

F R O M	NAME & TITLE	Steve Sharkey, Director	CITY of BALTIMORE	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Transportation (DOT) 417 E Fayette Street, Room 527		
	SUBJECT	City Council Resolution 20-0194R	M E M O	

TO: Mayor Bernard C. “Jack” Young
TO: Health Committee
FROM: Department of Transportation
POSITION: Support
RE: Council Bill – 20-0194R

DATE: 4/24/20

INTRODUCTION – Informational Hearing - Baltimore’s Strategic Response to the Wuhan Coronavirus

PURPOSE/PLANS – For the purpose of inviting representatives from the Baltimore City Health Department, the Mayor’s Office of Emergency Management, the Baltimore Police Department, the Baltimore City Fire Department, and the Baltimore City Department of Finance to brief the City Council on Baltimore’s strategic response to the Wuhan coronavirus.

COMMENTS – City Council Resolution 20-0194R was introduced at the February 10th City Council Meeting and an initial Informational Hearing was held on March 5th. A follow up Informational Hearing has been scheduled for April 28th expanding the number of city agencies to provide COVID-19 response updates to the City Council, including the Department of Transportation (DOT). A summary of Baltimore City DOT’s COVID-19 impact and response is available below:

Agency COVID-19 Operations Impact – Impact to DOT operations resulting from COVID-19 is significant, though varies based on function. Preservation of essential services, public safety and the health of Baltimore resident as well as agency employees have been given priority.

Fully Operational – The Charm City Circulator continues to operate in full. Guidelines have been published mandating that riders wear facial coverings or masks. All non-disabled riders are being asked to board busses at the rear door to help reduce the likelihood of drivers being exposed to COVID-19. DOT capital projects with Federal Funding continue to move forward – examples include bridge reconstruction projects and roadway reconstruction projects. The ATVES Division continues to operate speed and red-light cameras – though schools are closed, school buildings are still being utilized as food distribution sites and locations for students to pick up remote course materials.

Modified Operations – A number of agency operations have been adjusted to reduce risk of COVID-19 exposure to City employees and contractors. DOT’s Maintenance Division operations are significantly impacted, prioritizing abatement of hazardous issues. Roadway resurfacing and sidewalk replacement has temporarily been paired down. Parking Enforcement is no longer enforcing residential permit parking, street sweeping, 48-hour parking, abandoned vehicles, parking meters and peak hour parking violations. The Towing Division has significantly reduced the number of vehicles being brought into the Fallsway and Pulaski impound lots and is currently working to move vehicle reclamation transactions from in-person to online. DOT’s Conduit Division has also modified operations to safeguard employee health and safety while simultaneously ensuring access to facilities located within the conduit system should the need arise. Dockless vehicles are still operational, though service availability varies by operator. Dockless vehicle ridership is down however a higher share of ridership has been observed within the program’s established equity zones and within proximity to medical

facilities. DOT's Right-of-Way Division is only processing permits online. A significant amount of DOT's workforce has transitioned to telework.

Suspended Operations – DOT's Harbor Connector water taxi services have been suspended until further notice. DOT staff are no longer attending community meetings in-person. Traffic Calming Studies have also been suspended as well as permits for special events.

Agency COVID-19 Response – In addition to continuing, modifying and suspending traditional agency services, DOT has joined forces with sister City agencies and stakeholders in working to mitigate the impact of COVID-19:

1. DOT's Transit Bureau has worked with the Mayor's Office of Homeless Services in helping coordinate transportation services for individuals experiencing homelessness to be transferred from shelter to hotels.
2. DOT's Transit Bureau as well as the agency's internal Data & GIS Teams have worked with the Baltimore City Health Department and the Baltimore City Planning Department on coordinating food distribution across the City.
3. DOT's Transit Bureau has been working with RMA, operator of the Charm City Circulator, to coordinate food delivery to senior residents.
4. DOT has also worked to help establish and enforce traffic at Baltimore City's COVID-19 testing sites.
5. DOT has been coordinating with sister agencies and stakeholders plans to implement pilot lane closures to provide residents more space to go outside and maintain social distance within Druid Hill Park on East Drive.
6. DOT's Maintenance Division has provided traffic cones to be utilized at each food distribution site.

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT POSITION – The Department of Transportation looks forward to continuing to discuss ways the agency can help Baltimore City navigate the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and fully **supports** City Council Resolution 20-0194R

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