


F R O M	NAME & TITLE	William M. Johnson, Director	CITY of BALTIMORE	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Transportation 417 East Fayette Street, Room 527		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 14-0319	M E M O	

TO

The Honorable President and Members
of the City Council
c/o Karen Randle
Room 400 City Hall

March 25, 2014


I am herein reporting on City Council Bill 14-0319, Franchise - Baltimore Red Line, which grants franchise rights to the Maryland Transit Administration of the Department of Transportation of the State of Maryland (MTA) for the location, construction, operation, and maintenance in good condition of a Red Line Light Rail System within the boundaries of the City of Baltimore; sets the terms, conditions, and requirements of the Mayor and City Council pertaining to the location, construction, operation, and maintenance in good condition; authorizes the MTA to make use of streets and other public areas within the City of Baltimore for these purposes, in accordance with the attached plat dated, as prepared by the MTA and filed with the Department of Transportation of the City of Baltimore on January 13, 2014; and provides for a special effective date.

The Department of Transportation (DOT) supports this bill. The Red Line Light Rail Transit Project will provide connectivity lacking in Baltimore's current transit system, which will provide high quality transportation for City residents and visitors needing access to education, housing and jobs. In addition to added connectivity and mobility, the Red Line is projected to bring to Baltimore substantial economic development opportunities and create approximately 6,000 direct job opportunities and another 5,000 indirect job opportunities in Baltimore.

This bill grants the MTA franchise rights for the location, operation and maintenance of the Red Line. Section 7-701 of the Transportation Article of the Maryland Annotated Code requires MTA to comply with all City laws with respect to zoning, buildings, traffic control and regulation, and the use of City streets in connection with portions of the Baltimore Red Line Light Rail Transit Project, and further provides that the MTA may not locate, construct, and maintain any transit facilities in Baltimore without the consent of the Mayor and City Council. This bill provides MTA the right to build, operate and maintain the Red Line in Baltimore, provided that the State follow all City laws and regulations, and repair, replace or pay for any streets or other public facilities in the public right of way that it impacts through its construction, subject to ADA standards and the Director of Transportation's approval.

I respectfully request a favorable report on this bill.

Respectfully,


William M. Johnson
Director

WMJ/BZ

