

RP0005
Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission

Capital Budget Summary

State-owned *Capital Improvement Program*
(\$ in Millions)

<i>Projects</i>	<i>Prior Auth.</i>	<i>2015 Request</i>	<i>2016 Est.</i>	<i>2017 Est.</i>	<i>2018 Est.</i>	<i>2019 Est.</i>	<i>Beyond CIP</i>
Maryland Public Television Transmission Systems Replacement	\$0.000	\$0.400	\$0.400	\$0.150	\$0.550	\$3.100	\$0.000
Maryland Public Television – Studio A Renovation and Addition	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.150	3.500	4.750
Total	\$0.000	\$0.400	\$0.400	\$0.150	\$0.700	\$6.600	\$4.750

<i>Fund Source</i>	<i>Prior Auth.</i>	<i>2015 Request</i>	<i>2016 Est.</i>	<i>2017 Est.</i>	<i>2018 Est.</i>	<i>2019 Est.</i>	<i>Beyond CIP</i>
GO Bonds	\$0.000	\$0.400	\$0.400	\$0.150	\$0.700	\$6.600	\$4.750
Total	\$0.000	\$0.400	\$0.400	\$0.150	\$0.700	\$6.600	\$4.750

CIP: *Capital Improvement Program*

Summary of Recommended Bond Actions

- Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission

Approve funding for Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission Transmission Systems Replacement.

Budget Overview

Replacement Transmission Equipment

The Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission (MPBC) replaced much of its transmission equipment as part of the digital conversion project, which started in calendar 2000. That equipment is now nearing the end of its useful life and must be replaced.

The fiscal 2015 allowance includes the replacement of digital transmission equipment at Maryland Public Television (MPT) sites in Owings Mills and Annapolis. Without replacement of the transmitters, the station risks going off the air for the estimated 20% of viewers who obtain the station via the over-the-air signal and for the customers of cable or satellite providers that retransmit the broadcast signal. An outage leading to an unplanned replacement could result in a lengthy period without a broadcast signal, which, in turn, could lead to a loss of the rights to the channel under Federal Communication Commission regulations. The fiscal 2015 cost of this replacement is \$400,000, with a future estimated cost of \$4.2 million. In addition to the replacements scheduled for fiscal 2015, MPT would also replace transmission equipment in Frederick, Hagerstown, Oakland, and Salisbury.

Many of the individual components of the transmission system are beyond their useful life, and replacement parts are difficult and time-consuming to find and are often expensive. In some cases, replacement components do not exist and must be custom built. For other components, original manufacturers do not provide technical support. These factors mean that it is more cost-effective to replace, rather than repair, the transmission systems.

Work at the Annapolis site would also include the replacement of the uninterruptable power supply (UPS), which provides emergency power to the transmitter when electricity fails. Changes in broadcast technology mean the UPS cannot communicate with a new generator. A power outage at the site would lead to a lengthy service disruption.

Summary of Other Projects in the Capital Improvement Program

Studio A Renovation and Addition

Studio A at MPBC's Owings Mills location was built in 1969 and has not seen any substantial updates or improvements since that time. The studio lacks adequate seating for live performances or town hall meetings, and building systems are beyond their useful lives and need to be replaced. The heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems must be replaced; an electrical upgrade is necessary; and a loading dock rebuild is required to allow for sets for programming. The *Capital Improvement Program* (CIP) includes general obligation bond funding for the project in fiscal 2018 (\$150,000) and fiscal 2019 (\$3.5 million), with out-year funding beyond the scope of the five-year CIP estimated at \$4.75 million. This brings the estimated total project cost to \$8.4 million.

GO Bond Recommended Actions

1. Approve funding for Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission Transmission Systems Replacement.