


F R O M	NAME & TITLE	Steve Sharkey, Director	CITY of BALTIMORE M E M O	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Transportation (DOT) 417 E Fayette Street, Room 527		
	SUBJECT	City Council Resolution 21-0070R		

TO: Mayor Brandon M. Scott
TO: Health, Environment & Technology Committee
FROM: Department of Transportation
POSITION: **Support**
RE: Council Resolution – 21-0070R

DATE: 11/8/21

INTRODUCTION – Informational Hearing - Soil Conservation in Baltimore City

PURPOSE/PLANS – For the purpose of inviting representatives from the Department of Planning, Department of Public Works, Department of Recreation and Parks, Office of Sustainability, Department of Housing and Community Development, Department of Transportation, and the Environmental Control Board to address their current roles in soil conservation and urban agriculture and servicing Baltimore City's farmers.

COMMENTS – Council Bill 21-0070R calls on the Department of Transportation (DOT) and several City agencies to participate in an informational hearing focused on soil conservation and support for urban agriculture. DOT capital projects that may temporarily disturb soil are subject to local, state, and federal environmental regulations. All 4 sectors that make up DOT's Maintenance Division have locally sourced topsoil stored onsite. Topsoil is applied when grassy areas that fall under the jurisdiction of DOT are found to have been disturbed or excavated. Once topsoil has been applied, DOT generally plants Kentucky bluegrass which is known for being resilient in a variety of climates.

In terms of urban agriculture, DOT ROW Division does work with HCD when parcels of public ROW under DOT's umbrella are requested to be adopted by residents and stakeholders. Additionally, DOT ROW Division's Special Events Office manages the reviewing and approving of permits for the various farmer's markets that exist across the City.

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT POSITION – The Department of Transportation **supports** the adoption of Council Resolution 21-0070R.

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

Sincerely,

Steve Sharkey
Director