



THE VOICE OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY BUSINESS

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Public Hearing on FY17 Capital Budget and FY17-22 CIP
February 11, 2016
Testimony by Georgette "Gigi" Godwin
Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) is a long-time supporter of capital projects.

Dollars spent on capital projects means opportunities for businesses and jobs for our residents.

For the record, we have communicated our support to the Governor and our delegation on both

- the full Watkins Mill Interchange and
- The Universities at Shady Grove Biomedical Sciences and Engineering Education facility.

MCCC advocates for more than a single issue or category type of capital project. We want it all! All capital projects put people to work. The CIP spending produces opportunities and jobs. As examples, in the FY 17 Capital Budget we support

- Education
 - K-12 School construction and
 - Up-to-date facilities at Montgomery College campuses such as
 - a new math/science building at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus
- Transportation
 - Transit... like the Purple Line and
 - Roads... like Montrose Parkway East
- Public Safety....to provide up-to-date
 - Equipment and
 - Facilities
- Economic Development...to create exciting, vibrant new places in
 - White Oak
 - White Flint
 - Wheaton

Investment in these key areas ensures a county where our children – our future employees - will want to live, work and play.

However, the FY 17 Capital Budget and CIP is a wake-up call.

It is less in real dollars than last year - \$4.4 Billion today compared to \$4.6 Billion last year.

This is trending in the wrong direction and is a real concern to the business community.

Fewer resources result in delaying projects that are shovel ready, with contracts ready to let and jobs ready fill.

To be clear, we do NOT suggest going above the Spending Affordability Guidelines set by the County Council.

Rather, on behalf of our members, we implore you to identify the root cause of our County's constrained growth that has led to this restricted CIP and move to address the barriers to sustainable growth.

Looking ahead, let's turn this trend around and get our projects back on schedule.

Therefore, MCCC respectfully requests that the County Council focus on and adopt policies that grow our economy.

When businesses succeed they grow, add more employees to the payroll, and contribute to the economy.

We look forward to working with you to achieve this common goal.