



CITY OF BALTIMORE
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

TO	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
FROM	Veronica P. McBeth, Director, Department of Transportation
CC	Mayor's Office of Government Relations
DATE	April 14, 2026
SUBJECT	26-0158 • Data Centers – Moratorium

Position: Without recommendation

BACKGROUND

Council Bill 26-0158 defines data centers and prevents their construction in the City by including them in the list of prohibited uses. Being a moratorium, this legislation would be effective for a period of one year following its implementation.

The Department was referred this legislation in compliance with section 5-503(b)(5) of the Baltimore City Zoning Code (Article 32), which requires the Department to submit a report on legislative authorizations pertaining to variances, conditional uses, map amendments, master plans, areas of special sign control, and planned unit developments.

The Department has minimal involvement in the regulation of data centers, participating only as it relates to the public right of way. That said, new data centers may exceed the capacity of local electrical grids and require additional infrastructure. New electric supply infrastructure should be located underground where possible to minimize overhead cable clutter and safety risks. Doing so may require the expansion of the City Conduit System or the creation of private conduit under City streets.

RECOMMENDATION

This report serves to fulfill Zoning Code requirements and confirms that the Department is not opposed to the advancement of the proposed legislation. As such, the Department provides no recommendation on the Council Bill and defers to the findings of the Planning Commission.