


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 Resolution 21-0034R		

TO: Mayor Brandon M. Scott
TO: Health, Environment & Technology Committee
FROM: Department of Transportation
POSITION: **Support**
RE: Council Resolution – 21-0034R

DATE: 6/7/21

INTRODUCTION – Informational Hearing - Baltimore City Broadband Expansion

PURPOSE/PLANS – For the purpose of inviting the Baltimore City Department of Finance, the Comptroller, Baltimore City Information Technology, the Law Department, the Department of Transportation, and other relevant parties to discuss and present multiple options for broadband and high-speed data access within the City of Baltimore; discussing the City’s powers or limitations regarding broadband expansion with regard to State law as well as City contracts and franchises already in place and the possibility of creating a municipal broadband utility to assist citizens in their accessibility to broadband; discussing possible policy or legislative reforms, and any other relevant information of interest to the Baltimore City Council in order to bring Baltimore City's broadband infrastructure and technology into the 21st Century.

COMMENTS – Council Resolution 21-0034R calls for agency representatives from various municipal agencies, including the Department of Transportation (DOT), to participate in a public informational hearing focused on discussing Baltimore City broadband expansion. Baltimore City’s 700+ mile municipal conduit is managed and maintained by DOT’s Conduit Division. The municipal conduit is an enterprise system, utilizing revenue generated by lessees to fully pay for operational and capital costs. The largest lessee is currently Baltimore Gas & Electric (BGE) who utilizes the conduit for underground electrical wiring. Numerous lessees, including broadband providers, also utilize the Conduit to reach various residential and business customers across the City.

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT POSITION – The Department of Transportation looks forward to participating in the planned public information hearing on Baltimore City broadband expansion. The Department of Transportation **supports** Council Resolution 21-0034R.

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