



MEMORANDUM

STEPHANIE
RAWLINGS-BLAKE,
Mayor

PAUL T. GRAZIANO,
Executive Director, HABC
Commissioner, HCD

To: The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Karen Randle, *Executive Secretary*

From: Paul T. Graziano, *Commissioner*

Date: March 25, 2014

Re: **City Council Bill 14 – 0320 – Franchise – Baltimore Red Line Transit Project**

The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 14-0320, which was introduced for the purpose of authorizing the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore to acquire, by purchase or condemnation, the fee simple or other interests in certain property or portions of property, together with all right, title, interest, and estate that the owner or owners of the property have in all streets, alleys, ways, or lanes, public or private, contained within or abutting the whole area described or contained within the perimeter of the area, being situated in Baltimore City, and needed for the Baltimore Red Line Transit Project; and providing for a special effective date.

The Maryland Transit Administration is developing the Red Line Light Rail Transit Project, a 14-mile addition to the current light rail transit system, which will provide connectivity for City residents and visitors needing access to education, housing, and jobs.

The Mayor and City Council of Baltimore agreed to acquire and own certain property necessary for the Red Line as outlined in a Memorandum of Understanding that was approved by the Board of Estimates on October 24, 2012.

City Council Bill 14-0320, if passed, provides the Commissioner of Housing and Community Development authority to acquire property interests within the Red Line Corridor necessary for the construction and the operation of the Baltimore Red Line Transit Project, as well as acquisition necessary for the health, safety, or welfare of the public.

The Department of Housing and Community Development supports the adoption of City Council Bill 14- 0320.

PTG:sd

cc: Ms. Angela Gibson, *Mayor's Office of Government Relations*
Ms. Kaliopé Parthemos, *Deputy Chief*

