


F R O M	NAME & TITLE	Steve Sharkey, Director	CITY of BALTIMORE	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Transportation (DOT) 417 E Fayette Street, Room 527		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 21-0113	M E M O	

TO: Mayor Brandon M. Scott
TO: Economic and Community Development Committee
FROM: Department of Transportation
POSITION: **Support**
RE: Council Bill – 21-0113

DATE: 1/10/22

INTRODUCTION – Zoning Code - Modifications

PURPOSE/PLANS – For the purpose of making needed changes to certain provisions that, during the course of actively operating under the new Zoning Code, were discovered to be functionally impractical or otherwise in need of modification to abate previously unanticipated consequences; specifying that certain applications under the Zoning Code be filed either with the Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals or the Zoning Administrator; extending certain time limits for the Board to act; authorizing the Zoning Administrator or the Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals to deny an application under certain circumstances; modifying the outdoor seating specifications; authorizing certain reviews by the Site Plan Review Committee; authorizing that certain matters reviewed by the Site Plan Review Committee be approved by the Director of Planning; modifying certain off-street parking requirements; clarifying and establishing certain exceptions to bicycle parking design standards;

COMMENTS – Council Bill 21-0113 looks to modify a variety of areas within the City’s Zoning Code. Several proposed modifications to the City’s Zoning Code are of interest to the Baltimore City Department of Transportation, including:

- Within the Zoning Code’s definitions, “gas stations” are to be replaced with the term “fuel stations”, acknowledging the shift away from traditional gasoline vehicles to zero emission alternatives.
- The BMZA will be provided the same authority as the Zoning Administrator in terms of referring to DOT applications that meet traffic mitigation thresholds.
- Language is added, clarifying that outdoor seating for neighborhood commercial establishments must be facing the street side of the property.
- A provision is added prohibiting the installation of curb cuts on primary streets.
- Standards for bicycle parking are updated, encouraging the installation of more bicycle parking, designed to superior specifications compared to existing.
- Rules specifying types of commercial signs, special signage districts and areas permitted for signage are updated.

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT POSITION – The Department of Transportation **supports** the passage of Council Bill 21-0113.

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