



MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 22, 2022
TO: Economic & Community Development Committee
FROM: Colin Tarbert, President and CEO
POSITION: Favorable
SUBJECT: City Council Bill No. 22-0246
York Corridor Business Improvement District – Establishment

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colin Tarbert".

INTRODUCTION

The Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) is reporting on City Council Bill No. 22-0246 introduced by Councilmember Conway.

PURPOSE

For the purpose of creating a community benefits district, to be known as the York Corridor Business Improvement District (BID). This will specifically create: the boundaries of the district; compose an Authority with a Board of Directors and highlight their rights, duties and powers; mandate the financial responsibilities of the Authority and City to align with the operation of the District. The creation of the BID will provide assessment, collection, and enforcement of supplemental tax to be collected by the Authority and require the City to maintain and enhance existing services. The formation of the BID will also encourage and strengthen the relationship between the Authority, City, Federal Government and property owners. The Board of Estimates will be charged with reviewing and approving various matters related to the district generally relating to the existence and operation and control of the York Corridor Business Improvement District and Authority.

BRIEF HISTORY

The Baltimore Development Corporation believes Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) play a positive and crucial role in economic development. The presence of a BID helps strengthen communities in areas of marketing, promotion, hospitality, public safety, beautification, and community networking. Furthermore, the creation and presence of a BID along the York Road Corridor would play a critical role to help bridge an existing void.

The York Road Corridor is a two-mile long strip that serves as a linear collection of at least three principal nodes. These nodes are centered along the major intersections of Belvedere Avenue, Woodbourne Avenue, and Cold Spring Lane. Collectively, these crossroads serve local and commercial retail needs of their adjoining neighborhoods to the east and west.

City Council Bill No. 22-0246

York Corridor Business Improvement District – Establishment

Page 2

The corridor serves as a meeting ground for the adjoining neighborhoods and their commercial uses and needs. Accordingly, the creation of The York Corridor Business Improvement District will provide an Authority to help promote, market, and maintain the corridor more efficiently and better connect the commercial strips.

In 2018, the York Road Retail Business District was dissolved in anticipation of a Business Improvement District being formed on York Road, but the intended BID was not subsequently formed as the legislation intended. The creation of The York Corridor Business Improvement District will ensure that there is an organizing body for the community and its merchants.

FISCAL IMPACT [to BDC]

None

AGENCY POSITION

The Baltimore Development Corporation respectfully requests a **favorable** report on City Council Bill No. 22-0246. If you have any questions, please contact Kim Clark at 410-837-9305 or KClark@baltimoredevelopment.com.

cc: Nina Themelis, Mayor's Office of Government Relations
Sophia Gebrehiwot, Mayor's Office of Government Relations

[SO]