

Examining the cost of a tunnel

One of the major concerns that people have with building a new Metro entrance is its cost. The WMATA study estimated the cost of the tunnel at \$11 million - and that includes a 20% overrun contingency. The Montgomery County Council has budgeted \$494 million for its transportation capital program from 2007-2012. They have already appropriated \$156 million for 2007. Even if the county paid every cent of the tunnel by itself (which it most certainly would not, because state money, federal money, and WMATA money will also be involved), the tunnel cost amounts to just 2% of its capital budget.

For comparison's sake, take a look at the county's budgeted spending over 2007-12 for some of the other individual projects:

Silver Spring Transit Center - \$67.2 million

Montrose Parkway West - \$32.3 million

Silver Spring Parking Renovations - \$18.6 million

Father Hurley Blvd. Extension - \$15.4 million

Clarksburg Town Center Roads - \$9.5 million (in 2006)

http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/omb/FY07/ciprec/vol1/19_capprogtotal_trans.pdf

http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/omb/FY07/ciprec/vol1/19_230rpt_trans.pdf

-Adam P.