

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 18-0076R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: President Young, Councilmembers Henry, Scott, Costello, Burnett, Bullock,
Pinkett, Dorsey, Cohen, Middletown, Stokes, Sneed, Clarke, Reisinger, Schleifer

Introduced and read first time: March 26, 2018

Assigned to: Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Department of Transportation

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Investigative Hearing – Physical Status of the Municipal Conduit System**

3 FOR the purpose of calling on representatives from the Department of Transportation and its
4 Conduit Section Engineering group to appear before the City Council to discuss the physical
5 condition of the Municipal Conduit System, its current reach, maintenance plans, and any
6 plans to expand the system.

7 **Recitals**

8 Baltimore’s Municipal Conduit System is a significant, but often poorly understood asset for
9 the City. Its more than 700 miles of tunnels carry electrical, telephone, and fiber optic lines to
10 homes and businesses throughout the city, allowing private companies access to customers that
11 would otherwise be all but impossible. In recent years it was the subject of an unsolicited \$100
12 million purchase offer and may possess a much higher value than that were it to be sold.

13 Continued City ownership of this system presents Baltimore with many opportunities to use
14 it to ensure citizen access to utilities, profit from user fees, or leverage it to make the deployment
15 of new services, such as a municipal-owned broadband network, easier and cheaper. However,
16 maintaining these tunnels, some of which are well over a century old, is also a significant City
17 responsibility. Neither the opportunities nor responsibilities inherent in the conduit system are
18 as well known as they could be.

19 In order to ensure that this asset is being used as effectively as possible, it is important that
20 the public, and their representatives on the City Council, be more fully informed about the
21 physical condition of the conduit system, it’s current reach, and any plans to expand it. Areas of
22 concern or potential opportunity should also be discussed and considered. Only when a full
23 picture of this asset beneath our feet is regularly presented, can we be certain that the City is
24 getting everything it can out of the system now and not letting its value decline from neglect or
25 lack of attention.

26 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
27 Council calls on representatives from the Department of Transportation and its Conduit Section
28 Engineering group to appear before the Council to discuss the physical condition of the
29 Municipal Conduit System, its current reach, maintenance plans, and any plans to expand the
30 system.

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

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1 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
2 Director of Transportation, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.