



BILL SYNOPSIS

Committee: Economic and Community Development

Bill: 21-0123

Franchise - Underground Conduit and Fiber Optic Cable

Sponsor: Council President for the Administration (Transportation)

Introduced: September 13, 2021

Purpose:

For the purpose of granting a franchise to the State of Maryland (Maryland Transit Administration) to construct, use, and maintain an underground conduit and fiber optic cable, subject to certain terms, conditions, and reservations; and providing for a special effective date.

Effective: The date the bill is enacted.

Agency Reports

City Solicitor	Favorable
Department of Transportation	
Department of Planning	No Objection/ Defers to DOT
Department of Housing and Community Development	
Fire Department	
Parking Authority of Baltimore City	Not Opposed
Department of Finance	Not Opposed
Board of Estimates	

Analysis

Current Law

Article VIII - Franchises – Baltimore City Charter (1996 Edition)

Background

The Baltimore City Charter requires that any given franchises must be granted by ordinance containing terms and conditions of the grant. As required, this bill has also been referred to the Board of Estimates to determine compensation to be paid to the City for the franchise. The Board of Estimates may also alter the terms and conditions of the franchise.

Bill 21-0123 proposes to grant a franchise to the State of Maryland (Maryland Transit Administration (MTA)) to construct, use and maintain an underground conduit and fiber optic cable. The franchise would allow the property at 6000 Metro Drive to have a new conduit path to existing MTA infrastructure along the west side of Metro Drive. According to the Department of Transportation, there is an existing Developer's Agreement No. 1676. The conduit and fiber optic cable will be constructed, used and maintained at the expense of MTA.

All terms and conditions are outlined in the bill. The bill will become effective on the date of enactment. If granted, the franchise must be executed and enjoyed within 6 months of the effective date of the ordinance. The initial term of the franchise is one (1) year. The franchise would renew automatically for twenty-four (24) consecutive 1-year renewal terms. The maximum term of the franchise is 25 years. An annual franchise fee will be set by the Board of Estimates.

Amendment

The Department of Transportation proposes to amend the bill to correct a reference to the existing Developer's Agreement. The correct Developer's Agreement number is #1676.

Additional Information

Fiscal Note: Not Available

Information Source(s): Reporting Agencies and Bill 21-0123

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