



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

MEMORANDUM

January 26, 2009

TO: Phil Andrews
Council President

FROM: Isiah Leggett 
County Executive

SUBJECT: FY09 Supplemental Appropriation & FY09-14 CIP Amendment
Smart Growth Initiative - Withdrawal of Gude Landfill

Several request for FY09 supplemental appropriations and FY09-14 CIP amendments relating to the Smart Growth Initiative are currently pending before the Council. At the request of the County Council, my staff modified the umbrella Smart Growth Initiative PDF No. 360902 to separate the funds in that request from funds needed to do planning studies for the relocation of the MCPS Bus Depot and Highway Maintenance Facilities. As a result a new PDF No.360903 was submitted for planning and design funds for relocation of the MCPS bus depot and maintenance facility at the County Service Park. The Council's request was in response to community opposition to potential reuse of the Gude Landfill for school buses.

I am sending this memo to the County Council to advise you of my withdrawal of the Gude Landfill from further consideration for use in connection of relocation of the MCPS bus depot and maintenance facilities. As my staff has indicated in meetings with the community and the County Council, I share the community's concerns about the landfill and, while studies would be necessary to determine impacts from any such use, I would not recommend relocation of any portion of the MCPS uses from the CSP to the Gude Landfill if the result would be harmful to the community.

While those studies have not been undertaken and it would be premature to conclude that such relocation would in fact cause some of the feared consequences, review of MCPS bus and maintenance operations has led to the conclusion that operations as they exist at the County Service Park needs a different approach that will be more effective and lead to better efficiency. Staff is working with MCPS to find a better solution.

Given conditions at the landfill, community concerns, and the potential high costs associated with relocating MCPS uses to this site, I do not believe it is prudent to proceed with any further investigation of potential relocation of the MCPS facilities to the Gude Landfill.

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The relocation of the County Service Park is important to long term housing, transit oriented development, and facility needs of the County and needs to happen. This effort is a work in progress. I have openly and publicly shared the work of my staff on this effort from the outset, and I will continue to do so. The plan has been refined as more information is gathered, and community input has been helpful to improve the plan for the successful longterm relocation of County facilities.

In order to proceed with clearing the east side of the County Service Park we need the full amount of planning and design money that had been included in the umbrella Smart Growth Initiative PDF No. 360902 as originally submitted in the total amount of \$681,000 (\$356,000 + \$325,000).

The Department of Environmental Protection will continue its review of the Gude Landfill data with the Maryland Department of Environment and will report on existing conditions as well as any additional studies or actions that need to be taken.

Your cooperation is appreciated.

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