



Howard County Council

George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043-4392

COUNCILMEMBERS

Calvin Ball, Chairperson
District 2
Jon Weinstein, Vice Chairperson
District 1
Jennifer Terrasa
District 3
Mary Kay Sigaty
District 4
Greg Fox
District 5

Capital Budget Work Session
C. Vernon Gray Room
Wednesday, April 20, 2016
8:30 am

Minutes (approved)

The Chairperson opened the work session at 8:47 a.m.

Members Present: Calvin Ball, Chairperson; Jon Weinstein, Vice Chairperson; Greg Fox; Mary Kay Sigaty; Jen Terrasa.

Staff Present: Jessica Feldmark, Council Administrator; Craig Glendenning, County Auditor; Jim Vannoy, Senior Assistant County Solicitor

Ms. Sigaty asked the Chairperson to add two items to the agenda to continue discussion from the last work session – excise tax backed bonds and J4249 MD 100 at MD 103.

Excise Tax Backed Bonds: Ms. Sigaty explained her concerns based on Mr. Glendenning's cash flow model showing a future deficit. Mr. Vannoy addressed the Council's authority to increase the excise tax rate and the question of the remaining capacity to increase the rate under the existing law, which he stated he and Mr. Glendenning were still looking into.

Council members requested the following additional information:

- The maximum amount of excise tax backed bonds that could be authorized this year without creating a projected deficit in future years
- The capacity to increase the excise tax rate within the County's local authority
- The potential impact of using excise tax cash instead of excise tax backed bonds
- The Administration's response to these concerns after examining different options

K Projects – Roadside/Sidewalks: Jim Irvin, Steve Sharar, Kris Jagarapu, and Chris Eatough provided an overview and answered questions from the Council on specific projects.

Council members requested the following additional information:

- For K5061 *Pedestrian Plan Projects*, a copy of the Pedestrian Master Plan DPW is currently working from for this capital project

- For K5062 *State Roads Sidewalk Retrofit Program*, an update on project schedule and status for FY17

T Projects – Intersection Improvements: Jim Irvin, Steve Sharar, Kris Jagarapu, and Tom Butler provided an overview and answered questions from the Council on specific projects.

Council members requested the following additional information:

- For T7094 *Street Lighting Program*, verify if Edenbrook Drive is on the list for this project
- For T7107 *Downtown Columbia Patuxent Branch Trail Extension*, a copy of the amendment by which \$100,000 was added last year and the Administration's response to the possibility of either adding the other alternative for Phase II or removing Phase II completely from the map

J4249 MD 100 at MD 103: Tom Butler, Jim Irvin, and Kris Jagarapu provided an overview of the proposed plans to replace the existing roundabouts and answered questions from the Council. Chris Eatough addressed questions focused on pedestrian and bicycle access.

Technology Projects: Chris Merdon, Terry Diggs, Gary Shives, and John Eckard provided an overview and answered questions from the Council on service concerns and specific projects. The Council asked Ms. Feldmark to follow up with Mr. Merdon regarding DTCS's retention of emails and how that relates to the Council's records retention policy. Mr. Merdon offered to temporarily assign DTCS staff to the Council office to assist Council Members and staff with the problems they have been having.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:31 a.m.