



BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

Mission Statement

The Budget and Appropriations Committee 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, May 5, 2026

9:00 AM

CLARENCE "DU" BURNS COUNCIL CHAMBERS

26-0182

Bond Issue – Public Infrastructure Loan – \$148,000,000

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**BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE****The Honorable Danielle McCray
CHAIR****Bill Hearing***Bill 26-0182**Bond Issue – Public Infrastructure Loan – \$148,000,000*

Purpose the purpose of authorizing the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore (pursuant to General Assembly House Resolution IV and Senate Resolution IV of 2026 approved by the members of the Maryland General Assembly representing Baltimore City) to create a debt, and to issue and sell its certificates of indebtedness as evidence thereof, and proceeds not exceeding ONE HUNDRED FORTY EIGHT Million Dollars (\$148,000,000.00) from the sale of such certificates of indebtedness to be used for the development of the public infrastructure owned or controlled by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, and the construction and development of streets, bridges, courthouses, city office buildings, police stations, fire stations, solid waste facilities, information technology public park and recreational and related land, property, buildings, structures or facilities including but not limited to, the acquisition by purchase, lease, condemnation or any other legal means, of land or property, or any rights therein, in the City of Baltimore, and constructing and erecting on said land or property, or on any land or property, new buildings, structures, infrastructure and auxiliary facilities; and for the renovation, alteration, construction, reconstruction, installation, improvement and repair of existing infrastructure, buildings, structures or facilities, to be or now being used for or in connection with the operations, functions and activities of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, the demolition, removal, relocation, renovation or alteration of land, buildings, streets, highways, alleys, utilities or services, and other structures or improvements, and for the construction, reconstruction, installation, relocation or repair of buildings, streets, highways, alleys, utilities or services, including information technology infrastructure, and other structures or improvements; for the acquisition and installation of trees or for tree planting programs; and for the acquisition and installation of equipment and fixtures for any and all facilities authorized to be constructed, erected, altered, reconstructed, renovated, reconstructed, installed or improved by the provisions hereof; the payment of any and all costs and expenses incurred for or in connection with doing any or all of the things herein mentioned, including but not limited to, the costs and expenses of securing administrative, appraisal, economic analysis, engineering, planning, designing, architectural, surveying and other professional services; and for doing any and all things necessary, proper or expedient in connection with or pertaining to any or all of the matters or things hereinbefore mentioned; authorizing the issuance of refunding bonds; conferring and imposing upon the Board of Finance of Baltimore City certain powers and duties; authorizing the submission of this Ordinance to the legal voters of the City of Baltimore, for their approval or disapproval, at the General Election to be held in Baltimore City on Tuesday, the 3rd day of November, 2026; and providing for the expenditure of the proceeds of sale of said certificates of indebtedness in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, and by the municipal agency designated in the annual Ordinance of Estimates of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore.

REPORTING AGENCIES

Department of Transportation	Favorable
Department of General Services	Favorable
Department of Recreation and Parks	Favorable
Enoch Pratt Free Library	Favorable
Department of Planning	Favorable
Department of Finance	Favorable
Law Department	Approved for Form and Legal Sufficiency

BACKGROUND

Council Bill 26-0182, if approved will require approval from voters through a ballot referendum to issue General Obligation Bonds (GO Bonds) at the upcoming General Election held in Baltimore City on Tuesday, November 3, 2026.

This Bill would authorize the Mayor and City Council to create a debt not exceeding \$148,000,000 to fund the City’s public infrastructure capital budget. The bill also contains provisions concerning the use of the funds, the issuance of the bonds, and other related matters. The majority of these projects are overseen by the Department of General Services (DGS) on behalf of user agencies and appear in the DGS capital budget.

FISCAL NOTE

The Department of Finance’s Bill report indicates the proposed borrowing level is based on analysis from the City’s debt study that was completed in December 2023. The debt study found that the City can incrementally phase in additional GO Borrowing over the next 10 years and remain within acceptable debt ratio standards. Additional debt service costs will require increased General Fund support; these costs will be planned and budgeted for in future budgets.

Analysis by: Paroma Nandi
Analysis Date: 5/4/2026

Direct Inquiries to: Paroma.Nandi@baltimorecity.gov

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 26-0182
(First Reader)**

Introduced by: The Council President
At the request of: The Administration (Department of Planning)
Introduced and read first time: April 27, 2026
Assigned to: Budget and Appropriations Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of Finance, Department of Planning, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Department of Recreation and Parks, Department of General Services, Department of Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **Bond Issue – Public Infrastructure Loan – \$148,000,000**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore (pursuant to General
4 Assembly House Resolution IV and Senate Resolution IV of 2026 approved by the members
5 of the Maryland General Assembly representing Baltimore City) to create a debt, and to issue
6 and sell its certificates of indebtedness as evidence thereof, and proceeds not exceeding ONE
7 HUNDRED FORTY EIGHT Million Dollars (\$148,000,000.00) from the sale of such
8 certificates of indebtedness to be used for the development of the public infrastructure owned
9 or controlled by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, and the construction and
10 development of streets, bridges, courthouses, city office buildings, police stations, fire
11 stations, solid waste facilities, information technology public park and recreational and
12 related land, property, buildings, structures or facilities including but not limited to, the
13 acquisition by purchase, lease, condemnation or any other legal means, of land or property, or
14 any rights therein, in the City of Baltimore, and constructing and erecting on said land or
15 property, or on any land or property, new buildings, structures, infrastructure and auxiliary
16 facilities; and for the renovation, alteration, construction, reconstruction, installation,
17 improvement and repair of existing infrastructure, buildings, structures or facilities, to be or
18 now being used for or in connection with the operations, functions and activities of the
19 Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, the demolition, removal, relocation, renovation or
20 alteration of land, buildings, streets, highways, alleys, utilities or services, and other
21 structures or improvements, and for the construction, reconstruction, installation, relocation
22 or repair of buildings, streets, highways, alleys, utilities or services, including information
23 technology infrastructure, and other structures or improvements; for the acquisition and
24 installation of trees or for tree planting programs; and for the acquisition and installation of
25 equipment and fixtures for any and all facilities authorized to be constructed, erected, altered,
26 reconstructed, renovated, reconstructed, installed or improved by the provisions hereof; the
27 payment of any and all costs and expenses incurred for or in connection with doing any or all
28 of the things herein mentioned, including but not limited to, the costs and expenses of
29 securing administrative, appraisal, economic analysis, engineering, planning, designing,
30 architectural, surveying and other professional services; and for doing any and all things
31 necessary, proper or expedient in connection with or pertaining to any or all of the matters or
32 things hereinbefore mentioned; authorizing the issuance of refunding bonds; conferring and
33 imposing upon the Board of Finance of Baltimore City certain powers and duties; authorizing

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

Council Bill 26-0182

1 the submission of this Ordinance to the legal voters of the City of Baltimore, for their
2 approval or disapproval, at the General Election to be held in Baltimore City on Tuesday, the
3 3rd day of November, 2026; and providing for the expenditure of the proceeds of sale of said
4 certificates of indebtedness in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the Mayor and
5 City Council of Baltimore, and by the municipal agency designated in the annual Ordinance
6 of Estimates of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore.

7 **WHEREAS**, By General Assembly House Resolution IV and Senate Resolution IV of 2026,
8 approved by the members of the Maryland General Assembly representing Baltimore City, the
9 Mayor and City Council of Baltimore is authorized to create a debt and to issue and sell its
10 certificates of indebtedness (hereinafter called “bonds”) as evidence thereof, and proceeds not
11 exceeding ONE HUNDRED FORTY EIGHT Million Dollars (\$148,000,000.00) from the sale of
12 such bonds to be used for the development of the public infrastructure as authorized by said
13 Resolution; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Funds are now needed for said purposes; now, therefore,

15 **SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the
16 Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, acting by and through the Board of Finance of said
17 municipality, be and it is hereby authorized and empowered to create a debt and to issue and sell
18 bonds of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore from time to time, as may be needed or
19 required for the purposes hereinafter named and said bonds shall be sold by the Board of Finance
20 from time to time and at such times as shall be requisite, and proceeds not exceeding ONE
21 HUNDRED FORTY EIGHT Million Dollars (\$148,000,000.00) from the sale of such bonds
22 shall be used for the purposes hereinafter named, provided that this Ordinance shall not become
23 effective unless it shall be approved by a majority of the votes of the legal voters of Baltimore
24 City cast at the time and place hereinafter designated by this Ordinance.

25 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, That:

26 (a) The denomination or denominations of the bonds to be issued at any particular time
27 and the place or places for the payment of principal and interest thereof are to be determined by
28 the Board of Finance.

29 (b) The bonds authorized to be issued and sold under the provisions of this Ordinance
30 may be issued to mature on such dates and in such amounts as the Board of Finance may
31 determine; provided that the entire principal amount represented thereby shall be discharged not
32 more than 40 years from the date of issuance of the bonds.

33 (c) The bonds, when issued, shall bear interest at such rate or rates as may be determined
34 by the Board of Finance, which rate or rates may be fixed or variable or as determined by a
35 method approved by the Board of Finance, and such interest shall be payable at such time or
36 times as may be determined by the Board of Finance.

37 **SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, That a majority of the Board of Finance of the
38 Mayor and City Council of Baltimore be, and they are hereby, authorized to pass a resolution or
39 resolutions, from time to time, to determine and set forth any or all of the following:

Council Bill 26-0182

1 (a) The amount of debt to be incurred by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore at any
2 particular time, and from time to time, under and pursuant to the provisions of this Ordinance;
3 the date or dates when any bonds representing said debt, or any part thereof, are to mature, and
4 the amount or amounts of said debt, or any part thereof, which shall mature upon the aforesaid
5 date or dates; and the date or dates in each year, during the entire period of time when any of said
6 bonds are outstanding, when interest on any of said bonds shall be payable;

7 (b) The form or forms of the bonds representing the debt, or any part thereof, authorized
8 to be issued under the provisions of this Ordinance at any particular time; and

9 (c) If the bonds are to be sold at public sale, the time, place, manner and medium of
10 advertisement of the readiness of the Board of Finance, acting for and on behalf of the Mayor and
11 City Council of Baltimore, to receive bids for the purchase of the bonds authorized to be issued
12 hereunder or any part thereof; the form, terms and conditions of such bids; the time, place and
13 manner of awarding bonds so bid for, including the right whenever any of the bonds authorized
14 by this Ordinance are offered for sale and sold at the same time as other bonds of the City, to
15 establish the conditions for bids and awards and to award all of the bonds on an all or none basis,
16 and the time, place, terms and manner of settlement for the bonds so bid for; provided, however,
17 that notwithstanding anything in this section, the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, or the
18 Board of Finance, as the case may be, shall have the right to reject any or all bids therefor for any
19 reason.

20 **SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That:**

21 (a) All premiums resulting from the sale of any of the bonds issued and sold pursuant to
22 the provisions of this Ordinance shall be applied as directed by the Board of Finance.

23 (b) The debt authorized by the provisions of this Ordinance, and the bonds issued and
24 sold pursuant thereto and their transfer, and the principal and interest payable thereon (including
25 any profit made in the sale thereof), shall be and remain exempt from any and all State, county
26 and municipal taxation in the State of Maryland.

27 (c) All bonds issued and sold pursuant to the provisions of this Ordinance may be sold at
28 public sale by the solicitation of competitive bids or at private (negotiated) sale without
29 advertisement or solicitation of competitive bids, for a price or prices which may be at, above or
30 below par value of the bonds, as determined by resolution of the Board of Finance of the Mayor
31 and City Council of Baltimore.

32 **SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That** until all of the interest on and principal of
33 any bonds issued pursuant to the provisions of this Ordinance have been paid in full, the Mayor
34 and City Council of Baltimore shall levy and impose an annual tax on each \$100 of assessable
35 property in the City of Baltimore at a rate sufficient to produce revenue to pay all interest on and
36 principal of all bonds theretofore issued and outstanding or authorized to be issued and
37 outstanding, payable in the next succeeding year.

38 **SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That** this Ordinance shall be submitted to the
39 legal voters of the City of Baltimore, for their approval or disapproval, at the General Election to
40 be held in Baltimore City, on Tuesday, the 3rd day of November, 2026.

Council Bill 26-0182

1 **SECTION 7. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, That prior to the date of the election
2 hereinbefore mentioned, notice shall be given to the public of the amount of money which the
3 Mayor and City Council of Baltimore is authorized to borrow, and the general purposes for
4 which such borrowed funds may be expended, under the terms and provisions of this Ordinance,
5 and the time when the election hereinbefore mentioned is to be held; and such public notice shall
6 be given in such manner and by such means or through such media and at such time or times as
7 may be determined, from time to time, by a majority of the Board of Finance.

8 **SECTION 8. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, That the actual cash proceeds derived from the
9 sale of the bonds authorized to be issued under the provisions of this Ordinance shall be used
10 exclusively for the following purposes, to wit:

11 (a) so much thereof as may be necessary for the cost of issuance, including the expense
12 of engraving, printing, advertising, attorneys, fees, and all other incidental expenses connected
13 therewith (which may include the proportion of the compensation of employees and general
14 administrative expenses of the Department of Finance reasonably allocated to the issuance of the
15 bonds); and

16 (b) for the development of the buildings owned or controlled by the Mayor and City
17 Council of Baltimore, the Enoch Pratt Free Library, and the development of public park and
18 recreational land, property, buildings, structures or facilities, including but not limited to, the
19 acquisition by purchase, lease, condemnation or any other legal means, of land or property, or
20 any rights therein, in the City of Baltimore, and constructing and erecting on said land or
21 property, or on any land or property, new buildings, structures, and auxiliary facilities; and for
22 the renovation, alteration, construction, reconstruction, installation, improvement and repair of
23 existing buildings, structures or facilities, to be or now being used for or in connection with the
24 operations, functions and activities of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore and the Enoch
25 Pratt Free Library, and at public parks and recreation and related land, buildings, structures or
26 facilities; the demolition, removal, relocation, renovation or alteration of land, buildings, streets,
27 highways, alleys, utilities or services, and other structures or improvements, and for the
28 construction, reconstruction, installation, relocation or repair of buildings, streets, highways,
29 alleys, utilities or services, including information technology infrastructure and other structures
30 or improvements;

31 (c) for the acquisition and installation of trees or tree planting programs and for the
32 acquisition and installation of equipment and fixtures for any and all facilities authorized to be
33 constructed, erected, altered, reconstructed, renovated, reconstructed, installed or improved by
34 the provisions hereof; the payment of any and all costs and expenses incurred for or in
35 connection with doing any or all of the things herein mentioned, including but not limited to, the
36 costs and expenses of securing administrative, appraisal, economic analysis, engineering,
37 planning, designing, architectural, surveying and other professional services; and

38 (d) for doing any and all things necessary, proper or expedient in connection with or
39 pertaining to any or all of the matters or things hereinbefore mentioned.

Council Bill 26-0182

SECTION 9. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That:

(a) The Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, acting by and through the Board of Finance thereof, is hereby authorized and empowered to issue its bonds for the purpose of refunding any bonds authorized to be issued under the provisions of this Ordinance by payment at maturity or the purchase or redemption of bonds in advance of maturity. The validity of any refunding bonds shall in no way be dependent upon or related to the validity or invalidity of the bonds being refunded. Such refunding bonds may be issued by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, acting by and through the Board of Finance thereof, for the purpose of providing it with funds to pay any of its outstanding bonds authorized to be issued under the provisions of this Ordinance at maturity, to purchase in the open market any of its outstanding bonds authorized to be issued under the provisions of this Ordinance prior to their maturity, to redeem prior to their maturity any outstanding bonds which are, by their terms, redeemable, to pay interest on any outstanding bonds prior to their payment at maturity or purchase or redemption in advance of maturity, or to pay any redemption or purchase premium in connection with the refunding of any of its outstanding bonds authorized to be issued under the provisions of this Ordinance.

(b) Any refunding bonds authorized to be issued and sold under the provisions of this Ordinance may be issued for the public purpose of:

(1) Realizing savings to Baltimore City in the aggregate cost of debt service on either a direct comparison or present value basis; or

(2) Debt restructuring that:

(i) In the aggregate effects such a reduction in the cost of debt service; or

(ii) Is determined by the Board of Finance of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore to be in the best interests of Baltimore City, to be consistent with Baltimore City's long-term financial plan, and to realize a financial objective of Baltimore City including, improving the relationship of debt service to a source of payment such as taxes, assessments, or other charges.

(c) Any refunding bonds authorized to be issued and sold under the provisions of this Ordinance may be issued in whatever principal amount shall be required to achieve the purpose for the issuance of the refunding bonds, which amount may be in excess of the principal amount of the bonds refunded or the maximum principal amount of bonds authorized to be issued under Section 1 of this Ordinance.

(d) Any refunding bonds authorized to be issued and sold under the provisions of this Ordinance may be issued to mature on such dates and in such amounts as the Board of Finance may determine; provided that the entire principal amount represented by the refunding bonds shall be discharged not more than 40 years from the date of issuance of the bonds being refunded.

Council Bill 26-0182

1 (e) Any refunding bonds authorized to be issued and sold under the provisions of this
2 Ordinance may be sold at public sale by the solicitation of competitive bids or at private
3 (negotiated) sale without advertisement or solicitation of competitive bids, for a price or prices
4 which may be at, above or below the par value of the refunding bonds, as determined by
5 resolution of the Board of Finance of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore. If the Board of
6 Finance determines to sell the refunding bonds at public sale, the refunding bonds shall be sold to
7 the highest responsible bidder or bidders therefor after due notice of such sale, but the Mayor and
8 City Council of Baltimore, acting by and through the Board of Finance thereof, shall have the
9 right to reject any or all bids therefor for any reason.

10 (f) Any refunding bonds authorized to be issued and sold under the provisions of this
11 Ordinance shall bear interest at such rate or rates as may be determined by the Board of Finance
12 of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, which rate or rates may be fixed or variable or as
13 determined by a method approved by the Board of Finance, and such interest shall be payable at
14 such time or times as may be determined by the Board of Finance.

15 (g) The proceeds of the sale of any refunding bonds authorized to be issued and sold
16 under the provisions of this Ordinance, after the payment of issuance costs relating thereto, shall
17 be set aside by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore as a separate trust fund to be used solely
18 for the purposes stated in this Section 9.

19 (h) Except as otherwise provided in this Section 9, the powers granted in, the limitations
20 and obligations imposed by, and the procedures specified in this Ordinance with respect to the
21 issuance of bonds shall be applicable to the issuance of refunding bonds.

22 (i) Any refunding bonds authorized to be issued and sold under the provisions of this
23 Ordinance shall not be subject to any debt policy limitation that may from time to time be
24 established by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore.

25 **SECTION 10. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That the expenditure of the proceeds derived
26 from the sale of the bonds authorized to be issued under the provisions of this Ordinance shall be
27 in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, and
28 by the municipal agency designated in the annual Ordinance of Estimates of the Mayor and City
29 Council of Baltimore.

BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL



BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

26-0182

*Bond Issue – Public Infrastructure Loan –
\$148,000,000*

Agency Reports



CITY OF BALTIMORE
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

TO	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
FROM	Bob Cenname, Deputy Finance Director <i>Bob Cenname</i>
DATE	May 4 th , 2026
SUBJECT	26-0182 Bond Issue – Public Infrastructure Loan – \$148,000,000

The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
City Hall, Room 400

Position: Support

The Department of Finance is herein reporting on City Council Bill 26-0182, Bond Issue - Public Infrastructure Loan - \$148,000,000, the purpose of authorizing the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore (pursuant to General Assembly House Resolution IV and Senate Resolution IV of 2024 approved by the members of the Maryland General Assembly representing Baltimore City) to create a debt, and to issue and sell its certificates of indebtedness as evidence thereof and proceeds not exceeding One Hundred Forty-Eight Million Dollars (\$148,000,000).

Background

As proposed, City Council bill 26-0182 would authorize the Mayor and City Council to authorize debt not exceeding \$148 million to fund the City's public infrastructure capital budget. The proceeds may be used for the construction and development of streets, bridges, courthouses, city office buildings, police stations, fire stations, solid waste facilities, information technology, public park and recreational and related land, property, buildings, structures or facilities.

General Obligation (GO) Bonds are one source of funding for the capital budget that fund various critical projects. Based on prior analysis, the City estimates that maintaining its infrastructure in a state of good repair requires at least \$200 million in annual investment. To meet the critical need for infrastructure investment, *Securing Baltimore's Future*, the City's new 10-Year Financial Plan, calls for the City to phase in an increase to its annual GO Bond authority, which averaged \$80 million from Fiscal 2020 to 2025. The City aims to reach \$200 million in GO Bond authority by Fiscal 2032. The City's GO Bond authority was increased to \$125 million for Fiscal 2026 and Fiscal 2027.

Fiscal Impact

Council Bill 26-0182 is one of four bills seeking approval to increase GO borrowing on the November 2026 ballot. In total, these bills propose increasing the City's annual GO borrowing to \$140 million in Fiscal 2028 and Fiscal 2029, which is an increase of \$15 million from Fiscal 2026

and Fiscal 2027. The proposed borrowing level is based on analysis from the City's debt study that was completed in December 2023. The debt study found that the City can incrementally phase in additional GO Borrowing over the next 10 years and remain within acceptable debt ratio standards. Additional debt service costs will require increased General Fund support; these costs will be planned and budgeted for in future budgets.

The authorization is drafted as 'up to' meaning the actual GO borrowing amounts reflected in future capital budgets can be reduced based on the City's financial outlook. The City will evaluate its fiscal condition, including revenue projections, debt capacity, and existing obligations, before issuing any debt to ensure that additional borrowing remains affordable and consistent with best practices in financial management practices. This approach provides flexibility to scale borrowing in alignment with changing revenue and expenditures while maintaining the City's long-term fiscal stability. Council Bill 26-0182 seeks to authorize up to \$148 million in GO borrowing for public infrastructure projects. The majority of these projects are overseen by the Department of General Services (DGS) on behalf of user agencies and appear in the DGS capital budget.

Conclusion

The Department of Finance acknowledges the additional General Fund cost associated with increasing the annual GO Borrowing authorization. The current funding level for capital projects is not sufficient to fund complete projects and further contributes to the City's growing deferred maintenance backlog. The Department will make an assessment in Fiscal 2028 and Fiscal 2029 to the level of borrowing that is fiscally sound. This additional investment in capital spending is a critical step towards reducing the City's risk exposure associated with such significant levels of deferred maintenance.

For the reasons stated above, the Department of Finance supports City Council Bill 26-0182.

cc: Michael Mocksten
Nina Themelis



CITY OF BALTIMORE
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

TO	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
FROM	Berke Attila, Director, Department of General Services
CC	Mayor's Office of Government Relations
DATE	May 1, 2026
SUBJECT	City Council Bill 26-0182 – Bond Issue – Public Infrastructure Loan – \$148,000,000

Position: Favorable

BILL SYNOPSIS

City Council Bill 26-0182 authorizes the City to issue up to \$148 million in debt to fund capital improvements for public infrastructure. The funding will support the construction, renovation, and maintenance of City-owned facilities and systems, including buildings, streets, utilities, and other essential infrastructure used to deliver public services.

SUMMARY OF POSITION

The Department of General Services supports this legislation as it directly enables the agency to carry out its core responsibility of maintaining and improving City-owned facilities. DGS oversees a portfolio of 153 facilities totaling approximately 4.9 million square feet, including critical assets such as police stations, firehouses, health clinics, libraries, courthouses, and administrative buildings.

This funding is essential to addressing deferred maintenance, preserving aging infrastructure, and ensuring facilities remain safe, functional, and accessible. Without consistent investment through mechanisms like the Public Infrastructure Loan, the City risks increased repair costs, service disruptions, and deterioration of critical public assets.

The bill will allow DGS to advance priority capital projects that support public safety, health services, government operations, and community programs. It also provides flexibility to respond to urgent facility needs and align capital investments with broader City goals, including sustainability and operational efficiency.

FISCAL IMPACT

The legislation authorizes borrowing for capital improvements and does not create an immediate operating budget impact for DGS. However, it enables the agency to fund necessary repairs and upgrades that, if delayed, could result in higher long-term costs.

Bond funding supports large-scale capital projects that cannot be absorbed within the operating budget. While debt service will be managed at the City level, DGS may experience indirect fiscal impacts related to project implementation, including procurement, contract management, and potential staffing or consultant support tied to project delivery.

Overall, the funding is a critical investment that helps mitigate escalating maintenance costs and extends the useful life of City facilities.

AMENDMENTS

No amendments are requested at this time.



CITY OF BALTIMORE
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

TO	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
FROM	Ren Southard, Director, Department of Planning
CC	Mayor's Office of Government Relations
DATE	April 30, 2026
SUBJECT	City Council Bill #26-0182 - Bond Issue - Public Infrastructure Loan - \$148,000,000

Position: Favorable

BILL SYNOPSIS

Once approved by voters, the Public Infrastructure Loan will allow the City to issue debt for upgrades to public infrastructure including parks, recreation centers, playgrounds, athletic courts, libraries, health centers, streets, bridges, bike lanes, sidewalks, transportation safety improvements, courthouses, city office buildings, police stations, fire stations, and solid waste facilities.

SUMMARY OF POSITION

The Department of Planning (DoP) annually prepares a six-year Capital Improvement Program, the first year of which becomes the City's capital budget. DoP works with agencies that manage physical infrastructure and support improvements to the physical environment of the City. General Obligation (GO) bonds are a small but extremely important piece of the City's capital budget, used to match state and federal funds, fund the City's highest priority projects, and fund necessary projects for which no other source is available. Every two years, the City of Baltimore must get permission from voters through a ballot referendum to issue general obligation bonds (GO bonds). GO bonds are borrowed funds that are used for capital projects, including housing and neighborhood revitalization; school renovations and improvements; economic development; improvements to City parks, recreation centers, and other government facilities; transportation infrastructure; and key City institutions and cultural attractions.

This bill is consistent with what was approved by the Planning Commission in its public meeting on October 30, 2025, and so the Department of Planning recommends that this bill be approved.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Public Infrastructure Loan is the sole source of funding for many facilities, such as city buildings and solid waste infrastructure. It also must be used to match state and federal funding for parks and recreation and transportation. This loan cannot meet the infrastructure needs for the City, but is an incredibly important fund source to meet the most urgent needs.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Sara Paraniham, Capital Budget Director, at sara.paraniham@baltimorecity.gov.



CITY OF BALTIMORE
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

TO	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
FROM	Veronica P. McBeth, Director, Department of Transportation
CC	Mayor's Office of Government Relations
DATE	May 1, 2026
SUBJECT	26-0182 • Bond Issue – Public Infrastructure Loan – \$148,000,000

Position: Favorable

BILL SYNOPSIS

Council Bill 26-0182 would authorize the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City to issue up to \$148,000,000 in bonds for the purpose of funding public infrastructure and facilities such as streets, schools, water infrastructure, and libraries, among other things. The availability of these funds is contingent on approval by qualified Baltimore City voters at the General Election to be held on Tuesday, November 3rd, 2026.

SUMMARY OF POSITION

The Department supports joint efforts by the departments of Planning and Finance to make long-term investments in City infrastructure through the creation of public debts. The Department will work with these peer agencies to deploy any new allocated funds strategically so as to maximize return on investment generated for City taxpayers. For these reasons, the Department supports Council Bill 26-0182.

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

May 2, 2026

The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
Room 409, City Hall
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: Mayor and City Council Bill 26-0182 – Bond Issue – Public Infrastructure Loan –
\$148,000,000

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 26-0182 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill would authorize the Mayor and City Council to create a debt not exceeding \$148,000,000 (the “Debt”) for the public purposes that are outlined in the House Resolution IV and Senate Resolution IV of the General Assembly’s 2026 Legislative Session. The bill also contains provisions concerning the use of the funds, the issuance of the bonds, and other related matters.

Section 7 of Article XI of the Constitution of Maryland prevents the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore from creating general obligation debt that is secured by the full faith and credit of the City without having the proposal first be “(1) presented to and approved by a majority of the members of the General Assembly representing Baltimore City no later than the 30th day of the regular session of the General Assembly immediately preceding its submission to the voters, or (2) authorized by an act of the General Assembly.” The aforementioned General Assembly Resolutions of 2026 have satisfied this requirement. The Maryland Constitution also requires that this bill “provide for the discharge of any such debt or credit within the period of 40 years from the time of contracting the same,” which it does.

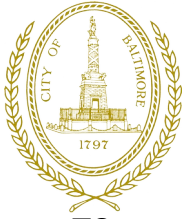
Additionally, the Maryland Constitution requires that after enactment, this ordinance be “submitted to the legal voters of the City of Baltimore, at such time and place as may be fixed by the ordinance, and approved by a majority of the votes cast at that time and place.” Md. Const., Art. XI, § 7. This bill provides for this requirement in Section 6. The Law Department approves Council Bill 26-0182 for form and legal sufficiency.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hilary Ruley".

Hilary Ruley
Chief Solicitor

cc: Ebony Thompson, City Solicitor
Nina Themelis, Mayor's Office of Government Relations
Jeffrey Hochstetler, Chief Solicitor
Ashlea Brown, Chief Solicitor
Michele Toth, Assistant Solicitor
Desiree Luckey, Assistant Solicitor



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

100 Holliday Street, Room 250
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

TO	Chair Danielle McCray
FROM	Baltimore City Recreation & Parks, Dr. Reginald Moore, Executive Director <i>Thomas + Moore</i>
DATE	April 29, 2026
SUBJECT	26-0182
REQUEST TOPIC	Bond Issue - Public Infrastructure Loan

Baltimore City Recreation & Parks is reporting on City Council Bill 26-0182

PURPOSE

This bill authorizes the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, pursuant to 2026 General Assembly House Resolution IV and Senate Resolution IV, to issue up to \$148,000,000 in bonds through a Public Infrastructure Loan. These funds will support essential capital improvements to public infrastructure, including parks, recreation centers, playgrounds, pools, and athletic courts.

BACKGROUND

The Public Infrastructure Loan is a vital funding source for Baltimore City. It supports critical upgrades and serves as required matching funds to leverage additional state and federal investments. While insufficient to meet all infrastructure needs, it is indispensable for addressing the City's most urgent facility improvements.

AGENCY POSITION

Baltimore City Recreation & Parks supports City Council Bill 26-0182. Bond funding is essential to advancing our mission to improve quality of life and ensure equitable access to safe, modern recreational spaces across all neighborhoods. Investment in public infrastructure is fundamental to the City's continued growth, health, and resilience.

CONCLUSION

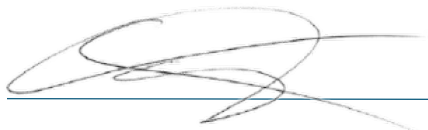
BCRP respectfully request a favorable report on City Council Bill 26-0182.

Testimony For Hearing

City Council Bill 26-0182, Bond Issue – Public Infrastructure Loan

City Council Bill 26-0182 will authorize the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore to create a debt not exceeding \$148,000,000 for the purpose of development of public infrastructure owned and controlled by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore. In this bill, a much needed \$25,750,000 will be awarded to the Enoch Pratt Free Library over fiscal years 2026 through fiscal year 2032 for capital facility improvements and the library’s facilities master plan.

The Enoch Pratt Free Library recommends approval of City Council Bill 26-0182.



Chad Helton, CEO & President

05/04/26

Date

Enoch Pratt Free Library