

FROM	NAME & TITLE	Rudolph S. Chow, P.E., Director
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Public Works 600 Abel Wolman Municipal Building
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL 14-0319

CITY of
BALTIMORE
MEMO



TO

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



DATE: March 31, 2014

I am hereby reporting on City Council Bill 14-0319 introduced by the Council President on behalf of the Administration (Department of Transportation).

The purpose of the Bill is to grant franchise rights to the Mass Transit Administration of the Department of Transportation of the State of Maryland for locating, constructing, operating and maintaining in good condition a Red Line Light Rail System within the boundaries of the City of Baltimore; set the terms, conditions and requirements of the Mayor and City Council pertaining to the Red Line Light Rail System; and to authorize the Mass Transit Administration to make use of streets and other public areas within the City for these purposes in accordance with a plat prepared by the Mass Transit Administration and filed with the Baltimore City Department of Transportation on January 13, 2014.

The Mass Transit Administration of the State of Maryland entered into franchise agreements with the City of Baltimore for the design, construction, operation and maintenance of a Metro subway system that extends from Owings Mills in Baltimore County to the Johns Hopkins Medical Campus in Baltimore City, and a Light Rail system that extends from Hunt Valley in Baltimore County to Glen Burnie and the BWI-Thurgood Marshall Airport in Anne Arundel County. These regional transit systems provide mobility for persons within and outside of the City. In addition to the Mass Transit Administration's system of bus routes and the Metro and Light Rail systems, the City created several free circulator bus routes to connect residents and visitors to key employment, cultural, institutional and commercial areas within the City's core.

City Council Bill 14-0319 would establish a new franchise relationship between the State of Maryland and the City of Baltimore to create the Red Line Light Rail Transit Project. Like the Metro and Light Rail franchises, the Red Line is a regional system that would begin at the Social Security complex in Baltimore County and terminate at the Bayview Hospital/East Baltimore MARC station in Baltimore City. This east-west route will be a combination of surface and subsurface stations and rail lines. This complex and challenging project requires careful coordination between the State and the City to ensure that the impact of the surface and subsurface rail system, stations and appurtenances adequately protect the City-owned rights-of-way and infrastructure during the construction and restoration periods. To this end, the Department of Public Works designated representatives who work with other City agencies and the State identifying critical infrastructure along the route, providing input to the depth and general location of the rail lines and tunnels, as well as potential opportunities to coordinate planned infrastructure construction scheduling. The alignment does include the need to relocate a

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Public Works yard at Franklin Street and Calverton Road to accommodate an operations and maintenance yard for the Red Line rail cars, and this relocation process is already underway.

The Department of Public Works supports the addition of the Red Line Light Rail Transit project as a means to enhance current transit and bus systems and to improve their connectivity. City Council Bill 14-0319 provides the legal framework for the new transit system to be constructed in the City as well as the agreed upon conditions for the State to comply with for the protection and restoration of rights-of-way and infrastructure. The Department of Public Works supports passage of City Council Bill 14-0319.

Sincerely,



Rudolph S. Chow, P.E.
Director

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