



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

County Board Agenda Item Meeting of July 21, 2012

DATE: June 26, 2012

SUBJECT: Approval of Resolutions and Questions to be included in the 2012 Bond Referenda

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

1. Adopt the resolutions in Attachment A, as summarized below, and the explanation of the referendum questions to appear in publications, at voter registration sites, and polling places as detailed in Attachment B, in order to initiate and facilitate the November 6 bond referenda.

a.	Metro and Transportation	\$ 31,946,000
b.	Local Parks and Recreation	50,553,000
c.	Community Infrastructure	28,306,000
d.	Arlington Public Schools	<u>42,620,000</u>
	TOTAL	\$153,425,000

2. Request that the Electoral Board list the referenda on the ballot in the order detailed in this report as shown in the Ballot Layout section on page 2.
3. Direct the County Manager to take all the steps necessary to ensure that the information provided to voters by the County is printed in both English and Spanish.

ISSUE: Should the County Board approve the placement of capital projects, consistent with the County and Schools' Adopted Capital Improvement Programs (CIP), on the November 2012 ballot for consideration by the voters for general obligation bond funding?

SUMMARY: The County Board will approve the FY 2013 - 2022 CIP on July 21, 2012 which includes the Schools' Adopted CIP, adopted by the School Board on June 19. The County's Adopted CIP includes various projects to be considered for a November 2012 County government referenda of \$110.805 million and a School referendum of \$42.620 million.

County Manager:

BMD/mjs

County Attorney:

[Handwritten signatures]

46.

Staff: Jason Friess, Department of Management & Finance
Michelle Cowan, Department of Management & Finance

DISCUSSION: The adopted CIP, which sets the parameters for the County’s bond referenda requests, reflects a balance of strategic investments and maintaining our existing infrastructure. The proposed referenda requests, which are summarized below, are consistent with the County’s debt policies.

<u>REFERENDA QUESTION</u>	<u>PRIMARY PROJECTS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Metro and Transportation	Metro Capital Improvements, Neighborhood Traffic Calming, WalkArlington, Transportation Match, BikeArlington, Paving	\$31,946,000
Local Parks & Recreation	Parks maintenance capital, Land acquisition & Open Space, Long Bridge Aquatics, Health & Fitness Facility & Park, design of Tyrol Hill Park improvements	50,553,000
Community Infrastructure	Neighborhood Conservation, Facilities maintenance capital, ConnectArlington and Intelligent Transportation System	28,306,000
Arlington Public Schools	Design – Construction of new elementary schools, School facility additions and various School facility projects	<u>42,620,000</u>
	TOTAL	\$153,425,000

Extensive information on the details of each of these projects can be found in the CIP document on the County’s and Schools’ websites.

Attachment B includes the proposed bond questions and explanations as they would appear in informational publications distributed by the County at polling places, other County facilities, and on the County’s website. Consistent with state law, the actual ballot will reflect only the proposed bond question.

BALLOT LAYOUT

It is recommended that the following four bond referenda questions be on one or more rows or windows on the voting machines in the following order:

- a. Metro and Transportation
- b. Local Parks & Recreation
- c. Community Infrastructure
- d. Arlington Public Schools

BACKGROUND: The County government’s proposed bond totals are derived from a compilation of individual projects contained in the adopted CIP. These projects are classified into separate categories. If the bond referenda questions are approved by the voters, the County is legally prohibited from reallocating funding from one referenda category to another. Within the referenda categories, however, the County Board may make changes to specific projects; this flexibility is

necessary because of potential rapid changes in construction pricing or other uncontrollable factors. The County Board also has the option of issuing a lesser amount of bonds than that approved by the voters or revising the specific projects, within the proposed authorizing language, to be funded with bond proceeds. Attachment B is a draft of the bond questions and explanations that would appear in informational publications. This information is also provided at voter registration sites, posted at each individual polling place and the County's website. Staff has worked with bond counsel on the bond referenda language.

During the CIP process, a significant amount of community input was sought. During the CIP development and consideration process, staff met with twelve Board-appointed Commissions and Committees and provided information at four County Board work sessions. Additionally, a CIP Public Hearing was held on June 26, 2012. The adopted CIP will be published in hard copy and will be available on the County website later this summer.

FISCAL IMPACT: The estimated impact on the County's General Fund from the proposed bond financing plan included in the adopted CIP and the proposed referenda for the next two fiscal years is shown below. It should be noted that the amount of debt service to be budgeted in FY 2014 and FY 2015 will be determined after future project cash flow needs (and thus actual bond issue amounts) are completed. The table below also includes all outstanding and future subject-to-appropriation debt supported by the General Fund. In addition to debt service costs, certain new projects in the CIP and referenda will result in increased operating costs. Additional information on these costs can be found in the CIP document on the County's website.

PROJECTED COUNTY AND SCHOOLS DEBT SERVICE

FY 2013 Adopted Budget and FY 2014 – 2015 Estimated
(In Millions of \$)

	BUDGETED FY 2013	PROJECTED FY 2014	PROJECTED FY 2015
County	57.3	61.6	66.2
Schools	<u>42.2</u>	<u>44.8</u>	<u>45.5</u>
TOTAL	\$99.5	\$106.4	\$111.7

DESCRIPTION OF ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A - 2012 Bond Resolutions

Attachment B - 2012 Bond Questions and Explanation (as they will appear in publications)

ATTACHMENT A

METRO AND TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

WHEREAS, the County Board of Arlington County, Virginia, has determined that it is advisable to support construction, acquisition, and rehabilitation of facilities by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA/Metro) and other transportation projects as described below at an estimated cost of \$31,946,000; and

WHEREAS, it appears that such improvements cannot be financed from current revenues;

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY BOARD OF ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA:

1. It is hereby determined that it is advisable for Arlington County to contract a debt and issue its general obligation capital improvement bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$31,946,000 pursuant to the Public Finance Act of 1991, as amended, to finance, together with other available funds, the cost of construction, acquisition, and rehabilitation of WMATA/Metro facilities by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, and to pay the costs of other transit, transportation, paving, road and pedestrian enhancement projects across the County (the "Projects").
2. The Circuit Court of Arlington County is hereby requested to order an election to be held on November 6, 2012, provided that such date is at least 81 days after the date on which the Court enters its order upon the question of contracting such debt and issuing bonds for such purposes. The question on the ballot shall be in substantially the form shown in Attachment B.
3. The Clerk of this Board is hereby authorized and directed to cause a certified copy of this resolution to be presented to the Circuit Court of Arlington County.
4. The County Board adopts this declaration of official intent under the Treasury Regulations Section 15.150-2. The County Board reasonably expects to reimburse advances made or to be made by the County to pay the costs of the Projects from the proceeds of its bonds.
5. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

LOCAL PARKS & RECREATION

WHEREAS, the County Board of Arlington County, Virginia, has determined that it is advisable to undertake local parks & recreation projects as described below at an estimated cost of \$50,553,000; and

WHEREAS, it appears that such improvements cannot be financed from current revenues;

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY BOARD OF ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA:

1. It is hereby determined that it is advisable for Arlington County to contract a debt and issue its general obligation capital improvement bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$50,553,000 pursuant to the Public Finance Act of 1991, as amended, to finance, together with other available funds, the cost of public improvements for Arlington County local parks & recreation, open space and land acquisition projects (the "Projects").

2. The Circuit Court of Arlington County is hereby requested to order an election to be held on November 6, 2012, provided that such date is at least 81 days after the date on which the Court enters its order upon the question of contracting such debt and issuing bonds for such purposes. The question on the ballot shall be in substantially the form shown in Attachment B.

3. The Clerk of this Board is hereby authorized and directed to cause a certified copy of this resolution to be presented to the Circuit Court of Arlington County.

4. The County Board adopts this declaration of official intent under the Treasury Regulations Section 15.150-2. The County Board reasonably expects to reimburse advances made or to be made by the County to pay the costs of the Projects from the proceeds of its bonds.

5. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

WHEREAS, the County Board of Arlington County, Virginia, has determined that it is advisable to undertake neighborhood conservation projects, public facility improvements and infrastructure improvements, as described below, at an estimated cost of \$28,306,000; and

WHEREAS, it appears that such improvements cannot be financed from current revenues;

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY BOARD OF ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA:

1. It is hereby determined that it is advisable for Arlington County to contract a debt and issue its general obligation capital improvement bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$28,306,000 pursuant to the Public Finance Act of 1991, as amended, to finance, together with other available funds, the cost of public improvements for Arlington County, including neighborhood conservation projects, information technology and public safety projects, and County facilities needs including infrastructure and facilities maintenance capital (the "Projects").
2. The Circuit Court of Arlington County is hereby requested to order an election to be held on November 6, 2012, provided that such date is at least 81 days after the date on which the Court enters its order upon the question of contracting such debt and issuing bonds for such purposes. The question on the ballot shall be in substantially the form shown in Attachment B.
3. The Clerk of this Board is hereby authorized and directed to cause a certified copy of this resolution to be presented to the Circuit Court of Arlington County.
4. The County Board adopts this declaration of official intent under the Treasury Regulations Section 15.150-2. The County Board reasonably expects to reimburse advances made or to be made by the County to pay the costs of the Projects from the proceeds of its bonds. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS PROJECTS

WHEREAS, the County Board of Arlington County, Virginia, has determined that it is advisable to undertake certain capital projects for Arlington Public Schools, as described below; and

WHEREAS, it appears that \$42,620,000 of such improvements cannot be financed from current revenues; and

WHEREAS, the Arlington County School Board has requested by resolution adopted June 19, 2012, that the County Board request the Circuit Court of Arlington County to order an election on the question of the proposed issuance of bonds to finance such projects;

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY BOARD OF ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA:

1. It is hereby determined that it is advisable for Arlington County to contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$42,620,000 pursuant to the Public Finance Act of 1991, as amended, to finance, together with other available funds, the design and construction costs for new elementary schools, School facility additions and various capital projects for Arlington Public Schools (the "Projects").

2. The Circuit Court of Arlington County is hereby requested to order an election to be held on November 6, 2012, provided that such date is at least 81 days after the date on which the Court enters its order, upon the question of contracting such debt and issuing bonds for such purposes. The question on the ballot shall be in substantially the form shown in Attachment B.

3. The Clerk of this Board is hereby authorized and directed to cause a certified copy of this resolution to be presented to the Circuit Court of Arlington County.

4. The County Board adopts this declaration of official intent under the Treasury Regulations Section 15.150-2. The County Board reasonably expects to reimburse advances made or to be made by the County to pay the costs of the Projects from the proceeds of its bonds.

5 This resolution shall take effect immediately.

2012 Bond Referenda

1. Metro and Transportation

QUESTION: Shall Arlington County contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$31,946,000 to finance, together with other available funds, the cost of various capital projects for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority and other transit, pedestrian, road or transportation projects?

EXPLANATION:

This proposal would fund a variety of transportation, road, pedestrian enhancement and transit projects across the County. The largest component of this proposal would fund Arlington County's share of WMATA/Metro's capital improvement program, including the Metro Capital Improvement Program to improve regional mobility and accessibility and relieve traffic congestion. This proposal would also provide matching funds for certain transportation projects that receive state and federal funding. Proceeds of this proposal would also fund a portion of the costs for paving local streets and roadways, as well as the WALKArlington, BikeArlington, and Neighborhood Traffic Calming programs. The County Board may reallocate bond funds among the various projects to the extent necessary or desirable.

2012 Bond Referenda

2. Local Parks and Recreation

QUESTION: Shall Arlington County contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$50,553,000 to finance, together with other available funds, the cost of various capital projects for local parks & recreation, and land acquisition for parks and open space?

EXPLANATION:

The proposed Local Parks & Recreation program would fund parks improvements and enhancements, and land acquisition for parks and open space. The largest component of this proposal would fund the design and construction of an aquatics, health and fitness center at Long Bridge Park and improvements to the surrounding park. Approximately \$1.0 million for the Land Acquisition and Open Space programs is expected to fund strategic park acquisitions based on the Public Spaces Master Plan or other parks related needs. This proposal would also fund maintenance capital improvements such as playground, courts and other parks infrastructure improvements. The County Board may reallocate bond funds among the various projects to the extent necessary or desirable.

2012 Bond Referenda

3. Community Infrastructure

QUESTION: Shall Arlington County contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$28,306,000 to finance, together with other available funds, the cost of various capital projects for County facilities, information technology, and infrastructure?

EXPLANATION:

This proposal will provide funding for Board-approved Neighborhood Conservation projects.

The Neighborhood Conservation Program provides funding for a variety of neighborhood-identified capital improvement projects including street improvements (sidewalk, curb and gutter, drainage, paving), traffic management and pedestrian enhancements, park improvements, street lighting, recreational facilities, landscaping, and beautification.

This proposal will also provide funding for the County's information technology and public safety needs through installation of a public safety network, and facilities maintenance capital improvements, including design and construction of projects including but not limited to roofs, electrical and heating / cooling systems and other facilities infrastructure. The County Board may reallocate bond funds among the various projects to the extent necessary or desirable.

2012 Bond Referenda

4. Arlington Public Schools

QUESTION: Shall Arlington County contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$42,620,000 to finance, together with other available funds, the costs of various capital projects for Arlington Public Schools?

EXPLANATION:

This proposal would make funds available for the Arlington Public Schools' capital improvement program.

The proposed bonds will fund the design and construction of various School facility projects including new elementary schools, building additions for additional classroom space and maintenance capital projects . The School Board may reallocate bond funds among the various projects to the extent necessary or desirable.

2012 Bond Referenda

4. Arlington Public Schools

QUESTION: Shall Arlington County contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum **principal** amount of \$42,620,000 to finance, together with other available funds, the costs of various capital projects for Arlington Public Schools?

EXPLANATION:

This proposal would make funds available for the Arlington Public Schools' ~~ongoing~~ capital improvement program. ~~This funding would be a primary part of the next major phase of the Schools' multi-year capital program initiatives.~~

~~The Schools' capital proposal was developed after a review of the physical conditions at school facilities, an analysis of existing and future facility needs and project affordability. The 2012 bond~~
~~The proposed bonds~~ will fund the design and construction of various School facility projects including new elementary schools, building additions for additional classroom space and maintenance capital projects as approved by the School Board. The School Board may reallocate bond funds among the various projects to the extent necessary or desirable.