



City of Annapolis

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ZONING

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Stephen M. Reilly
PLANNING COMMISSIONER

MEMO

To: City Council
From: Planning Commission
Date: May 14, 2024
Re: Memorandum for Planning Commission Relating to O-7-24: Annual Budget and Appropriations and Tax Levy; FY2025 – FY2030 Capital Budget and Capital Improvement Program

Background

Pursuant to Section 6.16.030 of the City Code, the Mayor is required to submit a capital budget and capital improvement program (CIP) to the City Council each year. The Planning Commission is required to review the proposed capital budget and CIP and submit its recommendations to the City Council no later than the second Monday in May. Pursuant to the Land Use Article of the Code of Maryland, Section 3-205, the purpose of the Planning Commission's review is to ensure the proposed projects are consistent with the City's comprehensive plan.

On May 9, 2024, the Planning Commission received documents and heard testimony on O-7-24: Annual Budget and Appropriations and Tax Levy, which included a detailed presentation of the FY2025 - FY2030 Capital Budget and Capital Improvement Program by Burr Vogel, Director of Public Works, and Eric Leshinsky, Chief of Comprehensive Planning. The Commission deliberated and voted to recommend general approval of the Ordinance as First Amended by the Sponsor with two key recommendations for approval.

Findings and Key Elements of the Budget

It is our finding that most of the projects included in FY25 Capital Budget are consistent with the 2009 Comprehensive Plan and, while not necessary for approval, also fall in line with the goals of the "Annapolis Ahead 2040" Comprehensive Plan, previously approved by the Planning

Commission. In fact, considerable funding in the FY25 Budget focuses on critical elements of the 2040 Plan, including, but not limited to, water access, bike trails, flood mitigation, affordable and workforce housing, and other investments as part of the “Connecting Communities” initiative.

Specifically, new projects funded in the plan includes: Bay Ridge Avenue bikeway design, Chesapeake Children’s Museum improvements, City Dock boater electrical upgrades, city roof replacements, city offices space planning, Eastport Choice Neighborhood Initiative design, Eastport flood mitigation, Fuel Island tank removal and upgrades, Hilltop Lane biker/hiker connection design, Newman Street playground replacement, public mooring replacement, traffic safety improvement, Truxtun Park parking improvement and shoreline stabilization, and waterway improvement projects. Additionally, there are several significant budget enhancements to existing projects, including construction of planned improvements to the City Dock, Connecting Communities trail projects, and General Roadways, to name a few.

Recommendations

The Commission deliberated and voted to recommend general approval of the Ordinance with two key recommendations.

First, with respect to the Bay Ridge Bikeway Project and Hilltop Lane Hiker/Biker Connection, both intended to advance a plan to enhance safety by way of shared use paths for cyclists and pedestrians the Commission recommends greater emphasis in the Capital Budget on encouraging more mixed use zoning to cater to this increased active transportation. In short, mixed commercial and residential development and safe, active transportation networks will work together in a productive synergy. This is one of the underlying goals of the new comprehensive plan.

Second, for the Eastport Choice Neighborhood Initiative, which will be one of the largest investments and development in Annapolis history, the Commission strongly recommends greater emphasis on including more mixed-use commercial space in addition to the mixed income housing options. Intentional inclusion of more mixed-use commercial space in the planning and design process will ensure residents have ready access to more valuable goods and services in the community, and developers can include this space in their design proposals from the start rather than as an afterthought.

Resources

<https://www.annapolis.gov/DocumentCenter/View/30282/Fiscal-Year-2025-Proposed-Capital-Budget-and-Capital-Improvement-Program-FY2025-FY2029-PDF>