



MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 4, 2024
TO: Rules & Legislative Oversight Committee
FROM: Colin Tarbert, President and CEO
POSITION: Favorable
SUBJECT: Council Bill 24-0209R Informational Hearing – Examining Baltimore’s Bike Infrastructure

INTRODUCTION

The Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) is reporting on City Council Bill 24-0209R introduced by Council Vice President Middleton.

PURPOSE

This informational hearing requests the presence of representatives from various government agencies to discuss the process of developing new bike infrastructure, the rationale for investing in bike infrastructure, and its impact on residents, business owners, and neighborhoods.

BRIEF HISTORY

Generally, protected bike infrastructure is considered beneficial for residents, businesses, neighborhoods, and commercial corridors. Multiple national studies indicate that – in addition to providing safe spaces for pedestrians, cyclists, and persons using mobility devices – bike infrastructure raises property values, increases retail sales for abutting businesses, and encourages slower driving speeds which make commercial corridors safer and more welcoming.

BDC is generally supportive of bike infrastructure, and we frequently partner with the Department of Transportation to provide bike racks for business owners free of cost. Typically, business owners working with BDC cite the need for bike parking for both their customers and employees, and BDC procures property owner and business owner approvals as part of any bike rack installation.

BDC also recognizes that many Baltimoreans lack access to a car and that many individuals rely on protected bike infrastructure to access jobs. This is particularly evident within Baltimore’s Hispanic and immigrant community – the City’s only growing demographic – and where it is imperative to continue providing safe access to major job centers, hospitals, schools, and other institutions.

Finally, BDC also recognizes the installation of bike infrastructure may inconvenience some businesses, and we encourage the Department of Transportation to work with any abutting businesses to minimize detrimental impacts to critical business functions. We do not believe

the installation of bike infrastructure and optimal business operations are mutually exclusive, and we stress the importance of businesses to be able to continue receive deliveries, accommodate passenger drop off, and retain street parking wherever possible.

FISCAL IMPACT [to BDC]

None.

AGENCY POSITION

The Baltimore Development Corporation respectfully submits a **favorable** report on City Council Bill 24-0209R. 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

[LC]