



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL

MARILYN BALCOMBE
COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 2

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM

FEBRUARY 29, 2024

TO: Members of the joint Planning, Housing and Parks and Health and Human Services Committees

FROM: Marilyn Balcombe, Councilmember, District 2

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Laurie-Anne Sayles, Councilmember, At-Large

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SUBJECT: Western County Recreation Center (P722502)

I am writing to address the funding schedule for the Western County Recreation Center, a project that holds significant importance for our community's well-being and inclusivity. As you are aware, the County Executive has recommended the inclusion of this project in the CIP, with design slated to commence in FY28 and construction anticipated for completion in FY30.

The establishment of the Western County Recreation Center is poised to be a cornerstone in promoting health, wellness, and social cohesion within our community. Its facilities will not only provide opportunities for physical activity and sports engagement but also serve as a hub for community events that foster a sense of belonging and connection among residents.

It is critical to recognize that residents in this part of the County currently face limited access to such facilities. Without the Recreation Center, they would be forced to commute over 10 miles to access similar services. The persistent advocacy of the community for the establishment of this facility underscores its profound importance.

Deviation from the current funding schedule could not only jeopardize the timely completion of the project but also risk its completion altogether. Such an outcome would send a disheartening message to residents, indicating a disregard for their voices and needs in the decision-making process.

As you deliberate on this matter, I urge the committee to prioritize the maintenance of the current funding schedule for the Western County Recreation Center, as outlined in the County Executive's FY25 – FY30 CIP. By doing so, we reaffirm our commitment to the health, well-being, and vitality of our community, ensuring that every voice is heard, and every need is addressed.

Thank you for your attention to this issue and I look forward to your favorable consideration.