

RP00
Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission

Capital Budget Summary

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

<i>Projects</i>	<i>Prior Auth.</i>	<i>2016 Request</i>	<i>2017 Est.</i>	<i>2018 Est.</i>	<i>2019 Est.</i>	<i>2020 Est.</i>	<i>Beyond CIP</i>
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Maryland Public Television Transmission Systems Replacement	\$0.400	\$0.400	\$0.150	\$0.550	\$3.100	\$0.000	\$0.000
Maryland Public Television – Studio A Renovation and Addition	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.450	3.100	4.750	0.000
Total	\$0.400	\$0.400	\$0.150	\$1.000	\$6.200	\$4.750	\$0.000

<i>Fund Source</i>	<i>Prior Auth.</i>	<i>2016 Request</i>	<i>2017 Est.</i>	<i>2018 Est.</i>	<i>2019 Est.</i>	<i>2020 Est.</i>	<i>Beyond CIP</i>
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GO Bonds	\$0.400	\$0.400	\$0.150	\$1.000	\$6.200	\$4.750	\$0.000
Total	\$0.400	\$0.400	\$0.150	\$1.000	\$6.200	\$4.750	\$0.000

CIP: *Capital Improvement Program*

GO: general obligation

Summary of Recommended Bond Actions

1. Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission

Approve the general obligation bond funding for the Maryland Public Television Transmission Systems Replacement.

Budget Overview

Replacement Transmission Equipment

The Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission (MPBC) has six digital transmitter sites for its Maryland Public Television (MPT) broadcasting. The equipment is located in Owings Mills, Annapolis, Salisbury, Frederick, Hagerstown, and Oakland.

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. Many of the transmission system's components are beyond their useful lives, 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 effective to replace rather than repair the transmission systems.

Without replacing the transmitters, MPT risks going off air for the estimated 20% of viewers who obtain the station via the over-the-air signal and for cable and satellite customers. 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 the Federal Communication Commission regulations.

The fiscal 2015 allowance included \$400,000 to begin replacing equipment at the MPT sites in Owings Mills and Annapolis. The agency has purchased radio parts, interconnection equipment, and an uninterruptable power supply. The fiscal 2016 allowance includes another \$400,000. In fiscal 2016, the agency intends to continue with purchases for the larger transmission replacement in Owings Mills and Annapolis and begin replacing equipment connecting various transmitter sites and the uninterruptable power supply at the Hagerstown location. The total estimated cost of the project is \$4.6 million, with the bulk of funding occurring in fiscal 2018 and 2019. The anticipated project completion date is July 2019.

Summary of Other Projects in the Capital Improvement Program

Studio A Renovation and Addition

Studio A at the MPBC 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. The *Capital Improvement Program* (CIP) includes general obligation funding for the project in fiscal 2018 (\$450,000) and fiscal 2019 (\$3.1 million), and fiscal 2010 (\$4.75 million). This brings the estimated total project cost to \$8.3 million.

MPBC has requested to have the bathrooms at Studio A completed as part of the Department of Disabilities Accessibility Modifications program. If the project is approved by the Department of Disabilities, then the CIP request will be reduced to reflect the additional federal funding.

GO Bond Recommended Actions

1. Approve the general obligation bond funding for the Maryland Public Television Transmission Systems Replacement.