



BALTIMORE CITY
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING &
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

From: Michael Braverman, Housing Commissioner *MB*

Date: February 22, 2019

Re: **City Council Bill 18-0288, York Corridor Business Improvement District – Establishment**

The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 18-0288, for the purpose of creating a community benefits districts to be known as the York Corridor Business Improvement District (BID).

This bill is the result of the York Corridor Vision and Action Plan, which was adopted by the Planning Commission in 2015. The plan was the product of collaboration between the City of Baltimore, Govanstowne Business Association, York Road Partnership, Notre Dame University of Maryland, Loyola University Maryland and other stakeholders.

This bill will create a York Corridor Business Improvement District Management Authority, which will have the authority to levy a surcharge tax on eligible property and generate revenue from other sources such as grants and service fees. These funds will be used to promote commercial development along the York Road corridor. The successful implementation of the BID will result in a more economically vibrant district that will benefit all of the surrounding communities.

In its bill report, the Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) conditioned its support on the current York Road Retail Business District being abolished through legislation and the rates under the proposed BID not adversely impact existing small businesses. HCD supports the passage of City Council Bill 18-0288 under the same conditions as BDC.

MB:td

cc: Mr. Jeffrey Amoros, *Mayor's Office of Government Relations*