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Friday, December 21, 2012

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Silver Spring's county building projects move forward

Library, police station on schedule; Transit Center report expected soon

By Kara Rose Staff Writer

Contractors are expected to break ground for the new Silver Spring Library in mid-January, according to Department of General Services Director David Dise.

He said all of the paperwork for the site is done and a contract will be executed in the next week with Columbia-based Costello Construction, the company that also built the Silver Spring Civic Building.

The county council approved \$69,529,000 for the 63,000 square-foot project, according to the Department of General Services website. The proposed Purple Line — a 16-mile light rail mass transit line that would connect Bethesda to New Carrollton — is expected to have a stop at the building.

David Costello, president of Costello Construction, said he anticipates completing the library by November 2014.

"We've always viewed the Civic Building and the library being the sort of cultural epicenter of Silver Spring," Costello said. "We desperately wanted to be the beginning and the ending of those two projects, collectively."

Silver Spring Transit Center

Dise also said the county is still waiting on a remediation report due within "the next few weeks" from Ellicott City-based KCE Engineering Services on the Silver Spring Transit Center, a [\\$110 million transportation project](#) on the corner of Wayne Avenue and Colesville Road in downtown Silver Spring.

That project began in 2008 and was supposed to be completed in two years, but [a series of cracks in the middle and upper levels of the structure](#) and disparities in the thickness of the concrete have delayed its opening. The remediation report will detail the safest solutions for the cracks and the disparity in the concrete thickness, according to Dise.

Dise anticipates the transit center built for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority will be open by fall.

County Executive Isiah Leggett (D) told The Gazette Thursday that the county does not plan to take legal action unless there is a disagreement about the cost of the remediation.

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3rd District Police Station

Dise said the new 3rd District Police Station at the intersection of Route 29 and New Hampshire Avenue in Silver Spring is "looking real good."

Steel support beams are up and the roof is on the building, Dise said adding that contractors were expected to also pour concrete for the second floor deck before the end of December.

He said the project is on schedule and should open by fall 2013.

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