


F R O M	NAME & TITLE	Khalil A. Zaied, Director	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Transportation 417 East Fayette Street, Room 527		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 11-0285R		

TO

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

June 23, 2011

I am herein reporting on City Council Bill 11-0285R.

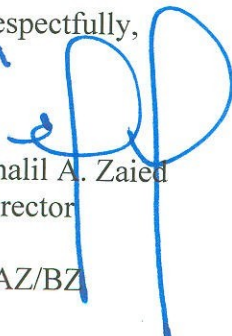
The purpose of this bill is to request that the Departments of Recreation and Parks (R&P), Transportation (DOT), Public Works Bureau of Solid Waste, and Finance Bureau of Budget and Management Research to report on the annual cumulative total of calls for service for the upkeep and maintenance of vacant lots and green spaces; and to develop a single City bureau, to be under R&P's authority, with the authority to mow all City-own lots.

DOT's Maintenance Division is responsible for maintaining medians and other green spaces such as highway slopes in the public right of way throughout the City. A map and list of the City's medians and the party responsible for their maintenance is attached. In Fiscal Year 2011 to date, DOT has received 1,090 service requests for right of way mowing.

DOT has made considerable efforts over the previous few years to privatize certain median maintenance responsibilities. DOT enters into public-private partnerships with organizations such as Johns Hopkins University through which the private entity agrees to maintain certain medians. DOT Maintenance is currently participating in preliminary meetings with the State Department of Corrections to establish a partnership through which prisoners would join Maintenance crews to weed, edge, mow, mulch and remove trash from certain rights of way. Such an arrangement may look something like this: DOT would provide transportation and supervision (with Corrections providing appropriate security when necessary), and \$15 to Corrections for one five-man crew to work one full day. As a pilot of sorts, the inmates would begin work on Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard from I-395 to Lombard Street. If this benefits both parties as anticipated, the Department of Corrections would begin providing inmate crews for full-time median maintenance. Finally, beginning July 1, 2011, DOT plans to contract out all of its remaining median maintenance responsibilities. While this move has eliminated the positions of some Maintenance personnel, DOT has placed those employees in similar existing, vacant positions. All of these efforts will allow DOT to ensure that medians continue to receive regular, sufficient maintenance, while saving the City considerable resources.

DOT supports the Council's efforts to explore consolidating public green space maintenance. However, the Department would need to review a transition plan before providing a position on any actual consolidation.

Respectfully,



Khalil A. Zaied
Director

KAZ/BZ

Cc: Ms. Angela C. Gibson
Mr. Jamie Kendrick
Mr. Frank Murphy

