the expenditure of more than $25,000 per year….”

Executive Summary

Change Order request to PO–10000109, SCON-10002068 (The Maryland Association of Non-Profits, MANO.) *Consulting Services, Capacity Building and Technical Assistance for Community Based Organizations.(Department of Planning).*

As part of the Re-Imagining Recreation and Parks Plan, Baltimore County Administrators are assisting County Recreation and Nature Councils to successfully transition to the new operating model outlined in the Plan. This requires each Council to grow its organizational capacity. We are requesting to extend the contract project timeline from April 30, 2025 to December 31, 2025 and to increase the contract amount by $169,125.00 as outlined in the MANO *Capacity Building Proposal*. This increase will change the original contract amount of $299,288.00 to $468,413.00.

MANO has been successfully providing capacity building workshops for community organizations through the current Department of Planning project, *Consulting Services, Capacity Building and Technical Assistance for Community Based Organizations.*SCON-10002968, PO-10000109. To date under the current approved contract for $299,288.00, MANO has engaged over 300 organizations serving County residents to provide information on their capacity-building needs. Over 120 community-based organizations, non-profits, and business organizations have benefitted from direct participation in webinars delivered to date. Six additional webinars targeting ARPA-eligible organizations but open to all are scheduled to be delivered between September 2024 and February 2025. Finally, following evaluation of their ARPA-eligibility, we expect 38 eligible organizations to participate in more intensive technical assistance workshops and 1:1 technical assistance to be delivered between September 2024 and March 2025.

The approval of this Change Order Request will allow, MANO to design and deliver capacity building workshops and individual organizational coaching specific to the needs of the 39 Recreation Councils and 5 Nature Councils, beginning in Winter 2024 through December 2025. The Proposal includes

- **I.** **Preliminary Discovery Work and Overall Project Coordination**: Maryland Nonprofits will commence the project by conducting preliminary discovery work and coordinating the overall project. This phase includes interviewing Division Chiefs to understand the specific needs and objectives of the project. Virtual meetings will be scheduled and conducted with each interested Council Executive Committee, totaling 41 sessions. Additionally, ongoing project coordination will be provided to ensure the seamless execution of the project.
- **II.** **Cohort Training Sessions**: Maryland Nonprofits will organize cohort training sessions to engage 12-15 organizations in each cohort. Two cohorts will be established, one focusing on all volunteer organizations and the other on best practices or specialization. Up to five virtual sessions will be conducted for each cohort, including preparation time. A pre-assessment will be conducted and analyzed to tailor the training to the specific needs of the participants. Individual coaching sessions will be provided to each organization, with two sessions per organization. Three instructors/coaches will be included to facilitate the training**.**
- **III.** **One-to-One Consulting Engagements**: Maryland Nonprofits will offer one-to-one consulting engagements to provide personalized support to the councils. Ten-hour engagements will be provided for 10 organizations, covering possible topics such as Board Governance, Risk Management, Legal Compliance, Communications, Technology, and Evaluation. Additionally,

twenty-hour engagements will be offered for another 10 organizations, focusing on possible topics such as Strategic Planning, Fundraising and Resource Development, Financial Management, and Human Resources. These engagements are designed to address specific organizational needs and enhance their capacity to operate independently as a nonprofit. Maryland Nonprofits will provide project coordination throughout the duration of the 1:1 Consulting engagements.

Prepared by: Department of Recreation and Parks

FM-2 (Contract) **Council District(s) _All_**

Department of Health and Human Services

Canine Boarding Services – Animal Services

The Administration is requesting approval of a contract with Dogwood Kennels, LLC to provide long-term and emergency canine boarding services for Baltimore County Animal Services (BCAS) as needed. The contract commences December 18, 2024, continues for 1 year, and will renew automatically for four additional 1-year periods with the option to extend the initial term or any renewal term an additional 120 days. The contract provides that compensation may not exceed the amount appropriated for these services for the entire contract term. The Department advised that estimated compensation totals $295,464 for the entire 5-year and 4-month term, including the renewal and extension periods. See Exhibit A.

Fiscal Summary

Funding Source	Total Compensation	Notes
County (1)	$ 295,464	(1) General Fund Operating Budget.
State	--	(2) Estimate for the entire 5-year and 4-month term.
Federal	--	
Other	--	
Total	$ 295,464 (2)	

Analysis

Under the proposed contract, Dogwood Kennels, LLC will provide long-term and emergency boarding of dogs housed by BCAS (e.g., pending Animal Hearing Board decisions or cruelty investigations) as needed. Services include housing the dogs in a secure, temperature-controlled facility, with each dog in their own individual kennel; providing physical activity 1 to 2 times daily; and feeding and medicating as directed by BCAS medical staff. BCAS will provide all dog food, medication, and monthly preventatives. The Department estimates that the contractor will provide services to 5-10 dogs annually. The contractor will provide boarding services at a cost of $28 per dog per day and administer medications at a cost of $1 per dog per day (as needed). The contract requires that the facility be located within the County's boundaries; Dogwood Kennels, LLC is located in Windsor Mill.

The contract commences December 18, 2024, continues for 1 year, and will renew automatically for four additional 1-year periods with the option to extend the initial term or any renewal term an additional 120 days on the same terms and conditions, unless the County provides notice of non-renewal. The contract provides that compensation may not exceed the amount appropriated for these services for the entire contract term. The Department advised that estimated compensation totals $295,464 for the entire 5-year and 4-month term, including the renewal and extension periods.

Prior to the commencement of each renewal period, the County may entertain a request for an escalation in unit prices in accordance with the Consumer Price Index – All Urban Consumers – United States Average – All Items (CPI-U), as published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics at the time of the request, or up to a maximum 5% increase on the current pricing, whichever is lower. The County may terminate the agreement by providing 30 days prior written notice.

The Department advised that the County awarded the contract through a competitive procurement process based on low bid from two bids received and that there is not an M/WBE participation requirement.

The Department advised that Dogwood Kennels, LLC has been providing services to BCAS since 2021. Most recently, on December 18, 2023, the Council approved a similar 1-year contract not to exceed $65,000 with the contractor. The County's financial system indicates that as of November 22, 2024, the County has expended/encumbered $39,100 under the contract.

County Charter, Section 715, requires that "any contract must be approved by the County Council before it is executed if the contract is…for services for a term in excess of two years or involving the expenditure of more than $25,000 per year…."

Executive Summary

Dogwood Pet Lodge (aka. Dogwood Kennels) is a full service 24 hour animal boarding facility that currently provides Baltimore County Animal Services (BCAS) with canine boarding. Dogwood Pet Lodge is located in a convenient area of the county that BCAS Animal Control Officers and medical staff can access to check on dogs and transport to or from as needed. Dogwood Pet Lodge provides housing and care of dogs that are on long-term adminstative holds pending court proceedings.

BCAS has been working with Dogwood Pet Lodge since July 1, 2021. An emergency procurement was requested in 2021 to begin this boarding service due to an extensive cruelty and abuse investigation resulting in the removal of 48 dogs. For the past three years BCAS and Dogwood Pet Lodge have established an excellent businsess relationship. BCAS is not able to provide daily enrichment, training and higher levels of care that long-term dog boarding requires. This long-term care could be a few months to over a year depending on the court timeline.

Prepared by: Department of Health and Human Services

FM-3 (Contract) **Council District(s) _All_**

Department of Health and Human Services

Cancer Prevention, Early Detection, Diagnosis &Treatment Services

The Administration is requesting approval of a contract with University of Maryland St. Joseph Medical Center, LLC to provide hospital services related to the prevention, early detection, and diagnosis and treatment of cancer for low-income County residents. The contract commences upon Council approval, continues through April 1, 2025, and will renew automatically for two additional 1-year periods. The contract does not specify a maximum compensation amount. The contract provides that the County will reimburse the contractor for services at rates not to exceed allowable Medicaid, Medicare, and Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission rates. The Department advised that estimated compensation totals $11,666 for the entire 2-year and 3½-month term, including the renewal periods. See Exhibit A.

Fiscal Summary

Funding Source	Total Compensation	
County	--	
State [1]	$ 5,833	
Federal [2]	5,833	
Other	--	
Total	$ 11,666	[3]

Notes

[1] Maryland Department of Health (MDH).
[2] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention funds passed through MDH.
[3] Estimate for the entire 2-year and 3½-month term.

Analysis

The contractor will provide hospital inpatient services (e.g., facilities to perform necessary services, medical supplies) related to the prevention, early detection, and diagnosis and treatment of cancer for low-income County residents. The Department estimates that the contractor will serve a total of 5 clients annually.

The contract commences upon Council approval, continues through April 1, 2025, and will renew automatically for two additional 1-year periods. The contract does not specify a maximum compensation amount. The contract provides that the County will reimburse the contractor for services at rates not to exceed allowable Medicaid, Medicare, and Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission rates. The Department advised that estimated compensation totals $11,666 for the entire 2-year and 3½-month term, including the renewal periods. Either party may terminate the agreement by providing 14 days prior written notice.

The County contracts with any provider that serves Baltimore County residents and meets County, State, and federal requirements (e.g., clinical criteria, acceptance of mandated reimbursement rates) in order to allow eligible patients choices regarding medical providers. Under no circumstances will eligible patients be charged for services provided under these contracts. The Department advised that to recruit providers, the County advertises in professional journals and annually places an advertisement in *The Jeffersonian*. The Department further advised that the County currently has 25 Council-approved contracts for these services; as of November 18, 2024, expenditures/encumbrances under the contracts totaled $380,808.

County Charter, Section 715, requires that "any contract must be approved by the County Council before it is executed if the contract is…for services for a term in excess of two years or involving the expenditure of more than $25,000 per year…."

Executive Summary

Baltimore County Department of Health Cancer Contract with University of Maryland St Joseph Medical Center

The administration is seeking your approval of a contract agreement with the University of Maryland St Joseph Medical Center to provide hospital services related to the prevention, early detection and diagnosis/treatment of cancer for low-income residents. The initial 4-month term is for $1,666.70 and the contract will have two, 1-year renewals.

BACKGROUND
The State of Maryland Department of Health, Center for Cancer Prevention and Control have awarded funds to the Baltimore County Department of Health and Human Services for the purpose of prevention, early detection and diagnosis/treatment of cancer for low-income Maryland residents.

The Baltimore County Department of Health Cancer Program contracts with local providers to provide clinical and hospital services in accordance with the CDC and the State of Maryland mandated standardized requirements. The contract with University of Maryland, St Joseph Medical Center was established to allow consumers the option to choose from a list of providers located throughout Baltimore County.

FISCAL
The University of Maryland, St Joseph Medical Center agreement has been reviewed and approved by the Baltimore County Office of Law. If County Council approves this agreement, the contract will be in place for an initial 4-month period, through April 1, 2025 with two, one-year renewal options.

Prepared by: Department of Health and Human Services

FM-4 (Contract Amendment) **Council District(s) All**

Department of Environmental Protection & Sustainability

Planning & Design Services – Electric Vehicles

The Administration is requesting approval of an amendment to a contract between the Maryland Clean Energy Center (MCEC) and Siemens Industry, Inc. to continue to assess the County's electric vehicle infrastructure. (MCEC is a corporate instrumentality of the State whose mission is to advance clean energy and energy efficiency products, services, and technologies as part of a specific economic development strategy.) The proposed amendment commences upon Council approval and extends the contract an additional 3 months, from the date services are completed but no later than December 31, 2024, to the date services are completed but no later than March 31, 2025. The Department advised that the proposed amendment is necessary to allow the contractor to complete a technical evaluation to identify recommended future charging station locations. The maximum compensation of $145,835 remains unchanged. (The County will provide the funding to MCEC, which will then compensate Siemens Industry, Inc.) The contract commenced May 23, 2024. See Exhibit A.

Fiscal Summary

The amendment has no fiscal impact since the maximum compensation of $145,835 remains unchanged for the entire amended term. The source of funding for the contract is the Capital Projects Fund; the County will provide the funding to MCEC, which will then compensate Siemens Industry, Inc.

Analysis

Under the proposed amendment, the contractor will continue to assess the County's electric vehicle infrastructure, including providing planning and design services. The Department previously advised that the County will convert at least 10% of its government passenger fleet to electric vehicles and install charging infrastructure to support the fleet by 2030.

The Department previously advised that Siemens Industry, Inc. will conduct a five-phase assessment of the County's electric vehicle infrastructure, as follows:

- Phase 1 – Project Kickoff ($8,132) – The contractor will establish project foundations and direction, develop a plan and schedule, hold a kickoff meeting, and identify goals and objectives.
- Phase 2 – Current Ecosystem ($16,423) – The contractor will identify and assess the County's current vehicle fleet (electric and non-electric) and charging infrastructure, existing policies and programs (e.g., procurement), and best practices.
- Phase 3 – Future Ecosystem ($25,070) – The contractor will forecast the County's electric vehicle infrastructure, services, and program needs, including charging locations, vehicle conversions (i.e., identify fleet vehicle replacement alternatives and costs), electric grid impacts/charging demands, and potential necessary changes to County policies (e.g., zoning, parking, codes, permitting). The contractor will also develop a phased fleet electrification replacement plan in line with the County's FY 2024, FY 2025, FY 2026, and FY 2030 targets.
- Phase 4 – Costs and Ownership ($23,753) – The contractor will identify electric vehicle, charging infrastructure, and electric utility upgrade costs and identify financing and ownership options (e.g., federal grants).
- Phase 5 – Strategy and Roadmap ($18,174) – The contractor will develop an electric vehicle transition strategy and plan, including identifying charging hardware specifications, recommending operations and maintenance policies, and identifying an emissions calculator.

Other costs include project management ($11,457), an M/WBE fee ($41,625), and travel ($1,200). Hourly rates range from $191 to $345, depending on the staff.

The Department advised that the contractor is currently working on Phases 2 through 5, and the current project timeline is as follows:

- 60% submittal by December 31, 2024, including a narrowed-down list of a maximum of 15 locations for electric vehicle charging infrastructure;
- 90% submittal by January 31, 2025; and
- final presentation in mid-February.

On May 23, 2024, the Council approved the original contract (which commenced upon Council approval and continued until the agreed upon services are completed, but no later than December

31, 2024) not to exceed $145,835 for the entire term. The contract provides that MCEC will pay the contractor directly from funds provided by the County. The Department advised that as of November 26, 2024, the County has not expended any funds under the contract.

The Department advised that the proposed amendment is necessary to provide the contractor additional time to complete a technical evaluation to identify recommended future charging station locations based on information (e.g., County vehicles' parking location assignments) provided by the County in October 2024. The Department further advised that the additional information enhances the quantitative-based analysis that will determine the recommended number of charging stations for each facility; a slightly extended project timeline will also accommodate site audits for up to 15 locations to evaluate the compatibility of hosting electric vehicle charging stations along with any upgrades needed to support the transition. The proposed amendment, which commences upon Council approval, extends the contract an additional 3 months, from the date services are completed but no later than December 31, 2024, to the date services are completed but no later than March 31, 2025. All other terms and conditions remain the same. The proposed amendment has no fiscal impact since the maximum compensation amount remains unchanged for the entire amended term.

The Department previously advised that MCEC issued a Request for Proposals and the County and MCEC awarded the contract based on qualifications and experience from eight proposals received. According to the procurement documents, there is a 30% M/WBE participation requirement. MCEC may terminate the agreement.

The County's financial system indicates that as of November 25, 2024, the County currently has two other contracts with Siemens Industry, Inc.

County Charter, Section 715, requires that "any contract must be approved by the County Council before it is executed if the contract is…for services for a term in excess of two years or involving the expenditure of more than $25,000 per year…."

Executive Summary

November 13, 2024

On September 7, 2023, Maryland Clean Energy Center “MCEC” released a Request for Proposals for an Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Assessment for Baltimore County, and MCEC and the County selected Siemens Industry, Inc for a contract award based on technical qualifications and competitive price proposal. The original agreement established that MCEC purchases the contractor’s services, and the contractor shall provide planning and design services for Baltimore County (“Client”) to support the adoption of electric vehicles through effective charging infrastructure. Performance under this agreement commenced on May 23, 2024, and continues until agreed upon services are completed, but (originally) no later than December 31, 2024.

The proposed first amendment to the Procurement Contract revises the project timeline to state: performance under the agreement commences on the date on which the Baltimore County Council approved the agreement, and continues until agreed upon services are completed, but in any case, no later than **March 31, 2025**. The proposed additional 3 months of time will allow the consultant to complete a technical evaluation to identify recommended future charging station locations based on information provided by the County in October. This additional information included updated vehicle parking location assignments, to help inform the evaluation. The final study will include: electric capacity/load studies, detailed cost estimations for infrastructure upgrades per site, and annual budgetary estimations to support the comprehensive buildout.

The contract amendment must be reviewed and approved by the Office of Law and the County Administrative Officer.

Prepared by: Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainabiity

MB-2 (Res. 47-24) **Council District(s) __All__**

Councilmembers Patoka, Ertel, Kach, Marks, Crandell & Young

Establishing 2025 Redistricting Commission

Resolution 47-24 establishes the Baltimore County Councilmanic Redistricting Commission to recommend a redistricting map and legislation for the 2026 general election.

On July 1, 2024, the County Council enacted Bill 47-24 which amended the Baltimore County Charter to increase the number of Council districts from seven to nine starting with the 2026 election. Bill 47-24 also amended the Councilmanic redistricting process set forth in Section 207 of the Charter. On November 5, 2024, the voters of Baltimore County approved the Charter amendments enacted in Bill 47-24, including the requirement that Council districts be revised to establish nine Councilmanic districts for the 2026 election.

Bill 47-24 specifically amended Charter Section 206 to state “revisions of council districts may only be enacted in accordance with Section 207 of this Charter and may only occur: before October 1, 2025 or after each decennial census of the United States; or upon ratification of amendments to this Charter by the voters of Baltimore County to increase or decrease the number of council districts.” Bill 47-24 also amended Charter Section 207 to change the membership of the redistricting commission from five members appointed by the County Council to seven members, with one commission member nominated by each Councilmember and confirmed by the County Council.

Charter Section 207 requires the Commission to hold at least three public hearings and to recommend to the County Council legislation to revise, amend, or reconstitute the Councilmanic districts such that the districts are compact, contiguous, and substantially equal in population, with due regard given to current natural, geographic, and community boundaries. Upon receipt of the Commission’s recommendation, the County Council is required to hold at least one public hearing on the Commission’s recommendation and to adopt a final redistricting plan by legislative act in accordance with the requirements of the County Charter. In accordance with the amendments to Charter Sections 206 and 207 approved by County voters, the County Council is required to establish a Redistricting Commission to revise the Councilmanic districts for the 2026 election.

Accordingly, Resolution 47-24 states that the seven members of the Commission shall be appointed and confirmed by the County Council by January 21, 2025. The resolution also states that in accordance with the overall redistricting deadline in Charter Section 206 of October 1, 2025, the Baltimore County Councilmanic Redistricting Commission shall hold at least three public hearings and prepare a recommendation and proposed legislation, including the configuration of nine Councilmanic districts, to the County Council in accordance with Charter Section 207 on or before June 13, 2025. Last, the Redistricting Commission shall dissolve without further action by the County Council by October 31, 2025.

Resolution 47-24 shall take effect from the date of its passage by the County Council.

Horacio Tablada **Fiscal Note** December 16, 2024

MB-3 (Res. 49-24) **Council District(s) _All_**

Mr. Patoka (By Req.)

Department of Environmental Protection & Sustainability

Approval – Financial Assurance Plan – Watershed and Restoration Program

Resolution 49-24 approves the County's Financial Assurance Plan under the Watershed Protection and Restoration Program. The County is required by State law to submit a biennial Financial Assurance Plan under the Watershed Protection and Restoration Program as stated in §4-202.1 of the Environment Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. This requirement was placed on the County when the requirement to charge a stormwater remediation fee was lifted. §4-202.1 requires the Financial Assurance Plan to identify:

1. Actions that will be required of the County to meet the requirements of its NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) Phase I MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) permit;
2. Projected annual and 5-year costs for the County to meet the impervious surface restoration plan requirements of its NPDES Phase I MS4 permit;
3. Projected annual and 5-year revenues or other funds that will be used to meet the costs for the County to meet the impervious surface restoration plan requirements of its NPDES Phase I MS4 permit;
4. Any sources of funds that will be utilized by the County to meet the requirements of its NPDES Phase I MS4 permit; and
5. Specific actions and expenditures that the County implemented in the previous fiscal years to meet its impervious surface restoration plan requirements under its NPDES Phase I MS4 permit.

State law requires the County Council to hold a public hearing prior to its approval of the Financial Assurance Plan. The public hearing will be held at the Council's work session on December 10, 2024. Also, the County Executive or County Administrative Officer must certify the approval of and information within the Financial Assurance Plan, which must be submitted to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) on or before December 31, 2024.

A copy of this resolution shall be submitted to the County Executive for his approval and shall take effect from the date of his approval. Also, the County Executive shall forward the Financial Assurance Plan to MDE immediately on approval by the County Council.