



Bus Rapid Transit: Veirs Mill Road

(P501913)

Category	Transportation	Date Last Modified	02/26/26
SubCategory	Mass Transit (MCG)	Administering Agency	Transportation
Planning Area	Rockville	Status	Final Design Stage

EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE (\$000s)

Cost Elements	Total	Thru FY25	Est FY26	Total 6 Years	FY 27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 30	FY 31	FY 32	Beyond 6 Years
Planning, Design and Supervision	28,746	13,651	4,991	10,104	4,100	2,784	3,220	-	-	-	-
Land	19,507	689	7,266	11,552	9,000	2,552	-	-	-	-	-
Site Improvements and Utilities	36,000	-	6,183	29,817	15,000	10,387	4,430	-	-	-	-
Construction	113,051	614	-	112,437	26,000	45,613	40,824	-	-	-	-
Other	32,932	-	-	32,932	32,932	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	230,236	14,954	18,440	196,842	87,032	61,336	48,474	-	-	-	-

FUNDING SCHEDULE (\$000s)

Funding Source	Total	Thru FY25	Est FY26	Total 6 Years	FY 27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 30	FY 31	FY 32	Beyond 6 Years
Current Revenue: Mass Transit	3,115	2,500	-	615	615	-	-	-	-	-	-
Federal Aid	4,343	-	-	4,343	4,343	-	-	-	-	-	-
FTA Capital Investment Grant	149,934	-	14,135	135,799	40,483	50,336	44,980	-	-	-	-
G.O. Bonds	3,074	-	937	2,137	2,137	-	-	-	-	-	-
Impact Tax	4,596	4,596	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
State Aid	25,381	3,500	-	21,881	21,881	-	-	-	-	-	-
State Bus Rapid Transit Fund	39,793	4,358	3,368	32,067	17,573	11,000	3,494	-	-	-	-
TOTAL FUNDING SOURCES	230,236	14,954	18,440	196,842	87,032	61,336	48,474	-	-	-	-

OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (\$000s)

Impact Type	Total 6 Years	FY 27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 30	FY 31	FY 32
Maintenance	540	-	60	120	120	120	120
Program-Other	39,641	-	4,405	8,809	8,809	8,809	8,809
Cost Savings	(15,170)	-	(1,686)	(3,371)	(3,371)	(3,371)	(3,371)
NET IMPACT	25,011	-	2,779	5,558	5,558	5,558	5,558

APPROPRIATION AND EXPENDITURE DATA (\$000s)

Appropriation FY 27 Request	154,433	Year First Appropriation	FY20
Appropriation FY 28 Request	-	Last FY's Cost Estimate	206,742
Cumulative Appropriation	75,803		

APPROPRIATION AND EXPENDITURE DATA (\$000s)

Expenditure / Encumbrances	21,374
Unencumbered Balance	54,429

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project will design and construct a new Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line on Veirs Mill Road (MD 586) between the Wheaton Metro Station and Montgomery College in Rockville. Planning conducted by the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) resulted in a recommended alternative in late 2017. The recommended alternative includes queue jumps and dedicated transit lanes for use by BRT and other buses at congested intersections along the corridor, new BRT stations with level boarding, transit signal priority, purchase of new, zero-emission BRT buses, and other associated pedestrian and bicycle improvements. The study retains curbside dedicated lanes as the long-term BRT alternative for Veirs Mill Road. Pedestrian and bicycle improvements from the Veirs Mill and Randolph Road BiPPA project have been incorporated into the design of the BRT project and will be constructed with the BRT. The addition of a shared use path along the north side of Veirs Mill Road, completing sidewalk gaps along the south side, and improving pedestrian crossings along Veirs Mill Road will improve access to Flash stations.

LOCATION

Veirs Mill Road and Hungerford Drive between Wheaton and Montgomery College - Rockville

ESTIMATED SCHEDULE

Project planning was completed in FY18 and preliminary engineering was completed in FY22. Final design began in FY23 and was completed in FY25. Property acquisition activities began in FY25, utility relocation began in FY26, and construction will start in FY27. Construction will be completed in FY29, and Flash service will start by the end of calendar year 2028.

COST CHANGE

Cost increase to support a higher project contingency amount as required by the Federal Transit Administration.

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

The project will transform mobility options with the implementation of a seven-mile, premium, branded, limited-stop BRT service along Veirs Mill Road. This new service will improve transit travel time and increase opportunity for a broad range of users, including a significant number of minority and low-income riders living along a highly congested corridor. The project will improve passenger transit mobility by connecting riders to high density housing and employment centers. The incorporation of bicycle and pedestrian access and safety improvements will facilitate improved access to stations and improve overall corridor safety.

Plans and Studies: MCDOT Countywide Bus Rapid Transit Study, Final Report (July 2011); County Executive's Transit Task Force (May 2012); Countywide Transit Corridors Functional Master Plan (November 2013); Maryland Department of Transportation/Maryland State Highway Administration MD 586/Veirs Mill Road Draft Corridor Planning Study (September 2016); Veirs Mill Corridor Master Plan (April 2019).

FISCAL NOTE

The County intends to secure Federal funding for this project through the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Capital Investment

Grant (CIG) Small Starts program. The project was accepted into Small Starts in September 2022. The CIG eligible project is estimated at approximately \$193 million. It is assumed that 77 percent of the CIG project will be eligible for Federal funds. Congress appropriated the funds for the project in 2026, and the County intends to execute a grant agreement with FTA by June 2026.

Vehicles are excluded from the scope of the CIG project due to cost limits of the CIG Small Starts program, but funding for vehicles is included in this project. Vehicles acquisition will be funded using a combination of Current Revenue, State Aid, and a Low and No Emission Federal grant. The vehicle cost is shown in the "Other" cost element in the expenditure schedule.

State Aid reflects state grants for capital projects in Montgomery County programmed during the 2022 and 2023 Maryland General Assembly sessions. The State Bus Rapid Transit Fund was created by the Maryland General Assembly using State lottery proceeds, and is available to Maryland jurisdictions to fund eligible BRT projects. The funds programmed were made available to Montgomery County in 2023 and 2025.

Federal aid in this project includes funding from the Low-No grant, the remainder of which is programmed in the Hydrogen Fuel Cell Buses and Fueling Site project (P502408). To ensure that grant funds are spent in accordance with the FTA grant agreement, \$1.385 million in Federal Aid was swapped in FY26 from P502408 for an equivalent amount of Current Revenue.

FY25 funding switch of \$674,000 from GO Bonds to Impact Tax to reflect prior year actuals. FY27 funding switch of \$922,000 from GO Bonds to Impact Tax to reflect prior year actuals.

DISCLOSURES

A pedestrian impact analysis will be performed during design or is in progress. The County Executive asserts that this project conforms to the requirement of relevant local plans, as required by the Maryland Economic Growth, Resource Protection and Planning Act.

COORDINATION

Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration and Maryland Transit Administration, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, City of Rockville, Commission on People with Disabilities, Transit Advisory Group, Neighborhood and Civic Associations, Veirs Mill Road BRT Corridor Advisory Committee, Federal Transit Administration

