



TO: Capital Improvement Committee

FROM: Patty Dreier

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Patty Dreier", is written over the "FROM:" line.

DATE: June 30, 2016

Based on recent Space and Properties Committee and County Board votes, we have a general direction for our facilities related capital plan at last! Investing in our facility infrastructure is essential to our mission and is a better way forward than "band aid" solutions or no solutions due to decision paralysis.

This 2017-2022 Capital Improvement Plan includes a project that commits to our current courthouse building in alignment with Option 1.1 selected for the new government facility (project #15 on summary spreadsheet). It also plans for resources which take the new government facility planning to its next levels of conceptual development and analysis (project #13) and recommends a new way forward for a sustainable future for our health care center (project #20).

Let's drill down to highlight these three projects:

1. Nearly \$18 million of capital projects which have been placed "on hold" over past years have now been integrated into comprehensive projects in this plan because we finally have more clarity. For example, in accordance with the Space and Properties and County Board votes in favor of building a government facility, we have created a single new government facility project (#13) which then replaces projects formerly "on hold" for the sally port remodel, jail security upgrades, garages, etc.
2. Similarly, this plan includes a comprehensive project for remodeling our City-County building (#15) which rolls into one what had previously been separate projects "on hold" for elevator upgrades, ramp replacement, window replacement, etc. I believe that investing in the outer infrastructure of the

Courthouse is the right place to start next year with an \$8.3 million investment in upgrading this historic building. Essential HVAC renovations for the Courthouse will come in subsequent years after additional facility planning happens to clarify how the rooms/floors are repurposed.

3. From my first days in office, I have been working with others to find a sustainable solution to ensure the future of our health care center mission in Portage County. Simply put, Portage County cannot stay afloat in the health care business on its own and in our aging facility. We must join with others to create the continuums of care and modern facilities that financially work in today's world of health care and senior living. Options exist to simply "sell our beds," but we are dedicated to the people who are served in our beds and we are dedicated to our tradition of quality care provided by our dedicated employees. Selling our beds cannot ensure that they remain in our County, nor can selling our beds ensure the jobs of our health care staff remain here in our County. In this capital plan (project #20), you'll find a proposal for a one-time economic development investment project that would contribute to a larger multi-million dollar development (community hub, independent living, assisted living, memory care) to break ground in 2017 on Maria Drive (40 acres owned by the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Third Order of Saint Francis). Our funding will make it possible to build a new health care center on that location in partnership with others at a fraction of the cost of building a new health care center on our own. The vision is that Portage County's Health Care Center will be transferred to that location after construction of the new health care center is completed in 2018. Our dedicated staff would accompany residents to that new location and upon official transfer of the licenses, our staff would have the opportunity to apply to continue on there with the new nonprofit organization operating there. Portage County would have representation on the nonprofit Board of Directors to ensure accountability and access to all people of all walks of life and faiths. This, in turn, would free up future County tax resources which are needed for mandated County services. The \$10 million investment would secure the future of our health care center beds locally serving residents and their families for the next 100 years. In addition, community, school, and university partnerships would be formed to create additional synergies at this location which would become a magnet for community development.

This is a bold five-year plan that will move us forward again. Let's work the plan and work collaboratively in service to our citizenry.