




MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

OFFICE OF THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

MEMORANDUM

January 7, 2009

TO: Dr. Jerry Weast, Superintendent
Montgomery County Public Schools

FROM: Phil Andrews, Council President 

SUBJECT: Use of Gude Landfill for Relocated Bus Depot

The County Executive is proposing that the Montgomery County Public Schools' bus depot currently located at the County Service Park be relocated to a portion of the Gude Landfill in order to implement the recommendations in the Shady Grove Sector Plan and his Property Use Study/Smart Growth Initiative. On December 9, 2008 the Council introduced a package of CIP amendments and supplemental appropriation requested by the Executive. They include a request for \$325,000 to fund "a comprehensive feasibility study and planning for the relocation of the Montgomery County Public Schools Bus Depot..." The Council will hold a public hearing on the Property Use Study/Smart Growth Initiative the evening of January 22nd and the Public Safety (PS) and Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy, and Environment (T&E) Committees will hold a joint worksession on January 29th at 2:00 p.m. on the proposal.

I am requesting that you provide the Council with any comments, questions, and recommendations you may have regarding the proposed use of the Gude Landfill for the bus depot. The Council will want to understand what MCPS projected needs for a bus depot in this general area of the county, including the number of spaces and types of fueling and maintenance facilities. We are also interested in whether MCPS may have identified any specific problems or challenges with the Gude Landfill site in terms of ingress and egress, buffering, or environmental concerns. I understand that MCPS may have previously approached the County Government about using part of the Gude Landfill for parking but that there were problems with the proposal. I would like to understand if this information is correct and, if so, what the proposal was and what problems were identified.

I recognize that the request from the Executive is for study and planning monies and so there are many questions where answers are not available. However, if the Council approves these planning funds we will want to fully understand how MCPS and the Executive will work together to develop a program of requirements that will meet the school system's future needs, that programmatic questions from MCPS are being addressed in the feasibility study, and that there will be a collaborative effort to develop any cost estimates for design and construction of the project.

I am asking that you provide a written response by Wednesday, January 21 so that it may be included in the Committee packet for January 29 and that you and/or your representative attend the PS and T&E Committee session.

For your information, I am providing a copy of the proposed PDF for the Gude Landfill, the handout from the update the Council received in September and the update the Council received last April. I am also enclosing a copy of a presentation I received from the Gude Landfill Concerned Citizens.

I also want to acknowledge that the Executive's overall plan also calls for relocation of the MCPS food service facility. At this time, I am not expecting that this will be a major discussion point for the January 29 Committee worksession. However, please be assured that the Council will also seek your input when we discuss any specifics regarding a new food service building.

Thank you for your response to this request. Please feel free to call me or Linda McMillan of Council staff (240-777-7933) if you have any questions.

C: Shirley Brandman, President, Board of Education
Councilmembers (w/o attachments)
County Executive
Diane Schwartz Jones, Assistant CAO
David Dise, Department of General Services
Joe Beach, Office of Management and Budget
Steve Farber, Council Staff Director