



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: 25-0125

***Title: Supplementary Department of Planning
Project Fund Capital Appropriation – Department
of Planning – \$17,000,000***

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Meeting: Bill Hearing
Committee: Budget & Appropriations
Bill # 25-0125

Title: Supplementary Department of Planning Project Fund Capital Appropriation – Department of Planning – \$17,000,000

Purpose: of providing a Supplementary Department of Planning Project Fund Capital Appropriation in the amount of \$17,000,000 to the Department of Planning – PRJ003617 (Middle Branch Resiliency Initiative - MBRI), to support the South Baltimore Gateway Partnership to design and construct the Smith Cove Project (SCP); 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

BACKGROUND

The supplementary capital appropriation is to approve this supplemental of State funds for the Middle Branch Resiliency Initiative grant. The Middle Branch Resiliency Initiative (MBRI) is Maryland's largest coastal resilience initiative, dedicated to restoring 50+ acres of habitat along 11 miles of shoreline. South Baltimore Gateway Partnership will utilize these funds to support the design and construction of the Smith Cove Project (SCP). 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. ⁱ

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Fiscal Note:

\$17,000,000 will be made available to the Department of Planning to support the South Baltimore Gateway Partnership to design and construct the Smith Cove Project (SCP) in Fiscal Year 2026.

Analysis by: Paroma Nandi

Direct Inquiries to: 443-890-0839

Analysis Date: 1/2/2026

Sources:

ⁱ Baltimore City Charter Article VI, §8(b)(2)(ii) and (c).

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 25-0125
(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

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **Supplementary Department of Planning Project Fund Capital Appropriation –**
3 **Department of Planning – \$17,000,000**

4 FOR the purpose of providing a Supplementary Department of Planning Project Fund Capital
5 Appropriation in the amount of \$17,000,000 to the Department of Planning – PRJ003617
6 (Middle Branch Resiliency Initiative - MBRI), to support the South Baltimore Gateway
7 Partnership to design and construct the Smith Cove Project (SCP); and providing for a
8 special effective date.

9 BY authority of
10 Article VI - Board of Estimates
11 Section 8(b)(2)(ii) and (c)
12 Baltimore City Charter
13 (1996 Edition)

14 **Recitals**

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

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

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

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

Council Bill 25-0125

1 **SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That
2 \$17,000,000 shall be made available to the Department of Planning – PRJ003617 (Middle
3 Branch Resiliency Initiative - MBRI) as a Supplementary Department of Planning Project Fund
4 Capital Appropriation for Fiscal Year 2026, to support the South Baltimore Gateway Partnership
5 to design and construct the Smith Cove Project (SCP). The source of revenue for this
6 appropriation is a grant of State funds in excess of the amount from this source that was relied on
7 by the Board of Estimates in determining the tax levy required to balance the budget for Fiscal
8 Year 2026.

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



TO: Board of Estimates, Office of Comptroller

FROM: AGC5700 - Planning

DATE: 11/05/2025

Submission #: SB-25-13991

SUBJECT: FY26 Supplemental of State Funds for Middle Branch Resiliency Initiative

ACTION REQUESTED OF BOARD OF ESTIMATES:

The Board is requested to approve a Supplemental Appropriation South Baltimore Gateway Partnership.

PERIOD OF CONTRACT/AGREEMENT:

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDS:

Transaction Amount: \$ 17,000,000.00

Project Fund	Amount
- PRJ003617-RC0603	\$ 17,000,000.00

BACKGROUND/EXPLANATION:

The Board is requested to approve this supplemental of State funds for the Middle Branch Resiliency Initiative grant. The Middle Branch Resiliency Initiative (MBRI) is Maryland's largest coastal resilience initiative, dedicated to restoring 50+ acres of habitat along 11 miles of shoreline. South Baltimore Gateway Partnership will utilize these funds to support the design and construction of the Smith Cove Project (SCP).

SMBA&D Participation not required / Pass-through of state and/or federal funds

COUNCIL DISTRICT: 10th District

EMPLOY
BALTIMORE:

N/A

LIVING WAGE:

N/A

LOCAL HIRING:

N/A

PREVAILING
WAGE:

N/A

1% FOR PUBLIC ART:

N/A.

ENDORSEMENTS:

SMBA&D has reviewed and approved.



Clerk, Board of Estimates

11-05-2025

Baltimore City Council



Budget & Appropriations

Committee

Bill: 25-0125

Title: Supplementary Department of Planning Project
Fund Capital Appropriation – Department of Planning –
\$17,000,000

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 19, 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 25-0125 – Supplementary Department of Planning Project Fund Capital
Appropriation – Department of Planning – \$17,000,000

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department reviewed City Council Bill 25-0125 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill provides a Supplementary Department of Planning Project Fund Capital Appropriation in the amount of \$17,000,000 to the Department of Planning – PRJ003617 (Middle Branch Resiliency Initiative - MBRI), to support the South Baltimore Gateway Partnership to design and construct the Smith Cove Project (SCP). The bill would take effect on its date of enactment.

The submission to the Board of Estimates for Council Bill 25-0125 identifies the Project Fund as PRJ003617-RC0603. The Council bill 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. This is stated in Council Bill 25-0125. The bill states that the funds are from a grant of State funds for the Middle Branch Resiliency Initiative.

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,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michele Toth".

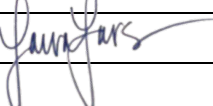
Michele Toth
Assistant Solicitor

cc: Ebony Thompson
Ethan Hasiuk

Shamoyia 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

TO	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
FROM	Laura Larsen, Budget Director 
DATE	January 5 th , 2026
SUBJECT	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

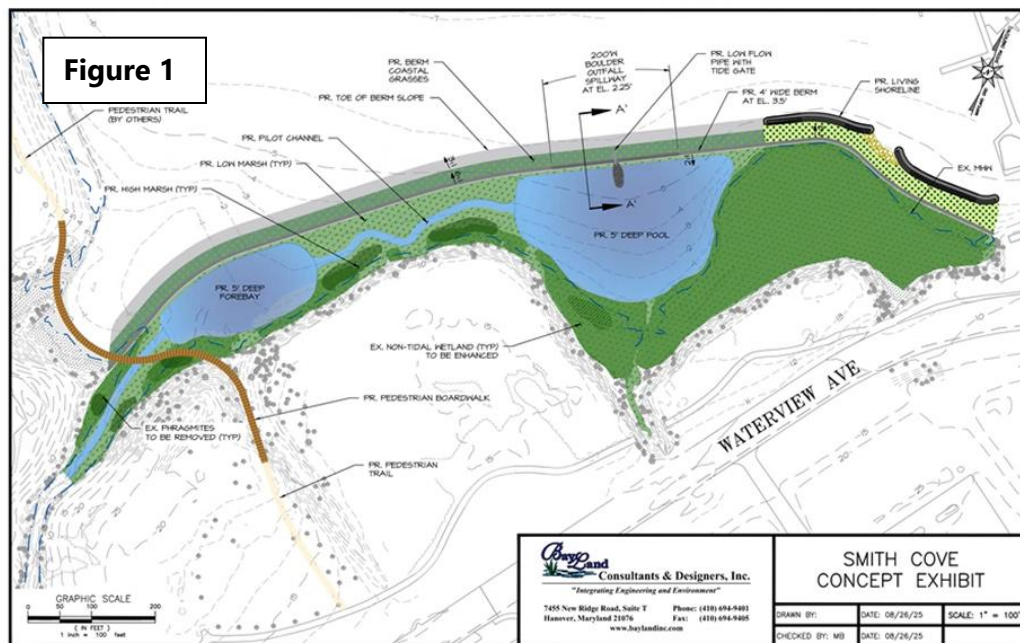


CITY OF BALTIMORE
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

TO	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
FROM	Tim Keane, Director, Department of Planning
DATE	November 24, 2025
SUBJECT	City Council Bill #25-0125

Position: Favorable

Summary of position: The Department of Planning supports a favorable position on CCB #25-0125 which will provide \$17,000,000 in Supplementary Department of Planning Project Capital Project Fund Capital Appropriations to the Department of Planning. This funding will support the design and construction of the Smith Cove Project in collaboration with the South Baltimore Gateway Partnership (PRJ003617). The Smith Cove Project is an integrated coastal resilience, habitat re-establishment, stormwater management, and water quality improvement project located in and adjacent to Middle Branch Park, the future site of Westport Waterfront Park, and Waterview Ave (See *Figure 1* below).



Fiscal Impact: The fiscal impact of this supplemental appropriation will be a \$17,000,000 decrease in Federal Grants and a \$17,000,000 increase in State Grants for the Middle Branch Resiliency Initiative.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Sara Paraniham, Division Chief, Policy and Data Analysis at sara.paraniham@baltimorecity.gov.