

Resolution No.: 20-1198
Introduced: July 14, 2026
Adopted: July 28, 2026

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Lead Sponsor: Council President at the Request of the County Executive

SUBJECT: Special Appropriation #27-2 to the FY27 Capital Budget and Amendment to the FY27-32 Capital Improvements Program (CIP)
Montgomery County Government
Department of Technology and Enterprise Business Solutions
FiberNet (No. P509651), \$4,251,202

Background

1. Section 308 of the Montgomery County Charter provides that a special appropriation: (a) may be made at any time after public notice by news release; (b) must state that the special appropriation is necessary to meet an unforeseen disaster or other emergency or to act without delay in the public interest; (c) must specify the revenues necessary to finance it; and (d) must be approved by no fewer than seven members of the Council.
2. Section 302 of the Montgomery County Charter provides that the Council may amend an approved capital improvements program at any time by an affirmative vote of no fewer than six members of the Council.
3. The County Executive recommends the following capital project appropriation increases:

<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Project Number</u>	<u>Cost Element</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
FiberNet	509651	Construction	\$4,251,202	Federal Aid
TOTAL			\$4,251,202	

4. This special increase is needed to recognize a Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development's (DHCD) Connect Maryland Network Infrastructure pass through Grant award from the federal government for \$4,251,202 for the installation of 50 miles of new fiber-optic cable and associated hub-site equipment to enhance the resiliency and capacity of the FiberNet communications network. The FiberNet project already includes appropriation in current revenue for fiber optic internet construction, of which

\$1,424,680 will be used as the required match for the grant. The recommended amendment is consistent with the criteria for amending the CIP because it increases the cost of the project by an absolute amount of at least \$2,000,000 from the last adopted CIP.

5. The County Executive recommends an amendment to the FY27-32 Capital Improvements Program and a special appropriation in the amount of \$4,251,202 for the FiberNet project (No. P509651) and specifies that the source of funds will be Federal Aid.
6. Notice of public hearing was given, and a public hearing was held.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

1. The FY27-32 Capital Improvements Program of the Montgomery County Government is amended as reflected on the attached project description form and a supplemental appropriation is approved as follows.

<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Project Number</u>	<u>Cost Element</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
FiberNet	509651	Construction	\$4,251,202	Federal Aid
TOTAL			\$4,251,202	

2. The County Council declares that this action is necessary to act without delay in the public interest, and that this appropriation is needed to meet the emergency.

This is a correct copy of Council action.



Sara R. Tenenbaum
Clerk of the Council



FiberNet (P509651)

Category	General Government	Date Last Modified	01/08/26
SubCategory	Technology Services	Administering Agency	Technology Services
Planning Area	Countywide	Status	Ongoing

	Total	Thru FY25	Est FY26	Total 6 Years	FY 27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 30	FY 31	FY 32	Beyond 6 Years
EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE (\$000s)											
Planning, Design and Supervision	7,385	6,744	641	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Land	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Site Improvements and Utilities	19,257	17,149	1,748	360	60	60	60	60	60	60	-
Construction	35,484	31,233	9,548	2,731	3,647	2,915	2,915	2,915	2,915	2,915	-
Other	70,396	67,164	532	2,700	450	450	450	450	450	450	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	128,275	100,609	5,652	22,014	4,157	3,425	3,425	3,425	3,425	3,425	-
	132,526			26,265	8,408						

FUNDING SCHEDULE (\$000s)											
Contributions	1,611	1,611	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Current Revenue: Cable TV	69,099	69,026	73	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Current Revenue: General	46,552	18,959	5,579	22,014	4,157	4,157	3,425	3,425	3,425	3,425	-
G.O. Bonds	8,866	8,866	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PAYGO	2,147	2,147	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL FUNDING SOURCES	128,275	100,609	5,652	22,014	4,157	4,157	3,425	3,425	3,425	3,425	-
	132,526			26,265	8,408						

OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (\$000s)											
Program-Other				4,750	1,000	-	-	1,250	1,250	1,250	-
NET IMPACT				4,750	1,000	-	-	1,250	1,250	1,250	-

APPROPRIATION AND EXPENDITURE DATA (\$000s)											
Appropriation FY 27 Request		4,157	Year First Appropriation								FY96
Appropriation FY 28 Request		4,157	Last FY's Cost Estimate								121,425
Cumulative Appropriation		106,261									
Expenditure / Encumbrances		102,563									
Unencumbered Balance		3,698									

Supplemental Appropriation Request 4,251

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The FiberNet project provides for the planning, design, and installation of a countywide electro-optical fiber communication network with the capacity to support voice, public-safety, traffic management, data, Internet access, wireless networking (including public WiFi), and video transmissions among Montgomery County Government (MCG), Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), Montgomery College (MC), Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC), and WSSC Water. FiberNet is the communications backbone for the Public Safety Radio and Public Safety Mobile Data Systems (collectively, Public Safety Communications System (PSCS), DOT's Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS), and other technology implementations (including the 800 MHz IP public safety radio). Upgrades and replacements to electronic components in the core and at user sites extend the usefulness of outside fiber facilities. Core and user equipment must be periodically replaced and upgraded to harness the capabilities of technological evolution and to meet the expanding networking demands of FiberNet customers. FiberNet3 investments exponentially increased FiberNet's ability to support cloud services, resilient data storage and retrieval, and cost-effective access to high-speed broadband service. Video transmission will include distribution of public, education, government access channel, and selected cable programming.

ESTIMATED SCHEDULE

The FiberNet project delivers critical voice, video, data, Wi-Fi, and cable broadband services to 558 County, State, Municipal, Educational, and regional sites. It also supports essential operations, including 311 and 911 call centers, public safety communications, traffic management, and emergency services. Continued investment through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) will enable the Office of Broadband Programs to expand the existing 650-route-mile network, extending services to additional department and agency locations currently reliant on third-party carriers. These enhancements will strengthen network performance, improve resiliency, and ensure greater uptime for mission-critical services. The FY27-FY32 funding will advance Phases II and III of the Business Continuity Strategic Plan to include the expansion of FiberNet to replace unreliable and costly third-party carrier service for key County sites as well as create diversified routes to increase network availability and address fiber shortages. And the expansion of the Hub fiber route along Maryland Route 28 will provide critical connectivity to the Poolesville and Dickerson communities, significantly enhancing public safety communications. This upgrade also creates an opportunity to extend service to the new data center complex in Frederick County, reinforcing regional economic development.

COST CHANGE

Addition of expenditures for FY31 and FY32 to this ongoing level of effort project. **Addition of Federal Aid to accelerate construction schedule.**

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

FiberNet is a core infrastructure asset enabling secure high-speed communication services across Montgomery County agencies. As more services are offered electronically (e-applications, e-payment, e-document, e-storage, e-learning), and more services require cloud-based services and applications, it is critical to have access to FiberNet throughout the County. A significant portion of internal building wiring, routers, switches, firewalls, and WiFi access points are beyond End of Life or End of Support. Critical equipment must be replaced to prevent intrusions and ensure compliance with cybersecurity standards. Investments will enhance failover recovery, ransomware protection, and disaster resilience. Upgrading current infrastructure will support the growing demand for e-government services, cloud access, and public WiFi.

FISCAL NOTE

In FY22: A supplemental appropriation request for \$7.2 million in Current Revenue: General was approved to offset declining Cable Fund revenues, which requires ongoing General Fund support starting in FY23.

In FY23-FY25: Montgomery Municipal Cable (MMC) contribution of \$1.0 million in capital funds for FiberNet, in exchange for \$500,000 in operating funding. Additional funding added as an Enhancement in FY23-FY25 to fund Construction, Business Continuity and Equipment Modernization.

In FY24 to FY30, Revenue funding change from Current Revenue: Cable TV to Current Revenue: General because of declining Cable Fund revenues due to consumer shift from cable to streaming services.

In FY27: A special appropriation for \$4,251,202 in pass-through of Federal Aid administered by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development for the FiberNet Middle Mile Resiliency Upgrade Capacity Project.

DISCLOSURES

Expenditures will continue indefinitely.

COORDINATION

Department of Technology and Enterprise Business Solutions (TEBS), Department of Transportation, Advanced Transportation Management System Project, Montgomery County Public Schools, Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Montgomery College, Housing Opportunities Commission, WSSC Water, Information Technology Policy Coordination Committee (ITPCC), ITPCC CIO Subcommittee, and Interagency Technology Advisory Group (ITAG); and supports ATMS, Traffic Signal System Modernization (TSSM) and Traffic Signal CIPs.



FiberNet Route Infrastructure FY2026

FiberNet Served Sites

