



## Testimony on Proposed Budget for FY 2020

Thank you on behalf of the Twinbrook community for this opportunity to testify on the proposed FY 2020 budget. My name is Marissa Valeri, and I am the current president of the Twinbrook Community Association. I am here tonight to respectfully request the inclusion of several projects that will be beneficial to Twinbrook.

These ideas are a result of a survey over the past month of community members, as well as the ongoing feedback and listening sessions that we have had with community members. I am honored to bring forward our community's requests to you.

### **Transportation**

A connection to Rockville Pike for pedestrians and cyclists across the WMATA/CSX railroad tracks is the crucial missing piece for the Twinbrook community. An investment in a pedestrian/bicycle connection would be in line with the goals for Rockville to be a truly walkable and bikeable community.

**We request that a Capital Improvement Project (CIP) be developed to achieve this goal. As a first step, we request funding to commission the services of a consultant to study options in detail for a pedestrian/cyclist bridge or tunnel to connect Twinbrook and Rockville Pike.** The deliverables should include location options, overall cost estimates, and timing estimates.

### **Stormwater Management**

After the issue of stormwater management was raised during the discussion of the Twinbrook Quarter development proposal, TCA surveyed the community on what they are experiencing in their own yards and streets after rain and snow events. With our proximity to our namesake brooks, we experience many water-related issues such as standing water in yards and in streets, and the need to install sump pumps and French drains.

**We would like to request a comprehensive study on the issues of stormwater management in Twinbrook, with an eye toward modernizing the existing system and alleviating ongoing issues of standing water at street level.**

## **Utilities**

At many of our meetings, residents bring forward the issue of lighting and safety time and time again. We have worked closely with the Rockville City Police Department and our new Police Chief to discuss the connection between adequate lighting and public safety. From pedestrian travel to eliminating crime, we believe that we can do a better job of lighting many streets and areas throughout Twinbrook.

### **We request the following:**

- A review of street lighting along Chapman Road near the Twinbrook Metro.
- Street lights along the Twinbrook Bike Path from Rockcrest Park to the Twinbrook Community Recreation Center
- A 911 or Police Call Box at the corner of Halpine and Lewis Roads, at the corner of the Metro parking lot.

## **Recreation and Parks**

Finally, we believe that there are many options available to enhance our community experience with our recreation facilities and our parks. Twinbrook is located close to so many wonderful parks, and we believe that with a few additions, we can make our community even more inviting.

### **We request the following:**

- A formal explanation to the community on the reasons that Twinbrook Park Culvert Repair (RL16) was closed.
- A sign welcoming people to Twinbrook at the west end of the neighborhood boundary, and a modernization of the sign at the east boundary of the neighborhood along Veirs Mill Road
- Replacing the concrete medians on Veirs Mill Road with native trees and plants, if possible including crab apples as our community is home to the largest crab apple tree in the state of Maryland on Ardennes Avenue
- An increase in the number of picnic tables at Rockcrest Park
- Creating spaces for community murals and other artistic odes to Twinbrook in our parks and along bike paths

Thank you for this opportunity to bring our community's needs forward to you, and we hope to work as a community partner with you to achieve these goals.

## **Summary of Twinbrook Budget Requests**

1. Development of a Capital Improvement Project (CIP) to create a pedestrian/cyclist bridge to connect the neighborhood of Twinbrook to Rockville Pike.
2. Concurrent with request #1, funding to commission the services of a consultant to study options in detail for a pedestrian/cyclist bridge to connect Twinbrook and Rockville Pike. The deliverables should include location options, overall cost estimates, and timing estimates.
3. Funding for a comprehensive study on the issues of stormwater management in Twinbrook, with an eye toward modernizing the existing system and alleviating ongoing issues of standing water at street level.
4. Funding for a comprehensive review of street lighting throughout Twinbrook, but with a special emphasis on lighting along Chapman Road near the Twinbrook Metro, and lighting at Halpine and Lewis Roads also near the etro.
5. Street lights along the Twinbrook Bike Path from Rockcrest Park to the Twinbrook Community Recreation Center.
6. A 911 or Police Call Box at the corner of Halpine and Lewis Roads, at the corner of the Metro parking lot.
7. A sign welcoming people to Twinbrook at the west end of the neighborhood boundary, and a modernization of the sign at the east boundary of the neighborhood along Veirs Mill Road
8. Replacing the concrete medians on Veirs Mill Road with native trees and plants, if possible including crab apple trees.
9. Additional picnic tables at Rockcrest Park.
10. Spaces for community murals and other artistic odes to Twinbrook in our parks and along bike paths

## **General Budgetary Comments**

1. We respectfully request an increase in transparency and accountability in the budget process, with clearly delineated deadlines for community associations to submit budget requests.
2. We request a formal explanation to the community on the reasons that Twinbrook Park Culvert Repair (RL16) was closed.
3. We request a breakdown of Rockville demographics by neighborhood, in order to better serve our respective communities.
4. We continue our request for Rockville City Police reports to segment crime by neighborhood, and provide vital details on crime, patrols, citations, and non-emergency call volume by neighborhood.