



## **BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

### **Mission Statement**

***The Budget and Appropriations Committee (BA) is responsible for ensuring taxpayer dollars are expended prudently and equitably. BA will exercise regular oversight of the funding and spending practices of City agencies, the City's budget, expenditures, loans, and other financial matters. The committee's areas of jurisdiction include all budgets & appropriations, taxation, financial services, consumer protection, audits, and the Comptroller's Office.***

**The Honorable Danielle McCray**

**CHAIR**

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

**Tuesday, January 6, 2026**

**9:30 AM**

**CLARENCE "DU" BURNS COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

***Bill: 25-0124***

***Title: Supplementary Department of Transportation  
Project Fund Capital Appropriation – Department of  
Transportation – \$498,000***

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# CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON SCOTT – MAYOR

ZEKE COHEN - COUNCIL PRESIDENT



OFFICE OF COUNCIL SERVICES

NANCY MEAD – DIRECTOR

100 N. HOLIDAY STREET

BALTIMORE MD, 21202

Meeting: Bill Hearing

Committee: Budget & Appropriations

Bill # 25-0124

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**Title:** Supplementary Department of Transportation Project Fund Capital Appropriation – Department of Transportation – \$498,000

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**Purpose:** of providing a Supplementary Department of Transportation Project Fund Capital Appropriation in the amount of \$498,000 to the Department of Transportation – PRJ003511 (Jones Falls Gateway), to design a segment of the Jones Falls Trail; and providing for a special effective date.

## REPORTING AGENCIES

Agency	Report
Law Department	Approved for form and legal sufficiency
Department of Finance	Favorable
Department of Planning	Favorable
Department of Transportation	Favorable

## BACKGROUND

The revenue category for this grant was incorrectly recorded as State funds as part of the FY26 budget, which was approved on June 23, 2025. The purpose of the Bill is to re-classify the allocation to Federal funds. The project entails the design of a bi-directional, multi-use trail and ADA-compliant sidewalk along Falls Rd between the CSX bridge and the Charles Street centerline. The Project will also evaluate the possible realignment of a block of Lafayette St to allow for two-way vehicular traffic between Falls Rd and Maryland Ave. This is part of a larger vision to improve trails, lighting, landscaping, and public art in the area.<sup>i</sup> Additional appropriations are permitted during the fiscal year when there are unanticipated grants, and each additional appropriation requires a separate ordinance limited to a single program, purpose, activity or project.<sup>ii</sup>

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Fiscal Note:

\$498,000 represents a grant funded through a Federal Transportation Alternatives Program Grant, that will be made available to the Department of Transportation to design a segment of the Jones Falls Trail in Fiscal Year 2026.

Analysis by: Paroma Nandi

Direct Inquiries to: 443-890-0839

Analysis Date: 1/2/2026, updated 1/5/2026

**Sources:**

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<sup>i</sup> Baltimore City Ordinance 25-0124. Agency Report – Department of Transportation. (December 10, 2025). Legistar.

<sup>ii</sup> Baltimore City Charter Article VI, §8(b)(2)(ii) and (c).

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 25-0124  
(First Reader)**

Introduced by: The Council President

At the request of: The Administration (Department of Planning)

Introduced and read first time: November 10, 2025

Assigned to: Budget and Appropriations Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of Finance, Department of Planning, Department of Transportation

## A BILL ENTITLED

## 1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

**Supplementary Department of Transportation Project Fund Capital Appropriation –  
Department of Transportation – \$498,000**

4 FOR the purpose of providing a Supplementary Department of Transportation Project Fund  
5 Capital Appropriation in the amount of \$498,000 to the Department of  
6 Transportation – PRJ003511 (Jones Falls Gateway), to design a segment of the Jones Falls  
7 Trail; and providing for a special effective date.

8 BY authority of

Article VI - Board of Estimates  
Section 8(b)(2)(ii) and (c)  
Baltimore City Charter  
(1996 Edition)

## Recitals

14        The revenue appropriated by this Ordinance represents a grant of federal funds in excess of  
15        the revenue relied on by the Board of Estimates in determining the tax levy required to balance  
16        the budget for Fiscal Year 2026.

17 That grant could not have been expected with reasonable certainty when the Ordinance of  
18 Estimates for Fiscal Year 2026 was formulated.

19 On November 5, 2025, the Board of Estimates recommended this appropriation to the City  
20 Council.

21                   **SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That**  
22                   \$498,000 shall be made available to the Department of Transportation – PRJ003511 (Jones Falls  
23                   Gateway) as a Supplementary Department of Transportation Project Fund Capital Appropriation  
24                   for Fiscal Year 2026, to design a segment of the Jones Falls Trail. The source of revenue for this  
25                   appropriation is a grant of federal funds in excess of the amount from this source that was relied  
26                   on by the Board of Estimates in determining the tax levy required to balance the budget for Fiscal  
27                   Year 2026.

**EXPLANATION:** CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

**Council Bill 25-0124**

1           **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, That this Ordinance takes effect on the date it is  
2 enacted.



**TO:** Board of Estimates, Office of Comptroller  
**FROM:** AGC5700 - Planning : AGC7000 - Transportation  
**DATE:** 11/05/2025  
**Submission #:** SB-25-13989  
**SUBJECT:** FY26 Capital Supplemental and De-Appropriation - Jones Falls Gateway

#### ACTION REQUESTED OF BOARD OF ESTIMATES:

The Board is requested to approve the FY26 Capital Supplemental and De-Appropriation - Jones Falls Gateway.

**PERIOD OF  
CONTRACT/AGREEMENT:** Based on Board Approval

#### AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDS:

Transaction Amount: \$ 0.00

Project Fund	Amount
-PRJ003511-RC0603	-\$ 498,000.00
-PRJ003511-GRS002850-RC0602	\$ 498,000.00

#### BACKGROUND/EXPLANATION:

The Board is requested to approve this de-appropriation of State funds for Jones Falls Gateway and supplemental of Federal funds for Jones Falls Gateway for the MDOT - SHA Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant. The revenue category for this grant was incorrectly recorded as State funds as part of the FY26 budget, which was approved on June 23, 2025.

**COUNCIL DISTRICT:** Citywide

EMPLOY BALTIMORE:	LIVING WAGE:	LOCAL HIRING:	PREVAILING WAGE:
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

**1% FOR PUBLIC ART:** N/A.

#### ENDORSEMENTS:

McAmato -

Clerk, Board of Estimates

11-05-2025

# Baltimore City Council



## Budget & Appropriations

### Committee

**Bill: 25-0124**

**Title:** Supplementary Department of Transportation  
Project Fund Capital Appropriation – Department of  
Transportation – \$498,000

## Agency Reports

CITY OF BALTIMORE  
BRANDON M. SCOTT,  
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW  
EBONY M. THOMPSON,  
CITY SOLICITOR  
100 N. HOLLIDAY STREET  
SUITE 101, CITY HALL  
BALTIMORE, MD 21202

December 22, 2025

The Honorable President and Members  
of the Baltimore City Council  
Room 409, City Hall  
100 N. Holliday Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: City Council Bill 25-0124 – Supplementary Department of Transportation Project Fund Capital Appropriation – Department of Transportation – \$498,000

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department reviewed City Council Bill 25-0124 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill provides a Supplementary Department of Transportation Project Fund Capital Appropriation in the amount of \$498,000 to the Department of Transportation – PRJ003511 (Jones Falls Gateway), to design a segment of the Jones Falls Trail. The bill would take effect on its date of enactment.

The submission to the Board of Estimates (BOE) regarding this supplementary capital appropriation states that the Board is requested to approve a de-appropriation of State funds for this project (PRJ003511-RC0603, -\$498,000) because the revenue category for the grant was incorrectly recorded as State funds in the Fiscal Year 2026 budget. The BOE was further requested to approve a supplementary appropriation (PRJ003511-GRS002850-RC0602, \$498,000) for this project from federal funds from the MDOT - SHA Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant.

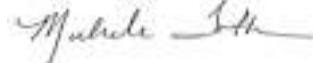
The City attempted to appropriate funds in the amount of \$498,000 from a state source in the Ordinance of Estimates for Fiscal Year 2026 for this project. However, since the state did not provide funds for this project, the line in the Ordinance of Estimates attempting to appropriate money that was not marked for the project could not have effectuated an appropriation. This is because no City law can appropriate state funds for a project for which the state did not intend. MD Constitution, Art. 11-A, § 3. Therefore, no de-appropriation is needed. Even if state funds had been erroneously appropriated for this project, they would lapse and return to the General Fund by operation of law. City Charter, Art. VI, § 9(c)(3). The lapse is the Charter's built-in mechanism for de-appropriation.

Rather, the funds intended for this project are federal funds. Thus, Council Bill 25-0124 now seeks approval for a supplementary appropriation of the correct federal funds in the amount of \$498,000 to fund the project.

Council Bill 25-0124 cites as authority for the supplementary appropriation Section 8(b)(2)(ii) of Article VI of the City Charter. This section provides that grants from private or governmental sources

that could not be expected with reasonable certainty at the time the Ordinance of Estimates was formulated may be made available to the appropriate municipal agency for expenditure. The bill states that the funds are from a grant of federal funds. The supplementary appropriation must be recommended by the Board of Estimates and approved by the Mayor and City Council via an ordinance. The ordinance must identify the source of the funds and may only involve a “single program, purpose, activity or project.” City Charter, Art. VI, § 8(c). The Law Department approves the bill for form and legal sufficiency.

Very truly yours,



Michele Toth  
Assistant Solicitor

cc: Ebony Thompson  
Ethan Hasiuk  
Shamoya Gardiner  
Nina Themelis  
Ty'lor Schnella  
Aaron Degraffenreidt  
Hilary Ruley  
Jeff Hochstetler  
Ashlea Brown  
Desiree Luckey  
Ahleah Knapp



CITY OF BALTIMORE  
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

<b>TO</b>	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
<b>FROM</b>	Laura Larsen, Budget Director <i>Laura Larsen</i>
<b>DATE</b>	January 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2026 <i>January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026</i>
<b>SUBJECT</b>	City Council Bills 25-0120, 25-0121, 25-0122, 25-0123, 25-0124, 25-0125 Supplementary Capital Appropriations

**Position: Support**

The Department of Finance is herein reporting on City Council Bills 25-0120, 25-0121, 25-0122, 25-0123, 25-0124, 25-0125 Supplementary Capital Fund Appropriations.

**Background**

The Baltimore City Charter authorizes agency capital spending based on the amount enacted in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The Department of Planning recommends appropriation transfers and supplementary appropriations when an agency receives unanticipated revenue, such as grants, or implements new programs that could not have been anticipated at the time the budget was developed. This supplementary appropriation is required to meet the Charter requirements.

- 25-0120- will fund broadband installation at public housing sites
- 25-0121- will fund capital improvements at the Convention Center
- 25-0122- will fund deconstruction and redevelopment of U.S. 40, known as the Highway to Nowhere
- 25-0123- will fund advance concept planning studies for multi-modal transportation improvements to a 30% Design for the Hanover Street Corridor and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Bridge
- 25-0124- will fund the design of a segment of the Jones Falls Trail
- 25-0125- will support the South Baltimore Gateway Partnership's effort to design and construct the Smith Cove Project (SCP)

**Fiscal Impact**

**25-0120**

The revenue appropriated by this Ordinance represents revenue from the Housing Authority of Baltimore City (HABC). In Fiscal 2026, Baltimore City Information Technology (BCIT) did not have an appropriation for unallocated funds. However, HABC had excess revenue of \$13,650,000 in Capital funds. This bill will make \$13,650,000 available to BCIT, to provide funding for a Memorandum of Understanding between the City and the HABC to install broadband internet service at public housing sites

**25-0121**

The revenue appropriated by this Ordinance represents an excess revenue from the Maryland Stadium Authority (MSA). In Fiscal 2026, the M-R: Convention Center did not have an appropriation for unallocated State funds. However, the MSA received excess revenues of \$200,000 in State funds. This bill will make \$200,000 available to M-R: Convention Center for the capital improvements for the Convention Center.

#### **25-0122**

The revenue appropriated by this Ordinance represents a grant from the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Program. The revenue category for this grant was incorrectly recorded as State funds as part of the FY26 budget, which was approved on June 23, 2025. This appropriation will correct the funding source for West Baltimore United.

#### **25-0123**

The revenue appropriated by this Ordinance represents a grant from the USDOT Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RISE) grant. The revenue category for this grant was incorrectly recorded as State funds as part of the FY26 budget, which was approved on June 23, 2025. This appropriation will correct the funding source for the Hanover Street Corridor and Vietnam Veterans Memorial Bridge National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Study.

#### **25-0124**

The revenue appropriated by this Ordinance represents a grant from the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)- State Highway Administration (SHA) Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). The revenue category for this grant was incorrectly recorded as State funds as part of the FY26 budget, which was approved on June 23, 2025. This appropriation will correct the funding source for the Jones Falls Gateway project.

#### **25-0125**

The revenue appropriated by this Ordinance represents a grant from the State. In Fiscal 2026, the Department of Planning did not have an appropriation for unallocated state funds. However, the Department of Planning received this grant for \$17,000,000 in State funds. This bill will make \$17,000,000 available to the South Baltimore Gateway Partnership, who will utilize these funds to support the design and construction of the Smith Cove Project (SCP).

### **Conclusion**

These supplementary capital appropriations are required to authorize agency spending beyond the amount enacted in the Ordinance of Estimates and is necessary due to the availability of new revenue and incorrectly appropriated funds.

**For the reasons stated above, the Department of Finance supports City Council Bill 25-0120, 25-0121, 25-0122, 25-0123, 25-0124, 25-0125.**

cc: Michael Mocksten  
Nina Themelis



CITY OF BALTIMORE  
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

<b>TO</b>	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
<b>FROM</b>	Tim Keane, Director, Department of Planning
<b>DATE</b>	November 24, 2025
<b>SUBJECT</b>	City Council Bill #25-0124

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**Position:** Favorable

**Summary of position:** The Department of Planning supports a favorable position on CCB #25-0124 which will provide \$498,000 in Supplementary Department of Transportation Project Capital Project Fund Capital Appropriations to the Department of Transportation. This funding will support the design of a segment of the Jones Falls Trail (PRJ003511) along the South Side of Falls Road.

**Fiscal Impact:** The fiscal impact of this supplemental funding is a decrease in \$498,000 of State Grants and an increase in \$498,000 in Federal Grants.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Sara Paranilam, Division Chief, Policy and Data Analysis at [sara.paranilam@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:sara.paranilam@baltimorecity.gov).

*Tim*



CITY OF BALTIMORE  
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

<b>TO</b>	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
<b>FROM</b>	Veronica P. McBeth, Director, Department of Transportation
<b>CC</b>	Mayor's Office of Government Relations
<b>DATE</b>	December 10, 2025
<b>SUBJECT</b>	25-0124 • Supplementary Department of Transportation Project Fund Capital Appropriation – Department of Transportation – \$498,000

**Position: Favorable**

**BILL SYNOPSIS**

The source of the \$498,000 allocated for PRJ003511 (Jones Falls Gateway) was erroneously labeled as State funding when, in actuality, it is Federal funding. Council Bill 25-0124 would simply rectify this discrepancy by re-classifying the origin of this allocation to Federal funds, which is needed to allow the Department to access and spend the funds.

The Jones Falls Gateway Project, funded through a Federal Transportation Alternatives Program Grant, entails the design of a bi-directional, multi-use trail and ADA-compliant sidewalk along Falls Rd between the CSX bridge and the Charles Street centerline. The Project will also evaluate the possible realignment of a block of Lafayette St to allow for two-way vehicular traffic between Falls Rd and Maryland Ave. This is part of a larger vision to improve trails, lighting, landscaping, and public art in the area.

**SUMMARY OF POSITION**

This corrective bill is essential to facilitate the Department's use of this grant. Therefore, DOT requests a favorable report on Council Bill 25-0124.