

FROM

NAME & TITLE	Alfred H. Foxx, Director
AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Transportation 417 E. Fayette Street, Room 527
SUBJECT	City Council Bill 08-0179

CITY of
BALTIMORE
MEMO



TO

The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Karen Randle
Room 400 City Hall

DATE: August 26, 2008

I am herein reporting on City Council Bill No. 08-0179.

Parking Tax – Tax Rate


For the purpose of establishing a new, uniform tax rate for parking a motor vehicle on a parking lot or in a garage; providing for a special effective date; and generally relating to the imposing and administration of the parking tax.

The bill establishes a uniform rate (percentage) for taxing parking in Baltimore City. The current two-part method is somewhat awkward and can be difficult to manage. The proposed method will streamline the collection process and make the ability to audit easier. The uniform rate 15.5% is in line with cities of similar size to Baltimore and less than some. New York's rate is fixed at 18.5%, Philadelphia's at 20%. The cost to the users of parking garages is minimal and is not expected to impact the current level of business at the facilities.

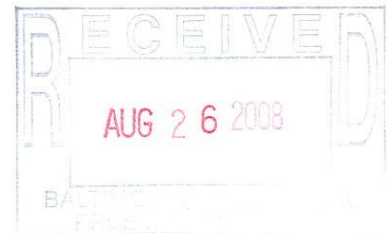
The funds generated will be used to support a downtown circulator system that will provide free transportation for residents, workers and visitors to the downtown area. The proposed system will reduce traffic congestion and lessen the pressure on parking growth.

The business, institutional and residential communities of downtown Baltimore are committed partners with the City in support of a viable shuttle system. The stakeholders clearly see the benefit of a specialized transit system that can carry people to and from the extremities of the downtown area. The Department of Transportation strongly supports the passage of this bill.

Respectfully,


ALFRED H. FOXX
DIRECTOR
AHF/WD:zs

cc: Ms. Angela C. Gibson
Mr. Anthony P. Wallnofer, Jr.
Mr. Bill Driscoll
Mr. Jamie Kendrick



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