



October 21, 2025

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

TO: Colette R. Gresham, Esq.
Acting Council Administrator

Karen T. Zavakos
Acting Deputy Council Administrator

FROM: Lavinia Baxter 
Senior Legislative Budget and Policy Analyst

RE: Policy Analysis and Fiscal Impact Statement
CR-100-2025, Pilot Program for the Installation of Smart Trash Receptacles at High-Use Bus Stops Located Inside the Beltway

CR-100-2025 (*Proposed and sponsored by*): Council Members Oriadha and Ivey, Hawkins, Harrison, Watson, Olson, Blegay, Adams-Stafford and Dernoga

Assigned to the Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment Committee (TIEE)

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING Pilot Program for the Installation of Smart Trash Receptacles at High-Use Bus Stops Located Inside the Beltway for the purpose of directing the Office of Central Services to seek procurement options to establish a two-year pilot program to install smart trash receptacles at a minimum of thirty (30) high-traffic bus stops located inside the Beltway within Prince George's County, to evaluate their effectiveness in reducing waste overflow, improving cleanliness, promoting public health, and enhancing the rider experience at transit locations.

Fiscal Summary

Direct Impact:

Expenditures: Anticipated expenditures of \$245,000, not including maintenance for the purchase of 20-30 smart receptacles.

Revenues: None Likely.

Indirect Impact:

Indirect Impact: Positive.

Legislative Summary

CR-100-2025¹, proposed and sponsored by Council Member Oriadha, was introduced on September 30, 2025, and referred to the Transportation, Energy and Environment (TIEE) Committee. This legislation would direct the Office of Central Services to seek procurement options to establish a two-year pilot program to gauge the impact of placing smart receptacles at 30 high-use bus stops inside the beltway. The aim of the program is to reduce waste, improve cleanliness, promote public health, and enhance the rider experience.

Current Law/Background

Smart trash cans are the latest technology in waste management. Big Belly is a brand name associated with smart trash receptacles that are designed for small towns, Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), and major metropolitan areas. The brand touts the following impacts:

- Cleaner spaces (elimination of windblown litter and waste overflows)
- Better communities (customizable graphic wraps for messaging)
- Reduced collections (connects bins, communicates ready-to-collect status)
- Reduced rats and pests (eliminates a major food source for rats and other pests)
- Public space recycling (consistent and uniform recycling)
- Reduced Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions (fewer collections and less fuel consumption and GHG emissions by up to 70%).

Big Belly Products

Since these containers are connected to the internet, these “smart” receptacles provide information on waste volumes, when to collect, and maintenance needs. Six (6) different containers feature various sizes. The company offers:

- Smart Max receptacle (150 gal/570 L) powered by solar.
- Smart receptacle (47 gal/178 L) connected to Wi-Fi.
- Element receptacle (47 gal/178 L) unconnected to Wi-Fi.

In coordination with the Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T), the Department of Environment launched the solar-powered Big Belly receptacles at over 100 bus stop locations in high-traffic areas in 2018. Over the years, the Department has heavily invested in this technology to reduce trash and meet TMDL goals. In the FY 2025 budget, the Department had a goal of installing 25-30 receptacles at a cost of \$9,000 each, but no money was allocated, so funding was depleted at the end of FY 2025.

¹ [CR-100-2025](#)

Resource Personnel

- Tiaa Rutherford, Big Belly Solar Powered, Program Manager, Department of Environment
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Discussion/Policy Analysis

Since the inception of the program in 2018, the Office of Central Services has served in the capacity of asset management, while DPW&T has recommended sites. Over the years, funding has been provided through the Solid Waste Management Fund.

In 2021, the Office of the County Executive launched the Prince George's Proud Reduction and Illegal Dumping Taskforce. One of the initiatives of the County-wide targeted beautification campaign was the installation of 27 "Big Belly" solar-powered and sensor-equipped waste/recycling stations. The program has been quite successful, as the Department has collected a significant amount of garbage, along with a substantial amount of recyclables. Due to the success of the program, DPW&T now incorporates enough space on their new bus pads to include two smart receptacles, one for trash and one for recyclables. Recently, with the recent Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Agency (WMATA) bus route changes, DoE is considering moving some existing receptacles to other bus stops.

Each station is priced at around \$9,000, and with two at each station, the cost is around \$18,000, not including maintenance. There has been some reported vandalism, such as graffiti, crow bars used to pry open containers, and containers being hit or overturned. Due to these incidents, the Department carefully considers placement of these smart receptacles and relocation when there has been abuse to the equipment.

Item for Consideration

1. While this program has been successful, it requires ongoing funding to continue placement and maintenance of these expensive smart receptacles at more locations within the beltway.
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Fiscal Impact

Direct Impact

Adoption of CR-100-2025 will have an adverse fiscal impact on the County, with the allocation of funds for the procurement of additional smart receptacles

Indirect Impact

Adoption of CR-100-2025 is likely to have a positive indirect fiscal impact on the County. Additional smart receptacles at bus stops will allow for more trash to be captured, saving the gutters and waterways that impact the Chesapeake Bay. Additionally, capturing trash and recyclables saves on contracting costs for teams who pick up trash along roadways.

Appropriated in the Current Fiscal Year Budget

No.

Effective Date of Proposed Legislation

The proposed Resolution shall be effective on the day of its adoption.

Please call or email me if you require additional information or have questions about this fiscal impact statement.