DA0201 Department of Disabilities

Capital Budget Summary

Grant and Loan Capital Improvement Program (\$ in Millions)

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Program	Approp.	Approp.	Request	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
Accessibilities							
Modifications	\$1.600	\$0.750	\$0.750	\$0.750	\$1.600	\$1.600	\$1.600
Total	\$1.600	\$0.750	\$0.750	\$0.750	\$1.600	\$1.600	\$1.600
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Fund Source	Approp.	Approp.	Request	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
GO Bonds	\$1.600	\$0.750	\$0.750	\$0.750	\$1.600	\$1.600	\$1.600
Total	\$1.600	\$0.750	\$0.750	\$0.750	\$1.600	\$1.600	\$1.600

GO: general obligation

Summary of Recommended Bond Actions

1. Accessibility Modifications

Adopt committee narrative.

Program Description

The Accessibilities Modifications program, also known as Access Maryland and administered by the Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD), provides funds to eliminate architectural barriers in State-owned facilities and allows the State to move toward compliance with the federally mandated Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. The program helps to increase access to State

Note: Numbers may not sum to total due to rounding.

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programs, services, and employment opportunities and helps to reduce the liability of the State for noncompliance with the ADA. Each year, MDOD requests projects for funding from State agencies and the public higher education institutions. The projects funded within this program are part of a long-term effort, and the program will require funding beyond the current *Capital Improvement Program* (CIP).

The fiscal 2018 capital budget includes \$0.75 million in general obligation (GO) bonds to fund eight projects at State-owned facilities throughout Maryland. With \$0.20 million available in prior-year funds, total spending on projects is \$1.0 million.

To receive funding in the allowance, agencies must have a transition plan on file with MDOD. As of February 2017, 14 agencies have transition plans on file. **Exhibit 1** lists each agency with transition plans on file and the total cost of their identified needs.

Exhibit 1 Maryland State Agency Transition Plans February 2017 (\$ in Millions)

Agency	Transition Plan Value		
University of Maryland, College Park	\$22.400		
University of Maryland Baltimore County	10.562		
Morgan State University	10.346		
Towson State University	5.243		
University of Maryland, Baltimore	3.950		
Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services	3.067		
Coppin State University	3.362		
Department of Natural Resources	1.436		
Salisbury University	0.971		
Bowie State University	0.778		
DGS/BPW	0.250		
Frostburg State University	0.160		
St. Mary's College of Maryland	0.074		
University of Baltimore	0.110		
Total	\$62.709		

BPW: Board of Public Works

DGS: Department of General Services

Source: Maryland Department of Disabilities

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Identified need totals \$62.7 million, 92% of which is on public college campuses. The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services has the most need of nonhigher education institutions, with \$3.1 million. It should be noted that the funding needs shown in the exhibit are only the identified needs at those State agencies. It is likely that some have other modification needs that are not covered in its transition plan in addition to other State agencies that have not yet submitted transition plans.

Transition plans are revised and resubmitted to MDOD on a three-year cycle, and the current round of updates were due in January 2017 for funding in fiscal 2019 through 2021. Without an update, even agencies that were previously eligible for funding will no longer have access to Access Maryland. The program focuses solely on State-owned facilities, and rented space is not eligible.

Projects receiving funding from this program must complete design within two years of receiving approval from the General Assembly to remain eligible for funding. In addition, starting in fiscal 2010, agencies were required to initiate construction within six months of design completion. These policies are intended to ensure that projects are completed in a timely manner. In the event that a project is declared ineligible, the agency is not relieved of the obligation to make the modification, just that the project will not be funded using Access Maryland funds. MDOD has no way to ensure the project is actually completed. However, for most State agencies, Access Maryland is the only source of funds for accessibility modifications.

Budget Overview

The proposed fiscal 2018 GO bond authorization totals \$0.75 million. However, due to a program balance from lower than expected project costs in prior years, total spending in fiscal 2017 is estimated to be \$1.0 million. The CIP programs \$0.75 million in fiscal 2019 and \$1.6 million annually for fiscal 2020 through 2022.

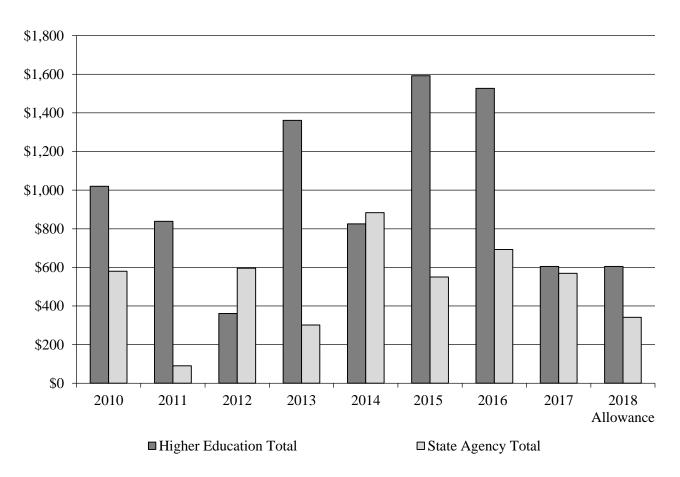
The eight projects included for funding in fiscal 2018 are comprised of four at higher education institutions (Morgan State University; the University of Maryland, Baltimore; Towson University; and the University of Maryland Baltimore County), three at correctional facilities (Jessup Correctional Facility, the Correctional Institution for Women, and the Baltimore Central Booking and Intake Center), and one at the Susquehanna State Park.

Half of the eight projects approved in fiscal 2017 have undergone some action since the start of the fiscal year. All of fiscal 2016 projects have entered into the design phase or further except one project to modify restrooms at Maryland Public Television, which will now be funded as part of a larger renovation and addition to studio "A" for which design funds are proposed in fiscal 2018.

Higher Education Funding in Access Maryland

Higher education institutions have traditionally received the majority of funding under Access Maryland. **Exhibit 2** shows that higher education received more funding than all other State agencies in each year since fiscal 2009, except for fiscal 2012 and 2014, and does so again in fiscal 2018. In fiscal 2018, 63.9% of programmed funding is for higher education institutions.

Exhibit 2
Access Maryland Funding
Higher Educations Institutions Compared to All Other State Agencies
Fiscal 2010-2018 Allowance



Source: Department of Disabilities

The current identified need at University System of Maryland (USM) institutions is \$47.5 million, 76% of the total identified need. With 100% of the historic annual Access Maryland funding (\$1.6 million), it would take 30 years to meet all identified needs at USM campuses. Instead,

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USM can fund accessibility modifications in a more robust manner through Academic Revenue Bonds and Access Maryland can be fully utilized to address unmet needs across State facilities. In previous testimony, MDOD indicated that an impediment to removing higher education projects from Access Maryland is the department's need to maintain oversight over ADA projects. Therefore, the Department of Legislative Services recommends committee narrative expressing intent that, beginning in fiscal 2019, USM assume funding and execution of ADA projects at USM campuses through an earmark of facility renewal projects through annual Academic Revenue Bond authorizations. The narrative also requests that USM provide an annual list of projects to MDOD in order to review for consistency with transition plans on file.

GO Bond Recommended Actions

1. Adopt committee narrative.

University System of Maryland Accessibility Modification Funding: At the current rate of spending it would take decades for the University System of Maryland (USM) to fulfill all identified needs for accessibility modifications across campuses. The needs can be met in a more reasonable timeframe by funding projects through annual Academic Revenue Bonds. It is the intent of the committees that, beginning in fiscal 2019, USM assume funding and execution of accessibility projects at USM campuses through an earmark of facility renewal projects through annual Academic Revenue Bond authorizations. USM should provide an annual report to the Department of Disabilities by March 1 of each year, which details projects in order to review for consistency with transition plans on file.

Agency

Subdivision

Project

Estimated

Cost

Project Description

Prior

Authorization

Fiscal 2017

Amount

Future

Request

DNR: Department of Natural Resources

DPSCS: Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

MSU: Morgan State University

TU: Towson University

UMB: University of Maryland, Baltimore

UMBC: University of Maryland Baltimore County

Total State

Share (%)

100.0%

100.0%

100.0%

100.0%

100.0%

100.0%

100.0%

100.0%

100.0%