

F R O M	NAME & TITLE	Steve Sharkey, Director	CITY of BALTIMORE M E M O	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Transportation (DOT) 417 E Fayette Street, Room 527		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 20-0563		

TO: Mayor Bernard C. “Jack” Young
TO: Equity & Structure Committee
FROM: Department of Transportation
POSITION: **Oppose**
RE: Council Bill – 20-0563

DATE: 9/23/20

INTRODUCTION – Charter Amendment - Disposition of City-Owned Real Property

PURPOSE/PLANS – For the purpose of amending the City Charter to repeal the City’s general authority to dispose of City-owned real property at private sale; conforming and clarifying related provisions; and submitting this amendment to the qualified voters of the City for adoption or rejection.

COMMENTS – The Department of Transportation (DOT) is extremely concerned about the potential ramifications resulting from the advancement of Council Bill 20-0563. The legislation seeks to repeal the City of Baltimore’s authority to dispose of City-owned real property via private sale. Such a repeal would severely impact economic development efforts that often rely on the opening, closing and sale of City streets and alleys. These openings, closings and sales are often executed to make parcels of land more attractive to potential developers looking to build housing, commercial, industrial, retail or institutional space.

Forbidding private sale and requiring public sale could have the unintended consequence of competitors purchasing properties in an effort to prevent the redevelopment of a given parcel. Additionally, the advancement of Council Bill 20-0563 could lead to litigation against the City of Baltimore due to existing Closing Agreements that are already in place with applicants seeking to purchase public property under the regulations set forth by Article 26, Subtitle 3 of City Code.

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT POSITION – The Department of Transportation foresees significant operational and fiscal impact on the agency resulting from the passage of Council Bill 20-0563. For this reason, DOT **opposes** Council Bill 20-0563.

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