

## **What's an SSP? And why should it matter to my PTA?**

The SSP is the County's Subdivision Staging Plan. Specifically, it seeks to ensure that the County's schools (among other things) **keep pace** with new development.

So, it includes a **school test** to see whether schools are so crowded that developers should pay more school fees or halt development. And, it includes policies that determine what **school payments** developers make.

Why's that matter to you? Well – because **it involves 10s of millions of school construction dollars**. And:

- (1) Is your school in a cluster with a lot of development – say, one that's near Metro? Then, you're getting students from turnover in your old neighborhoods, plus more from development! Suggestion: Make sure the SSP results in money for needed capacity – and even school sites.
- (2) Is your school in a cluster with older schools and not much growth? These clusters often find their school rev/ex projects getting postponed again and again – bumped by capacity projects. Suggestion: Make sure the SSP results in fair school impact taxes, so there's money for rev/ex projects.
- (3) Do you have a very overcrowded ES or MS in your cluster? If there's one crowded school, but others are underenrolled, your cluster may not be getting facilities payments or a moratorium. Suggestion: Make sure the SSP includes an individual school test.
- (4) Do parents in your school feel that developers as well as homeowners should contribute to school costs? Due to the County's desperate need for school construction, the County Council raised the recordation tax last year. Homeowners are doing their share, but the need for more school construction dollars is still great. Suggestion: Make sure developers pay fees and taxes that cover school construction and school sites.

**Tues Sept 13, 7:30 PM, Council Building, 100 Maryland Ave, Rockville**  
**It's About Making Sure Our Schools are Keeping Pace**