

City of Rockville
Leadership Planning Team Meeting Notes
February 9, 2026

Meeting Participants:

Mayor Ashton
Councilmember Jackson
Councilmember Shaw
Councilmember Valeri
Councilmember Van Grack
Jeff Mihelich, City Manager
Robert Dawson, City Attorney
Doris Stokes, Interim City Clerk/Director of Council Operations
Barack Matite, Deputy City Manager
Dave Gottesman, Assistant City Manager
Linda Moran, Associate City Manager
Judy Penny, Executive Assistant to the City Clerk/Director of Council Operations

Agenda Review

February 9, 2026 Meeting Agenda

Comment: None

February 23, 2026 Meeting Agenda

Comment: Councilmember Valeri asked if the 301 Frederick Ave. item could be moved to the February 23 meeting

Response: City Manager said perhaps, if it ready in time

Response: Mayor Ashton expressed support for moving the item up as well

Review and Comment on the Six Month Agenda Planning Calendar

Comment: Councilmember Valeri asked/mentioned the following:

- Can the 301 Frederick Ave. item be introduced and adopted on the same night?
- Reiterated that the body does not want to pursue legislation on short-term rentals, and it is still showing on the “Unassigned” items list
- Can a BRT-related item be added to the 6-month calendar?

- Will there be an item added for the legislative wrap-up briefing from the city's lobbyist after Sine Die?
- Can agenda items related to the Election Code Update be added to the calendar?
 - **Response:** Mayor Ashton supports the items mentioned by Councilmember Valeri, emphasizing the Election Code items going on the 6-month calendar, and adding a Public Hearing as well
 - **Response:** Councilmember Jackson concurs about Election Code items
 - **Response:** Councilmember Van Grack concurs as well, emphasizing clarity and transparency

Comment: Mayor Ashton requested that any Board and Commission presentations be added to the calendar

Legislative Review Team Meeting

February 9, 2026

Mayor Ashton
Councilmember Barry Jackson
Councilmember Valeri
Councilmember Shaw
Councilmember Van Grack
Jeff Mihelich, City Manager
Robert Dawson, City Attorney
Doris Stokes, Acting City Clerk/Director of Council Operations
Barack Matite, Deputy City Manager
Dave Gottesman, Assistant City Manager
Linda Moran, Associate City Manager

Review of Legislation

HB 691 - State Government – Procedures – Permitting Efficiency for Housing

Development Projects

Position - Support

Next Steps – Staff will share testimony for Mayor Ashton’s in-person testimony on 2/19 at 1 pm in the House Economic Matters Committee. The City will testify in collaboration with Gaithersburg, which requested the legislation.

SB 281 - Metro Funding Modification Act of 2026

Position – Support

Next Steps – Written comments in support were sent to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee.

SB 388 - Economic Development – Delivering Economic Competitiveness and Advancing Development Efforts (DECADE) Act

Position – Monitor to see if MML took a position.

Next Steps – Monitor and see if MML took a position. MML did not take a position on this legislation. The City will continue to monitor the legislation in concert with MML and will track the outcome.

SB 537 - Youth Delinquency Prevention Fund – Establishment

Position – Support

Next Steps – Staff will share testimony for Councilmember Valeri’s remarks on 2/19 at 1 pm. before the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee.

HB 916/SB674 - Transportation - Transportation Authorities

Position – Support

Next Steps – The hearings in the House and Senate have not yet been scheduled. When the hearing dates are available, staff will inform the body and ask who would like to represent the City at the hearings.

Update – The House hearing in the Environment and Transportation Committee has been scheduled for 2/26 at 1 pm. Staff will follow up and ask which member of the body would be interested in testifying.

HB 394/SB 158 - Counties - Construction of Sidewalks and Crosswalks - Safe Alternative Routes to Public Schools

Position – Support

Next Steps – Staff will have the City’s State lobbying firm submit a check-the-box position of support for the 2/12 at 2pm hearing in the House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee and for the Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment.

HB 70 - State Highway Administration - Traffic Calming Devices - Study

Position – Support

Next Steps – Staff will monitor, as the hearing has not yet been scheduled. Once the hearing date is available, staff will have the State lobbying firm submit a check-the-box support position.

HB 601 (MC 5-26) - Stop Sign Monitoring Systems Pilot Program - Gaithersburg and Rockville

Position – Support

Next Steps – Staff will share testimony in support of the legislation for Councilmember Valeri on 2/19 in the House Environment and Transportation Committee.

HB 676/SB518 – Financial Empowerment Networks

Position – Support

Next Steps – Mayor Ashton and Councilmember Van Grack are both interested in testifying in support of the legislation. There is a hearing in the House Ways and Means Committee on 2/19 at 1 pm and a hearing in the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee at 1 pm on 2/25. Staff will follow up to check schedules and see which hearing works best for each and whether the testimony will be virtual or in person.

General Comments:

- Councilmember Valeri noted that she would send information about HB0450 – Protection of Identity of Victim of Sexual Assault. She noted this legislation relates to the Mayor and Council’s public safety priority, and vote-by-mail priorities, as it pertains to the City’s priority to secure confidential information relating to home addresses of survivors of sexual assault. She requested that it be discussed at the next meeting.
- The City Manager asked Valeri to send the bill, and the staff will add it for the next LRT meeting.
- Mayor Ashton noted that she learned of a bill on advancing environmental quality in the State budget, and there is a bottle bill. She also noted an interest in having immigration bills tracked.
- The City Manager noted that staff would add the environmental and the bottle bills to the spreadsheet for the next meeting. Staff will share the bill numbers of immigration legislation that is being tracked on the tracking charts prepared by the City’s State lobbying firm.
- Mayor Ashton inquired about when the meeting with the District Delegation would occur. Staff noted it was scheduled for 2/19 at 11:30 am and they would follow up.
- The State lobbying firm sent the Mayor and Council an email on 2/9 (3:36 pm) to confirm the meeting will be held on February 19, 2026, at 11:30 am in the House of Delegates, Room 350 (Third Floor – Same Room as last year).