


F R O M	NAME & TITLE	Corren Johnson, Director	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Transportation (DOT) 417 E Fayette Street, Room 527		
	SUBJECT	Council Bill 24-0474		

DATE: 2/8/2024

TO: Mayor Brandon Scott
TO: Economic and Community Development Committee
FROM: Department of Transportation
POSITION: **Support**
SUBJECT: Council Bill 24-0474

INTRODUCTION - Acquisition of Property - Block 6990, Lots 1 - 7, and Block 6991, Lots 1 - 26, and the bed of Woodhouse Avenue

PURPOSE/PLANS - For the purpose of authorizing the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore to acquire, by purchase or condemnation, the fee simple or other interests in certain property known as Block 6990, Lots 1 through 7, and Block 6991, Lots 1 through 26, and the bed of Woodhouse Avenue needed for the purpose of laying out or extending a public road and the widening of Ralls Avenue as shown on Plat 240-A-56-A in the Office of the Department of Transportation; and providing for a special effective date.

COMMENTS – Council Bill (CB) 24-0474 is the result of a Baltimore City and Baltimore County joint effort to extend the road known as Center Place to provide a direct vehicular connection from the County’s Main Street Commercial District in Dundalk to Broening Highway in Baltimore City. The extension of Center Place will divert truck traffic and eliminate a heavy commercial use to the adjacent residential area of St. Helena in Baltimore City and a nearby Baltimore County park. At present, Center Place dead ends approximately a third of a mile before Broening Highway near the Port of Baltimore. Most of the extension will be built on a portion of 33 properties and a paper road known as Woodhouse Avenue.

The City and County executed a MOU regarding the project. Under the agreement, Baltimore County has agreed to provide the funding for the acquisition, development, and construction for the Project, including but not limited to the purchase price, consulting costs, condemnation litigation expenses, environmental assessments and remediation, appraisals, and relocation. In the MOU, the County has agreed to indemnify and hold the City harmless for any environmental matters.

After several conversations between the Law Department, BCDOT, the County and the owner of the lots addressed in the Council Bill, no-amendable terms were able to be reached, hence the introduction of this bill allowing for the condemnation and acquisition of property. The lot owner will be offered a fair market value for the property as assessed by the County. The Acquisition of the property and any funds will be subject to Board of Estimates Approval.

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT POSTION – For these reasons, the Baltimore City Department of Transportation supports the advancement of Council Bill 24-0474.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Liam Davis at Liam.Davis@baltimorecity.gov or at 410-545-3207

Sincerely,

Corren Johnson,
Director