

Legislative Budget Analysis  
Proposed FY 2024 Operating and Capital Budgets  
Office of the County Auditor  
Baltimore County, Maryland  
**HEARING DATE: May 15, 2023**



**Department of Public Works and Transportation**

*Director: D'Andrea Walker*

*Budget Office Analyst: Jennifer Berends*

*Legislative Analyst: Lisa Kispert*

Questions to Department Sent	Sunday, April 23
Responses Received	Tuesday, May 2
Analysis considers all agency responses.	

BALTIMORE COUNTY  
FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET ANALYSIS

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION (070)**

<b>BUDGET SUMMARY</b>
\$ in Thousands

	GENERAL	SPECIAL	TOTAL	% Change Prior Year
<b>PROPOSED CHANGE</b>				
FY 2023 - 2024 Change	\$ 6,229.6	\$ (148.9)	\$ 6,080.7	4.2%
<b>BUDGET TRENDS</b>				
FY 2022 Actual	\$ 115,541.2	\$ 1,222.1 <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 116,763.3	
FY 2023 Approp.	129,085.2	16,691.8 <sup>(2)</sup>	145,777.0	24.8%
FY 2024 Request	135,314.8	16,542.9	151,857.7	4.2%
<b>FY 2024 Budget Analysis</b>	<b>135,314.8</b>	<b>16,542.9</b>	<b>151,857.7</b>	<b>4.2%</b>

<b>POTENTIAL REDUCTION</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>TBD</b>	
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*For Information Only:*

Metropolitan District Enterprise Fund <sup>(3)</sup>

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>% Change Prior Year</u>
FY 2022 Actual	\$ 275,545.3		
FY 2023 Approp.	345,936.8	\$ 70,391.5	25.5%
FY 2024 Proposed	354,840.3	8,903.5	2.6%

<sup>(1)</sup> Reflects audited expenditures \$10,313 more than the amount reflected in the Executive's budget documents.

<sup>(2)</sup> Adjusted for a supplemental appropriation totaling \$214,741 not reflected in the Executive's budget documents.

<sup>(3)</sup> The self-supporting Metropolitan District Enterprise Fund, which supports operations in this Department and other agencies, is not subject to County Council appropriation.

<b>PERSONNEL</b>
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	GENERAL*		SPECIAL	
	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME
<b>PROPOSED CHANGE</b>				
FY 2023 - 2024 Change	(210)	210	0	0
<b>BUDGET TRENDS</b>				
FY 2022 Actual	877	115	16	1
FY 2023 Approp.	898	112	16	1
FY 2024 Request	688	322	16	1
<b>FY 2024 Budget Analysis</b>	<b>688</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>

<b>POTENTIAL REDUCTION</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		
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**VACANCY DATA**

Positions Vacant as of March 20, 2023 **	84	13		
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\* Includes positions funded with the Metropolitan District Enterprise Fund. See Appendix B.

\*\* Provided by the Office of Budget and Finance, which advised that it is not currently tracking Special Fund/Metro Fund vacancies.

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION (070)

### BUDGET SUMMARY:

The proposed FY 2024 budget for the Department of Public Works and Transportation totals \$151.9 million, an increase of \$6.1 million, or 4.2% over the FY 2023 budget, excluding \$354.8 million in the Metropolitan District Enterprise Fund (which the Council does not appropriate) as follows.

	General Fund	Special Fund	Total
	(\$ in thousands)		
<b>2024 Request</b>	\$ 135,315	\$ 16,543	\$ 151,858
2023 Appropriation	129,085	16,692 <sup>(1)</sup>	145,777
\$ Increase/(Decrease)	\$ 6,230	\$ (149)	\$ 6,081
% Increase/(Decrease)	4.8%	-0.9%	4.2%
<u>For Information Only: Metropolitan District Enterprise Fund</u>			
	(\$ in thousands)		
<b>2024</b> .....	\$ 354,840		
2023.....	345,937		
\$ Increase.....	\$ 8,903		
% Increase.....	2.6%		
<sup>(1)</sup> Adjusted for a supplemental appropriation totaling \$214,741 not reflected in the Executive's budget documents.			

- **General Fund** – The budget increase is primarily due to increases in service contracts (e.g., refuse collection, refuse disposal, snow removal) and utilities (electrical charges/repairs to streetlights), offset by an overall decrease in personnel expenses (e.g., increased turnover savings, decreased salaries due to retirements/attrition of higher-paid staff, partially offset by an increase for COLAs).
- **Special Fund** – The budget reflects a slight decrease.

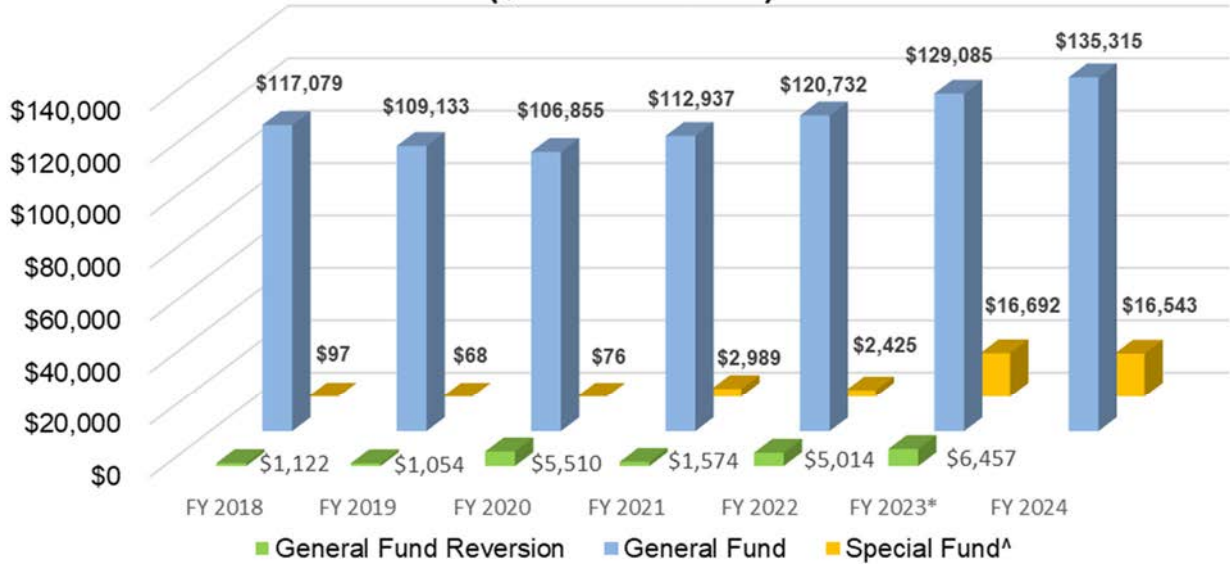
The Department’s proposed FY 2024 budget comprises 3.4% of the County’s total Operating Budget.

See Appendices A and B for program-level expenditure/appropriation and authorized staffing levels, respectively, for FY 2022 (actuals), FY 2023 (appropriated), and FY 2024 (proposed).

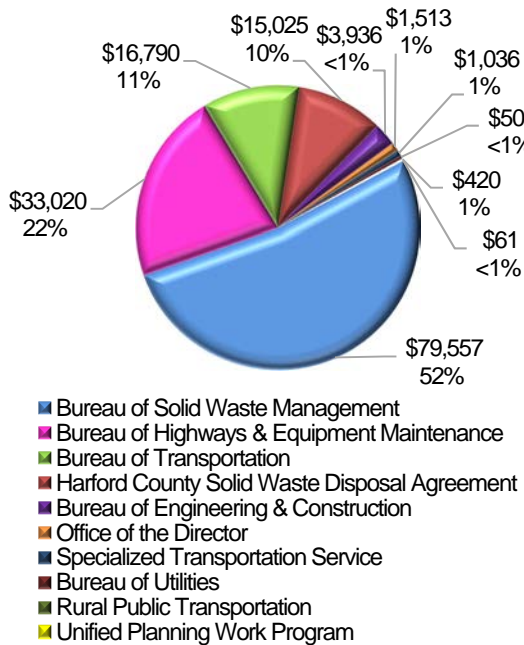
See Exhibit 1 for a budget history and Exhibits 2A and 2B for the distribution of expenses across Bureau/programs and expenditures, respectively.

# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION (070)

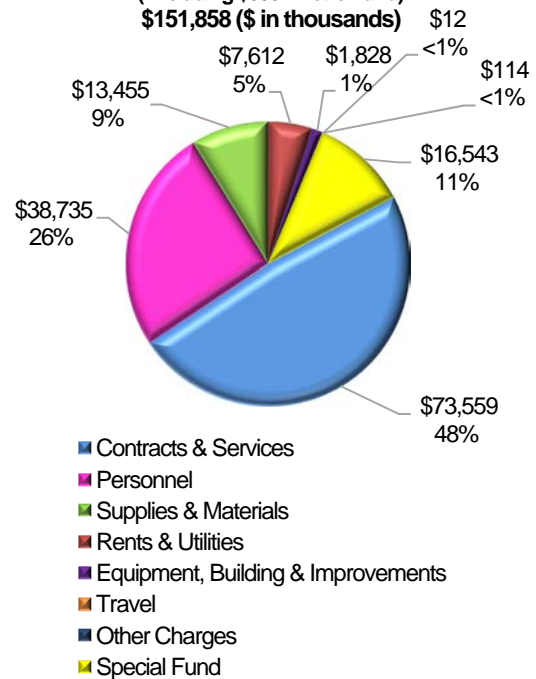
## Exhibit 1: Total Budget History (\$ in thousands)



### Exhibit 2A: Total FY 2024 Budget By Bureau (Excluding \$355k Metro Fund) \$151,858 (\$ in thousands)



### Exhibit 2B: Total FY 2024 Budget By Expenditure (Excluding \$355k Metro Fund) \$151,858 (\$ in thousands)



## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION (070)

### POTENTIAL BUDGET REDUCTIONS:

The proposed FY 2024 operating budget includes the following new or increased expenditures:

- **Contractual trainers not yet selected** at the County's DPWT Training Site (\$200 thousand) (see #1 for details). The Department advised that it has not yet determined whether it will use an existing contractor or procure a new contract for this purpose.
- **Additional Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Waste Audits** (\$66 thousand). The Department advised that the County's first comprehensive waste audit was conducted in the summer of 2022, with the final report submitted in October of FY 2023. The Department also advised that seasonal waste audits are a best practice in the solid waste industry and provide a complete understanding of the waste stream because any diversion efforts such as composting, yard-waste, or recycling require a thorough understanding of the average characteristics of the County's waste stream.
- **Increased costs for road salt** (from \$48.92 to \$64.32 per ton) (\$393 thousand). The Department did not provide a reason this purchase could not be made using some of the current year's unspent funds due to little snow in FY 2023.
- **Price increases for supplier contracts with various vendors for heavy equipment vehicles** (\$269 thousand). These expenses are usually managed via the County's equipment financing program; the Department did not indicate a reason for deviating from this protocol.
- **Electrical charges and repairs to streetlights** in the Traffic Planning Program (\$574 thousand). The Department did not provide any detail to justify this increase.

**To the extent that the Council deems less General Funds than proposed to be necessary for this purpose, an operating budget reduction would be viable.**

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION (070)

### OPERATING BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS:

#### General Fund

**Non-Personnel Expenses** totaling \$96.6 million reflect 71.4% of the General Fund budget and account for **nearly all of the Department's General Fund increase of \$6.2 million, (offset by decreases in personnel expenses) for FY 2024.**

Non-personnel expenses increase by approximately \$6.7 million, primarily in the Bureaus of Solid Waste Management (\$3.4 million), Highways and Equipment Maintenance (\$2.1 million), and Traffic Engineering & Transportation Planning (\$1.2 million), as well as for a new initiative for contractual trainers at the County's DPWT Training Site (\$200 thousand) as follows.

#### **Bureau of Solid Waste Management (\$3.4 million increase)**

- **Refuse Collection Program** (\$1.6 million increase) primarily service contracts for residential trash haulers for the following:
  - CPI increases per service agreements (\$842 thousand)
  - Fuel surcharge increases (\$665 thousand)
  - Additional units for trash collection (\$46 thousand)(See ARPA section below regarding additional funding for trash haulers.)
  
- **Refuse Disposal Program** (\$917 thousand increase) primarily for the following:
  - CPI increases per service agreements for trash haulers to transport municipal solid waste and bulk materials from various County transfer facilities to disposal sites (\$408 thousand)
  - Increased costs for annual support and maintenance for the software used to capture vehicle/material weights, calculate disposal fees, track tonnage, etc., bird abatement services at the Eastern Sanitary Landfill (ESL), and environmental monitoring at the ESL (\$202 thousand)
  - Wage increases for temporary workers at the ESL (8-10), CAF (6), WAF (4), Residents' Drop-Off Center at the ESL (1-2), and security services (\$149 thousand)

## **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION (070)**

- **Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) Operations Program** (\$842 thousand increase) primarily for the following:
  - Increased cost of single stream system supplies (e.g., belts, pulleys, conveyors, baling wire) (\$339 thousand)
  - Wage increases for 39 temporary workers and security services (\$260 thousand)
  - Increased costs for maintenance of single stream equipment, air compressor maintenance and repair, and sprinkler system repairs (\$175 thousand)
- **Recycling Program** (\$61 thousand increase) primarily for the following:
  - Two County-wide Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Waste Audits (\$66 thousand). The Department advised that the County's first comprehensive waste audit was conducted in the summer of 2022, with the final report submitted in October of FY 2023. The Department also advised that seasonal waste audits are a best practice in the solid waste industry and provide a complete understanding of the waste stream because any diversion efforts such as composting, yard-waste, or recycling require a thorough understanding of the average characteristics of the County's waste stream.

### **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding**

The Office of Budget and Finance also anticipates ARPA funding totaling \$7.4 million for the following:

- **Recycling/Trash Cart Pilots** (\$6.2 million) - provide 4,300 trash carts to select zip codes in Essex
- **Service Agreements for Haulers and Tippers** (\$1.2 million) – moving towards actual service agreements with haulers, which would include compensation increases and yard material service increases as well as updating hauler vehicles with tippers that reduce contact transmission

### **Bureau of Highways & Equipment Maintenance (\$2.1 million increase)**

- **Storm Emergencies (\$1.0 million increase)** primarily for the following:
  - Increase in contractual rates for snow removal contractors (per State Highway Administration) (\$607 thousand)
  - Increased costs for road salt (from \$48.92 to \$64.32 per ton) (\$393 thousand)
- **Equipment Maintenance (\$897 thousand increase)** primarily for the following:
  - Increased cost for supplies and materials (\$474 thousand)
  - Price increases for supplier contracts with various vendors for heavy equipment

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION (070)

vehicles (\$269 thousand)

### **Bureau of Traffic Engineering & Transportation Planning (\$1.2 million increase)**

- **Traffic Planning Program** (\$574 thousand) primarily for the following:
  - Electrical charges and repairs to streetlights
- **County Circulator Program (the Loop)** (\$500 thousand) primarily for the following:
  - Annual contract costs (Dillions Bus Service). The Department advised that this amount was previously covered by ARPA funding, with \$500 thousand remaining. The Department advised that ridership gradually increased during FY 2022 due to ridership by anchor institutions' employees. In FY 2023, the Department saw a significant increase in ridership due to marketing efforts and transit/Passio apps. For FY 2024, the Department anticipates ridership to increase even further with continued coordination with surrounding institutions and the addition of the Loop on the google app. See below for additional ARPA funding.
  - Based on the results of a feasibility study, the County could expand its fixed transit services into other parts of the County such as Owings Mills and Catonsville.

See Capital Budget highlights below regarding plans to have a dedicated transportation site for the Circulator.

### ***American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding***

The Office of Budget and Finance anticipates \$3.0 million in ARPA funding to be used for operating costs for the Towson Loop.

### **New Initiative for Contractual Trainers at the County's DPWT Safety and Training Academy (\$200 thousand)**

- The Department advised that training is currently conducted by the PW Technician IV and Safety Officer positions, with one trainer assigned to each Bureau's training program. Each trainer can only train two employees on a single piece of equipment at any given time, which limits the number of employees that can be trained and increases the time to get all employees trained and certified. The Department further advised that contracted personnel will increase the training capacity to allow more employees to earn their certifications and expedite professional development at quicker rates, as well as allow specialization of trainings and certifications, which are not currently offered at the Safety and Training Academy.



## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION (070)

*The Department should be prepared to discuss its proposed funding for non-personnel expenses, including:*

- *A timeline for when service agreements with haulers will be established;*
- *Its plans for the continued use of temporary workers;*
- *Plans and timelines for the two County-wide Municipal Solid Waste audits;*
- *Details of the Recycling/Trash Cart pilots, and the reason that the cost totals more than \$1,400 per cart;*
- *Plans for expanding Loop services to other areas outside of Towson, including the status of the feasibility study, and reliance on ARPA funds; and*
- *If utilizing a new contract for the contractual trainers, its timeframe for procurement.*

2. **Personnel Expenses totaling \$38.7 million** reflect 28.6% of the General Fund budget and a decrease of \$556 thousand for FY 2024, as follows:

- **COLAs and Salary enhancements** (\$1.5 million):
  - Pay Schedule changes and COLAs (\$1.0 million)
    - Two 2% COLAs effective July 1, 2023 and January 1, 2024 for employees on Pay Schedules I, VI, and XII and employees on Pay Schedule II above the minimum step on grade H11
    - Increase to the starting salary (minimum step) to \$15/hour effective July 1, 2023 for employees on Pay Schedule II
  - FY 2024 effect of FY 2023 mid-year COLA (\$477 thousand)
    - The FY 2023 budget, adopted in May 2022, included a 3% employee COLA (or equivalent wage adjustment), effective in late December 2022; thus, the FY 2023 budget absorbed roughly half the annual cost of this salary enhancement; the remaining portion of the annual cost is realized in FY 2024.
  - Fully-funded increments and longevities (\$104 thousand)
- **Increased Salaries for Non-Merit Employees** (\$194 thousand):
  - Individual position increases ranging from \$3 thousand to \$38 thousand
  - Reflective of reclassification of 69 non-merit positions
  - Incorporates the FY 2024 effect of the FY 2023 mid-year COLA/equivalent wage adjustment
- **Increased Overtime** (\$83 thousand) – primarily due to staffing issues at the County's solid waste drop-off facilities and for community clean-ups, events and dumpster days

## **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION (070)**

- **Offsetting savings from increased turnover assumption** – from 4.9% to 7.2% (\$968 thousand decrease) due to vacancies and the anticipated retirement of more tenured staff that are replaced with entry-level staff. The Department advised that the increased savings align the turnover assumption with actual turnover rates that the Department has experienced (see #5).
- **Other salary changes** (\$1.5 million decrease) – primarily due to lower salaries resulting from retirements/attrition of higher paid staff (see #5)

*The Department should be prepared to discuss its proposed funding for personnel expenses.*

### **ADDITIONAL TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:**

#### **3. New Programs within the Bureau of Engineering & Construction (\$692 thousand in General Funds and \$482 thousand in Metro Funds):**

- **Data Management Program** (\$437 thousand and an additional \$437 thousand is Metro funded) - The Department advised that this program is a consolidation of several different existing positions into a single group under one manager with a unified focus. Specifically, the program will provide database, asset management, and software services to the Department in support of capital and operational projects. Funding provides for the following:
  - **Personnel Expenses** (\$423 thousand (net of \$6 thousand in turnover savings and \$12 thousand for COLA)) for 11 positions transferred from within the Department:
    - Asset Manager
    - Engineer III
    - Office Automation Analyst
    - Geographic Information Systems Analyst
    - Geographic Information Systems Senior Analyst
    - Geographic Information System Specialist
    - Engineering Records Technician
    - Engineering Records Supervisor
    - 3 Facility Operator II
  - **Operating Expenses** (\$14 thousand)
- **Green Infrastructure Program** (\$255 thousand and an additional \$45 thousand Metro funded) – In FY 2023, a Green Infrastructure Division was established with five new positions

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION (070)

within the Structural Storm Drain & Highway Design Program. The proposed FY 2024 budget reflects this as a dedicated program, which will provide planning, design, and implementation of projects offering alternative methods to control storm water, runoff, and flooding that impact County residents. Funding provides for the following:

- **Personnel Expenses** (\$248 thousand (net of \$11 thousand in turnover savings and \$7 thousand for COLA)) for 4 positions transferred from within the Department:
  - Engineer I
  - Engineer III
  - Engineer IV
  - Specialist Officer II
- **Operating Expenses** (\$7 thousand)

The Department advised that during FY 2023, three positions were hired (Engineer I, Engineer IV, and Geographic Information System Specialist (part of Data Management Program)), and that these positions have been planning green infrastructure pilot projects for six different areas within the County. In this regard, the Department advised that the pilot project analysis and mapping, which were ARPA funded, is complete. The Department also advised that additional ARPA funds are anticipated for implementation of these projects (OBF anticipates \$2.6 million). The Department advised that the first pilot area is in the Concrete Homes waterfront neighborhood of Dundalk with a high density of impervious area that discharges to Bullneck Creek. The Department further advised that this project is designed and moving towards implementation, and that it is working on outreach to the community.

***The Department should be prepared to discuss its new programs, plans for filling positions, and projects anticipated with ARPA funding. The Department should also explain whether a Council-approved contract was utilized for the noted ARPA-funded services, and if so, which contract and at what expense.***

#### 4. CountyRide

The proposed FY 2024 budget eliminates fees for the CountyRide program in order to reduce barriers for those who need this service. The Department advised that the County will forgo less than \$50 thousand in anticipated fee revenue for FY 2024.

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION (070)

The proposed FY 2023 budget included \$428 thousand for the following:

- \$158 thousand - to expand service hours to Saturdays to capture existing/potential dialysis clients and to provide non-medical trips
- \$270 thousand - to add six positions (3 CountyRide Driver I (positions posted, reviewing applications, and conducting interviews), 1 CountyRide Supervisor (position filled April 27, 2023), 1 CountyRide Communications Technical II (position filled May 1, 2023), and 1 CountyRide Communications Technician I (position posted and reviewing applications)).

***The Department should be prepared to discuss:***

- ***The success of the Department's FY 2023 initiative to provide CountyRide service hours on Saturdays and whether these hours will be continued; and***
- ***Whether it anticipates the elimination of CountyRide fees to increase ridership, and if so, to what extent, and at what additional cost.***

### 5. Staffing Challenges

As of March 20, 2023, the Office of Budget and Finance advised that of the 1,010 authorized General Fund positions, there were 97 vacant positions (84 full-time and 13 part-time). The proposed FY 2024 budget reflects an increased turnover assumption, from 4.9% to 7.2%, or a \$968 thousand decrease, due to vacancies and the anticipated retirement of more tenured staff that are replaced with entry-level staff. The Department advised that the increased savings align the turnover assumption with actual turnover rates that the Department has experienced. The proposed FY 2024 budget also reflects significant salary savings due to lower salaries resulting from retirements/attrition of higher paid staff.

The Department advised that it has experienced retention and recruitment challenges across all Bureaus and has taken steps within the current budget to address these challenges. Specifically, the Department advised that it has coordinated with organizations focused on job placement including college career centers, CCBC, BCPS, job fairs, and extensive social media usage. The Department also advised that it continues to work closely with the County Administrative Officer, Deputy Administrative Officer, OBF, and OHR, and the Critical Hires Committee on salaries for hard to hire positions, including CDL drivers (for heavy equipment in the ESL) and Professional Engineers. The Department advised that it is optimistic the in-progress classification and compensation study will assist with aligning County compensation to the specialty requirements of these positions.

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION (070)

*The Department should be prepared to discuss its plans to retain employees and fill vacancies, and the impact of vacancies on operations (e.g., overtime).*

### 6. Waste Disposal

#### Landfill Usage

The Department advised the following regarding the Eastern Sanitary Landfill (ESL):

- The ESL is currently at 73.74% capacity and is expected to reach capacity by 2027.
- It is working to limit the amount of waste sent to the ESL and has increased the amount of trash transferred to out-of-County disposal sites (e.g., Harford County tonnages).
- It is currently landfilling Cells 11 and 12 with no plans to open a new cell in FY 2024, and while the design of Cell 13 (the final Cell for the landfill) has been finalized, it will likely not need to be built in FY 2024.
- It has procured services for a landfill expansion project via the County's NMWDA agreement.

*The Department should be prepared to discuss:*

- *Its plans for extending the capacity of the landfill, and whether the Administration is planning any amendments to the 10-year solid waste management plan;*
- *Details of the landfill expansion project and what contractor (or subcontractor under the NMWDA agreement) performed the associated consulting services;*
- *The rates the County charges for tipping at ESL without hauling away vs. the rates the County charges for transferring only;*
- *The County's current active contract(s) for hauling non-Harford County waste out of County; and*
- *The status of procuring new transport and disposal contracts.*

### 7. Bulk Material Collection Program

The proposed FY 2024 budget includes \$826 thousand, a slight decrease of \$9 thousand from FY 2023, to continue to provide residents with two pre-scheduled collection days per year for bulk materials (e.g., appliances, household furniture, and mattresses). The Department advised that in FY 2023, it has collected 944 tons of bulk trash and 244 tons of bulk recycling, and has seen a 21% reduction in bulk trash calls from residents.

*The Department should be prepared to discuss the costs and success of the program to date*

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION (070)

*and any changes planned for FY 2024.*

### 8. Vehicle Height Monitoring System (for informational purposes only)

On May 3, 2023, the Department announced plans to install vehicle height monitoring camera systems at seven designated residential roadway locations in southwestern and southeastern Baltimore County to reduce truck traffic in residential areas. According to the County's website, warnings will be issued for those in violation for the first 30 days after each camera is installed, and to further educate drivers, signage advising of the maximum vehicle height and the presence of photo enforcement will be clearly displayed at each location. The County's website also has a dedicated page regarding the program, including the camera enforcement locations, qualifying vehicles, exemptions, etc.

## Special Fund

### 9. Harford County Transfer & Disposal

The FY 2024 Special Fund budget includes \$15.0 million for the transfer of Harford County trash out of the ESL. The Special Fund program was established in FY 2023 since there are specific sanitary landfill revenues received from Harford County used to cover the County's related contractual expense to dispose of Harford County's trash, which the Department advised will be taken to out-of-County disposal sites. The Department further advised that the ESL has received 135,476 tons of trash from Harford County as of April 21, 2023.

***The Department should be prepared to discuss its plans for disposing of Harford County trash.***

## CAPITAL BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS:

### 10. The proposed FY 2024 Capital Budget includes \$102.9 million for the following projects.

- Streets & Highways (\$63.5 million)
  - Roadway Resurfacing (\$25.0 million)
  - Street Rehabilitation (\$8.5 million)
    - Pikesville Streetscape (\$600 thousand)

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION (070)

- Curbs, Gutters & Sidewalks (\$9.0 million)
- Traffic Calming (\$2.6 million)
  - School Crossings – Raised Crosswalks School Safety Improvements (\$1.3 million) – an evaluation will be made of the existing crosswalks for each school in the County to determine where to install raised crosswalks or other devices to improve school pedestrian safety
  - Edmondson Avenue Walkability Improvements (\$500 thousand)
- Bikeways & Pedestrian Access (\$2.3 million)
- Miscellaneous Intersection Improvements (\$2.2 million)
- Traffic Signals (\$2.1 million)
- Rolling Road (\$2.0 million)
- Alley Reconstruction (\$1.8 million)
- Utilities Consolidation and Transportation Facility Creation (\$1.7 million) – to consolidate the two existing facilities for Utilities (i.e., Halethorpe and Fullerton) into one facility in Fullerton, and to create a transportation facility in Halethorpe, allowing for the County Circulator to be moved from its temporary location at the Carney Park and Ride. The funding is for the design of both site modifications and the construction at the Fullerton site. The funding for the construction at the Halethorpe site will be requested in the FY 2025 Capital Budget.
- Streets & Highways – Subdivisions (\$1.5 million)
- Pikesville Pedestrian Walkability Improvements (\$1.5 million)
- Complete Streets Pilot Project (\$1.0 million) – for improvements of pedestrian, bicycle, transit, motor vehicle, and shared mobility facilities and their supporting amenities to ensure safety, connectivity, and accessibility for transportation users of all ages and abilities.
- Street Lights (\$850 thousand)
  - Towson Lighting Upgrades (\$50 thousand)
- Traffic Safety Initiatives and Studies (\$500 thousand)
- Bridges & Culverts (\$23.9 million)
- Storm Drains (\$9.9 million)
- Refuse Disposal (\$5.6 million)

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION (070)

### ***American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding***

The Office of Budget and Finance anticipates \$7.2 million in ARPA funding to be used for the following capital-related projects in FY 2024.

- **Windsor Mill Sidewalk (\$3.5 million)** – for continuous, safe pedestrian access
- **Rolling Road (\$1.5 million)** – for continuous, safe pedestrian access
- **Storm Water Asset Assessment (\$1.5 million)** – for drainage infrastructure assessments in 20 storm water drainage basins
- **Northeast Trail Silver Spring to White Marsh Boulevard (\$200 thousand)** – for the design stage, to extend Northeast Trail to Silver Spring Road
- **Red Run Trail (\$200 thousand)** – feasibility study for the extension of Red Run Trail to the Owings Mills Metro Station
- **Six Bridges Trail (\$200 thousand)** – feasibility study
- **Laptops (\$99 thousand) (in coordination with OIT)** – 45 laptops for the 38 field inspectors and 7 chief inspectors to input field documentation and reports to modernize the current archaic method, which in conjunction with an electronic process, will reduce human error and paperwork while increasing efficiency

***The Department should be prepared to discuss its plans and timelines for commencing and completing these projects, as well as identify which of the ARPA costs would normally represent operating budget expenses.***

### **11. Metropolitan District Fund (Council does not appropriate)**

The proposed FY 2024 Metropolitan District Fund Operating budget includes \$354.8 million, an increase of \$8.9 million, or 2.6%, over the FY 2023 budget. The budget includes 6 programs that are 100% Metro funded and 9 programs that are split-funded between the Metropolitan District Fund and the General Fund. (See Appendix A-2 for details.)

The Metropolitan District Financing and Petitions Program provides water and sewer assessment and billing services, as well as utility process services to property owners within the County's Metropolitan District so that residents can benefit from public water supply and sanitary sewer disposal. The proposed FY 2024 includes \$203.1 million in estimated sewer service charge revenues, an increase of \$13.5 million, or 7.1% to cover anticipated operating and debt service costs of the system.



## **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION (070)**

With regard to anticipated rate increases for FY 2024, the Department advised that rates are set to cover anticipated operating and debt service expenses and maintain the integrity and stability of the system. The Department advised that there were no rate increases in FY 2022 and FY 2023 for customers billed fixture-billing rates for sewer service charges in order to rebalance the rates to better align with the cost of service; these rates will be increased at the same rate as other rates for FY 2024. The Department advised that the FY 2023 fiscal impact of freezing rates in FY 2022 and FY 2023 for fixture-billed properties was a net revenue loss of approximately \$593,000.

### *Capital Budget*

The proposed FY 2024 Capital Budget includes \$751.4 million for Metropolitan District projects, including \$555.0 million for Sewer System and \$196.4 million for Water System projects for which the Council does not appropriate. The Metropolitan District Fund must be self-sustaining and is financed by user charges (assessed on property tax bills).

***The Department should be prepared to discuss anticipated rate increases for FY 2024 in light of the approximate 7% increase in anticipated sewer service charges, and the timeframe to communicate any planned increases to Metropolitan District users.***

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION (070)

APPROPRIATION DETAIL

General Fund	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	NET CHANGE	
	ACTUAL	APPROP	REQUEST	AMOUNT	%
<u>Office of the Director</u>					
General Administration	\$ 701,208	\$ 949,433	\$ 751,065	\$ (198,368)	-20.9%
Safety Office	490,739	517,581	762,197	244,616	47.3%
Bureau Total	1,191,947	1,467,014	1,513,262	46,248	3.2%
<u>Bureau of Engineering &amp; Construction</u>					
General Administration	367,902	464,401	350,548	(113,853)	-24.5%
Structural, Storm Drain, & Highway Design	1,407,537	2,114,918	1,654,529	(460,389)	-21.8%
General Surveying	416,893	449,870	463,413	13,543	3.0%
Contracts/Construction Inspections	1,788,491	2,008,356	775,010	(1,233,346)	-61.4%
Data Management	-	-	436,829	436,829	NA
Green Infrastructure	-	-	255,192	255,192	NA
Bureau Total	3,980,823	5,037,545	3,935,521	(1,102,024)	-21.9%
<u>Bureau of Highways &amp; Equipment Maintenance</u>					
General Administration	611,341	741,747	659,464	(82,283)	-11.1%
General Operations & Maintenance	13,509,930	14,506,265	14,937,388	431,123	3.0%
Equipment Maintenance	8,249,962	8,097,779	8,908,951	811,172	10.0%
Storm Emergencies	7,164,812	7,519,120	8,513,714	994,594	13.2%
Bureau Total	29,536,045	30,864,911	33,019,517	2,154,606	7.0%
<u>Bureau of Solid Waste Management</u>					
General Administration	630,619	649,584	752,814	103,230	15.9%
Refuse Collection	39,023,629	43,025,494	44,753,343	1,727,849	4.0%
Refuse Disposal	18,848,912	23,242,460	24,451,468	1,209,008	5.2%
Recycling	2,680,276	2,263,758	2,312,490	48,732	2.2%
MRF Operations	5,846,844	6,361,358	7,286,886	925,528	14.5%
Bureau General Fund Total	67,030,280	75,542,654	79,557,001	4,014,347	5.3%
<u>Special Fund</u>					
GR-1427 Harford County Solid Waste Disposal Agreement	-	15,025,000	15,025,000	-	0.0%
GR-9931 Recycling Partnership	-	-	-	-	NA
Bureau Special Fund Total	-	15,025,000	15,025,000	-	0.0%
Bureau Total	67,030,280	90,567,654	94,582,001	4,014,347	4.4%
<u>Bureau of Transportation</u>					
Traffic Planning	8,280,059	8,275,461	8,861,032	585,571	7.1%
Traffic Sign Installation/Maintenance	1,938,046	2,032,284	2,199,532	167,248	8.2%
Traffic Signal Operations/Maintenance	1,014,277	1,095,449	1,136,720	41,271	3.8%
Transportation Services	970,361	1,517,557	1,350,087	(167,470)	-11.0%
County Circulator	1,204,849	2,742,129	3,242,129	500,000	18.2%
Bureau General Fund Total	13,407,592	15,662,880	16,789,500	1,126,620	7.2%
<u>Special Fund</u>					
GR-1109 Specialized Transportation Service	897,948	1,038,835	1,036,399	(2,436)	-0.2%
GR-1220 Rural Public Transportation	293,746	352,182	420,459	68,277	19.4%
GR-1351 Unified Planning Work Program	-	61,080	61,080	-	0.0%
GR-2006 5311 ARPA Operating - Rural Supplemental Grant (CountyRide)	-	214,741 <sup>(B)</sup>	-	(214,741)	-100.0%
GR-2012 CRRSAA Operating Assistance Grant	30,432	-	-	-	NA
Bureau Special Fund Total	1,222,126	1,666,838 <sup>(B)</sup>	1,517,938	(148,900)	-8.9%
Bureau Total	14,629,718	17,329,718 <sup>(B)</sup>	18,307,438	977,720	5.6%
<u>Bureau of Utilities</u>					
Sewer/Water Operations/Maintenance	394,471	510,222	500,000	(10,222)	-2.0%
Bureau Total	394,471	510,222	500,000	(10,222)	-2.0%
Grand Total	\$ 116,763,284	\$ 145,777,064 <sup>(B)</sup>	\$ 151,857,739	\$ 6,080,675	4.2%
<u>Funds Recap:</u>					
Total General Funds	115,541,158	129,085,226	135,314,801	6,229,575	4.8%
Total Special Funds	1,222,126 <sup>(A)</sup>	16,691,838 <sup>(B)</sup>	16,542,938	(148,900)	-0.9%
All Funds Total	\$ 116,763,284	\$ 145,777,064 <sup>(B)</sup>	\$ 151,857,739	\$ 6,080,675	4.2%

<sup>(A)</sup> Reflects audited expenditures \$10,313 more than the amount reflected in the Executive's budget documents.

<sup>(B)</sup> Adjusted for a supplemental appropriation totaling \$214,741 not reflected in the Executive's budget documents.

BALTIMORE COUNTY  
FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET ANALYSIS

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION (070)**

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT ENTERPRISE FUND DETAIL					
	FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 APPROP	FY 2024 REQUEST	NET CHANGE	
				AMOUNT	%
<b>Office of the Director</b>					
General Administration	\$ 19,578,633	\$ 21,924,721	\$ 23,479,946	\$ 1,555,225	7.1%
Debt Service Metro. District	94,561,026	100,216,420	121,032,674	20,816,254	20.8%
Debt Service - MWQRLF	24,173,337	25,535,312	25,619,823	84,511	0.3%
Metro. Dist. Equip. Financing	1,680,926	2,151,650	2,052,575	(99,075)	-4.6%
Metro Financing/Petition Processing	1,172,433	1,582,791	1,597,143	14,352	0.9%
Safety Office	314,499	360,287	529,665	169,378	47.0%
Bureau Total	141,480,854	151,771,181	174,311,826	22,540,645	14.9%
<b>Bureau of Engineering &amp; Construction</b>					
General Administration	369,276	464,401	350,548	(113,853)	-24.5%
Sewer and Water Main Design	2,090,860	2,729,518	2,376,478	(353,040)	-12.9%
Structural, Storm Drain, & Highway Design	59,175	88,014	68,942	(19,072)	-21.7%
General Surveying	378,329	432,226	445,243	13,017	3.0%
Contracts/Construction Inspections	921,246	1,035,284	2,325,036	1,289,752	124.6%
Data Management	-	-	436,830	436,830	NA
Green Infrastructure	-	-	45,035	45,035	NA
Bureau Total	3,818,886	4,749,443	6,048,112	1,298,669	27.3%
<b>Bureau of Highways &amp; Equipment Maintenance</b>					
General Operations & Maintenance	196,636	310,121	311,000	879	0.3%
Equipment Maintenance	950,409	1,000,850	1,101,107	100,257	10.0%
Bureau Total	1,147,045	1,310,971	1,412,107	101,136	7.7%
<b>Bureau of Utilities</b>					
General Administration	5,108,905	7,985,864	6,121,058	(1,864,806)	-23.4%
Engineering & Regulation	1,212,621	1,337,960	1,398,085	60,125	4.5%
Sewer/Water Operations/Maintenance	9,650,819	11,030,769	11,670,638	639,869	5.8%
Pumping/ Treatment Plant Operations/Maintenance	93,126,192	147,750,574	138,878,488	(8,872,086)	-6.0%
Contributions to Capital	20,000,000	20,000,000	15,000,000	(5,000,000)	-25.0%
Bureau Total	129,098,537	188,105,167	173,068,269	(15,036,898)	-8.0%
Grand Total	\$ 275,545,322	\$ 345,936,762	\$ 354,840,314	\$ 8,903,552	2.6%

NOTE: FOR INFORMATION ONLY <sup>(1)</sup>

<sup>(1)</sup> The self-supporting Metropolitan District Enterprise Fund, which supports operations in this Department and other agencies, is not subject to County Council appropriation.

BALTIMORE COUNTY  
FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET ANALYSIS

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION (070)**

PERSONNEL DETAIL								
	FY 2022 ACTUAL		FY 2023 APPROP		FY 2024 REQUEST		NET CHANGE	
	FULL	PART	FULL	PART	FULL	PART	FULL	PART
<u>Office of the Director</u>								
General Administration (A)	8	7	8	9	6	5	(2)	(4)
Metro Financing/Petition Proc. (B)	7	10	9	11	11	9	2	(2)
Safety Office (A)	10	1	10	1	10	1	0	0
Bureau Total	25	18	27	21	27	15	0	(6)
<u>Bureau of Engineering &amp; Construction</u>								
General Administration (C)	10	0	9	1	7	1	(2)	0
Sewer and Water Main Design (B)	28	1	29	0	27	2	(2)	2
Structural, Storm Drain & Highway Design (D)	20	0	26	0	19	0	(7)	0
General Surveying (E)	12	0	12	0	12	0	0	0
Contracts/Construction Inspections (F)	37	2	38	2	40	0	2	(2)
Data Management (C)	0	0	0	0	7	4	7	4
Green Infrastructure (G)	0	0	0	0	3	1	3	1
Bureau Total	107	3	114	3	115	8	1	5
<u>Bureau of Highways &amp; Equipment Maintenance</u>								
General Administration	10	2	11	1	10	1	(1)	0
General Operations & Maintenance	224	1	223	1	0	224	(223)	223
Equipment Maintenance (H)	68	2	69	1	71	0	2	(1)
Storm Emergencies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bureau Total	302	5	303	3	81	225	(222)	222
<u>Bureau of Solid Waste Management</u>								
(All General Fund Positions)								
General Administration	8	1	8	1	10	1	2	0
Refuse Collection	29	1	29	1	29	1	0	0
Refuse Disposal	40	39	40	39	46	32	6	(7)
Recycling	6	4	6	4	6	4	0	0
MRF Operations	0	27	0	27	3	23	3	(4)
Bureau Total	83	72	83	72	94	61	11	(11)
<u>Bureau of Traffic Engineering and Transportation Planning</u>								
(All General Fund Positions)								
Traffic Planning	23	1	26	0	26	0	0	0
Traffic Sign Installation/Maintenance	14	0	14	0	14	0	0	0
Traffic Signal Operations/Maintenance	12	0	12	0	12	0	0	0
Transportation Services	16	2	24	0	24	0	0	0
County Circulator	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(Special Fund Positions)								
GR-1109 Specialized Transportation Service	12	0	12	0	12	0	0	0
GR-1220 Rural Public Transportation	4	0	4	0	4	0	0	0
GR-1351 Unified Planning Work Program	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
Bureau Total	81	4	92	1	92	1	0	0

BALTIMORE COUNTY  
FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET ANALYSIS

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION (070)

PERSONNEL DETAIL

	FY 2022 ACTUAL		FY 2023 APPROP		FY 2024 REQUEST		NET CHANGE	
	FULL	PART	FULL	PART	FULL	PART	FULL	PART
<b>Bureau of Utilities</b>								
General Administration (B)	24	1	24	1	24	1	0	0
Engineering & Regulation (B)	16	2	16	2	16	2	0	0
Sewer/Water Operations/Maintenance (I)	153	11	153	10	152	10	(1)	0
Pumping/Treatment Plant Operations/Maintenance (B)	102	0	102	0	103	0	1	0
Bureau Total	295	14	295	13	295	13	0	0
Grand Total	893	116	914	113	704	323	(210)	210

Positions Recap:

Total General Funded Positions	382	78	393	74	180	286
Total Split Funded Positions	172	22	181	25	186	21
Total Metro Funded Positions	323	15	324	13	322	15
Total General/Metro Funded Positions	877	115	898	112	688	322
Total Special Funded Positions	16	1	16	1	16	1
All Positions Total	893	116	914	113	704	323

- (A) Split funded; 59% GF, 41% Metro.
- (B) 100% Metro.
- (C) Split funded; 50% GF, 50% Metro.
- (D) Split funded; 96% GF, 4% Metro.
- (E) Split funded; 51% GF, 49% Metro.
- (F) Split funded; 25% GF, 75% Metro.
- (G) Split funded; 85% GF, 15% Metro.
- (H) Split funded; 89% GF, 11% Metro.
- (I) 100% Metro and includes storm drain inlet work charged to the General Fund