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TO	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
FROM	Corren Johnson, Director – Department of Transportation
DATE	August 19, 2024
SUBJECT	24-0566 City Streets - Opening - Subterranean Portions of Ducatel Street, Brookfield Avenue, and Certain Streets and Alleys

Position: Support

Introduction

For the purpose of condemning and opening subterranean portions of certain streets and alleys bounded by Westwood Avenue, Presstman Street, McKean Avenue, and Appleton Street as shown on plat numbered 316-C-4, Sheets 1 through 3 dated September 26, 2023 prepared by Whitman, Requardt and Associates, LLP, and filed in the Office of the Department of Transportation; and providing for a special effective date.

DOT Analysis

The legislation will transfer ownership of certain subterranean rights-of-way from ancient owners to the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, thereby allowing for the closing of these rights-of-way. This will facilitate the transferal of said rights-of-way from the City to Amtrak, which will allow for use in the Frederick Douglass Tunnel Program. This bill is part of a series of bills that close and transfer the right-of-way to be used by the proposed tunnel, which will allow Amtrak to operate the tunnel in perpetuity.

Conclusion

The Department supports the advancement of Council Bill 24-0566.