RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY CENTER
Karl Moritz, Acting Chief

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

- **Montgomery County's MPDU Mobile Workshop -** A successful workshop was sponsored by the Department in conjunction with the American Planning Association National Planning Conference. Research staff and staff of the Housing Opportunities Commission informed planners about our developer-funded program, the ordinance, and the roles of the agencies and the developer. Participants toured County MPDU sites and housing.

- **Residential Capacity Study –** Staff completed an analysis of Montgomery County's capacity for future residential development by location, unit type, and estimation method. The results are being used internally for such activities as forecasting. Staff is now working on keeping the information up-to-date.

- **2003 Census Update Survey –** Staff continued to disseminate the results of the 2003 survey through analytic reports, presentations, tables on the web site, and customized responses to specific requests. Staff is beginning work on the 2005 Survey.

- **Economic Forces that Shape Montgomery County –** The 2004 update included a special section on the economic impact of associations.

- **Round 6.4A Forecasts –** The County's employment, population, and household forecasts were prepared in conjunction with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government's (MWCOG) cooperative forecasting process. Population forecasts are available by age and gender by planning area through 2030. Forecasts by race/ethnicity are in preparation.

- **Analysis of "Activity Levels" –** Calculated the potential activity levels (residents, workers, and visitors) at the proposed Shady Grove Metro mixed-use development. At the request of the Wheaton Redevelopment Office, prepared a rough estimate of the area's daytime and evening resident, worker, and visitor population.

- **Digitized Submission of Development Plans** – GIS developed and presented an update plan for digitizing submissions of record plats by the development community. The development community has fully embraced this format and its use will improve the accuracy of the property basemap and increase the efficiency of property basemap maintenance.

- **GIS –Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC) Coordination** – GIS support provided HOC staff with a 2-day training program to learn how to access and review County GIS data. To assist with HOC management and tracking of MPDUs, GIS created detail maps by lease type and project manager.

- **FY2004 Planimetric Update** – The flight to obtain the photography for the planimetric update was conducted. Processing of the new planimetric data has begun.

- **GIS Store** – The web-based application is in active use by the development industry and citizens. Pedestrian traffic for GIS map data has a corresponding decrease to the increase of web sales for GIS map data.

- **3000 Scale Montgomery County Street Map and Index –** This basemap was used to create two additional map products, the Master Plan of Highways and Master Plan of Bikeways.

- **GIS II – MC: Maps Strategic Plan** – The database for the plan/topo and property basemaps are open to County agencies. The Department of Technology Services (formerly DIST), DTS, now has direct access to the most current property base.
- **Enhanced Computer Security** – Upgraded departmental firewall to prevent unauthorized access to our network infrastructure.

STATUS OF ON-GOING ACTIVITES

Research Team
- Inter-jurisdictional Affordable Housing Study – This housing study on affordable housing within neighboring localities is now being compiled into report format and will be released in September.
- Retirement-Age Residents' Housing Preference Survey – Survey work is completed. The results and accompanying analysis will be available at the end of October.
- Directory of Leading High Tech Companies in Montgomery County – On-going annual project. Started in response to a request from the Department of Economic Development. The directory is posted in the Research section of the Department web site.
- Do-It-Yourself Custom Research Data Tables on the Web – Web team is continuing to develop a new online feature that will allow visitors to generate their own tables using data from the Research Center.
- Urban Land Institute (ULI) Forecast "Reality Check Exercise" – A basemap was created for use by ULI and participating agencies as boundary information for regional analysis.
- Homeland Security – Staff is periodically providing information in support of lead County agencies. Requests for data include multi-layer maps as well as population data requested by the Center for Disease Control (CDC).
- Comprehensive Countywide Strategic Facility Plan – RTC staff plays a supporting role in this project to develop a multi-year planning process for countywide office needs through 2025.

IS/GIS Team
- Quality control of GIS and Hansen data – Efforts continue to improve the links between land records and locations.
- Internet Portal for Development and Environmental Plans – This project is developing an Internet portal to allow the development community to input development and environmental applications into the Development Review database. The software needed to link and improve access to the information has been purchased and programming continues.
- Public Land Database - Coordinating this effort with the County government.
- Assimilation, Automation and Quality Control of Data – Bring data of other agencies and the Department land information system together. Target agencies are Permitting Services and the Board of Appeals.
- Internet-based geographic activity locator: "Where Am I?" – Data verification for this Internet application is in final phase. The application will allow Department and public Internet access to development plans and other County-base information.

Technology Team

- Wireless LAN: Testing a newer, high-speed technology for wireless connectivity for police cruisers, which will enable police officers to quickly and easily access law enforcement databases.
- Migration to Microsoft Network Operating System Platform: We have completed one-third of our migration from Novell to Windows 2003 as our new network operating system. This will result in improved reliability, compatibility and ease of use. We will complete this migration within six months.
- Virtual Private Network: We plan to complete testing and fully implement a virtual private network (VPN). Once implemented, this VPN will allow employees to access our network via an Internet connection.

NEW INITIATIVES

(note: these are budgeted projects – they are only "new" in the sense that they were not in the previous Biannual Report)

- Mature Commercial Areas Study – The County Council requested this study in February of 2004 to explore redevelopment opportunities for older shopping centers. Staff will support a Community-Based Planning-led study conducted by ULI on a market assessment of redevelopment opportunities. The study is projected for completion in late fall.
- The Round 7 forecasts of the County's employment, population, and households will be developed as part of the MWCOG cooperative forecasting process.
- Biotech activity in Montgomery County – An update of the 2000 study is underway at the request of the Community-Based Planning Twinbrook Sector Plan team. RESI/Towson University is providing additional research assistance and we project results will be available in October.
- Growth Policy: Staff is proceeding with the Council-requested review of issues related to the time limits of a finding of adequate public facilities.
- CLASS: We are enhancing public access to the CLASS registration system by implementing "interactive voice response" capability. The public will be able to use a telephone to register for classes by following a menu of choices similar to those used on-line via the Internet.
- IT Expo: Once again, we will host the annual IT Expo in March; this one-day event provides a variety of training to our senior managers and end users through lectures, workshops, and hands-on sessions.