CIP Committee

Testified at the County Council Spending Affordability Guidelines hearing, asking for County Council to replace revenue taken from the Capital Budget

Held 1st Committee Meeting on October 7th

Agreed to a CIP Workshop the evening of the 28th

County officials have an agreement with state agencies that will allow for more matching funds from the Built to Learn Act, this could keep current projects on time, although 2 projects were changed this year. Dufief ES project has been removed and Woodward reduced in scope. Built to Learn is an opportunity to catch up and fund more badly needed projects and should not be used only to keep the current pace of major maintenance and capacity projects. Costs have gone up by 20% and this will go up more because of prevailing wage rules.

Resources linked below to help prepare for CIP Testimony.

Last Renovations

<https://gis.mcpsmd.org/cipmasterpdfs/MP22_AppendixF.pdf>

KFI’s

<https://ww2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/facilities/kfi/>

ADA

<https://ww2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/facilities/ada/index.aspxPlann>

Planned Life Replacement

<https://gis.mcpsmd.org/cipmasterpdfs/MP22_AppendixK.pdf>

·         October 25, 2021 (at 10:00 a.m.) – the Board will hold a preliminary work session after receiving a presentation on this year’s CIP

·         October 26, 2021 – The Board will hold a work session during the regularly-scheduled Board meeting

·         October 27, 2021 –  MCCPTA CIP Work session 7:00 -9:00

·         October 28, 2021 (at 10:00 a.m.) – the Board will hold a work session on the CIP

October 28 -  8:30 Testimony workshop?

·         November 2, 2021 (at 6:00 p.m.) – the Board will hold a public hearing on the CIP

·         November 4, 2021 (at 6:00 p.m.) – the Board will hold a public hearing on the CIP

·         November 8, 2021 (at 6:00 p.m.) – the Board will hold a public hearing on the CIP and the Gaithersburg #8 and the Bethesda, Somerset, and Westbrook elementary schools boundary studies

·         November 9, 2021 – The Board will hold a work session during the regularly-scheduled Board meeting

·         November 11, 2021 (at 10:00 a.m.) – the Board will hold a work session on the CIP

·         November 16, 2021 (at 6:00 p.m.) – the Board will hold a hearing, if needed, on the CIP

·         November 18, 2021 (5:30 p.m.) – the Board is scheduled to hold a meeting to take tentative action on the CIP recommendations.

Testimony:

Good afternoon, my name is Laura Stewart. I am representing MCCPTA as the CIP Chair. Thank you for the opportunity to speak about the Spending Affordability Guidelines. First, I want to congratulate the council for working to keep our AAA bond rating intact which is in part due to your bond debt policy. I do want to caution this council that a reduction in debt needs to be coupled with a dependable revenue stream for construction projects. We have not seen a willingness to address the revenue side over the last few years, forcing the CIP to a level of spending not seen since 2015. At the same time, our building costs have gone up by 20%. Therefore, we’ve advocated for a slower approach to reducing debt, which we continue to do today.

The last CIP was built assuming that Maryland’s contribution to our school construction budget would grow up to 40 million in FY24. The Built to Learn Act is based on matching funds, so we need MCPS to find ways to maximize the match, encourage our local legislatures to make changes so that Blueprint objectives are considered, and we need to increase the local contribution. All three need to happen in order to keep our current projects on schedule and to add badly needed projects.

In the last SSP update, now called Growth Policy, the council cut Impact Taxes which reduced our revenue for school construction. In the last couple of years, other districts went the other way, they increased their revenue, including Baltimore County, Ann Arundel County, and Howard County who increased their Transfer Tax in 2020.

It’s time we look at the Progressive Recordation Tax or another tax so that our kids have adequate spaces to learn in a time that healthy facilities are especially imperative during a respiratory pandemic.