



## **BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

### **Mission Statement**

***The Budget and Appropriations Committee (BA) is responsible for ensuring taxpayer dollars are expended prudently and equitably. BA will exercise regular oversight of the funding and spending practices of City agencies, the City's budget, expenditures, loans, and other financial matters. The committee's areas of jurisdiction include all budgets & appropriations, taxation, financial services, consumer protection, audits, and the Comptroller's Office.***

**The Honorable Danielle McCray**

**CHAIR**

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

**Tuesday, January 6, 2026**

**9:30 AM**

**CLARENCE "DU" BURNS COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

***Bill: 25-0122***

***Title: Supplementary Department of Transportation  
Project Fund Capital Appropriation – Department of  
Transportation – \$2,000,000***

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# CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON SCOTT – MAYOR

ZEKE COHEN - COUNCIL PRESIDENT



OFFICE OF COUNCIL SERVICES

NANCY MEAD – DIRECTOR

100 N. HOLIDAY STREET

BALTIMORE MD, 21202

Meeting: Bill Hearing

Committee: Budget & Appropriations

Bill # 25-0122

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**Title:** Supplementary Department of Transportation Project Fund Capital Appropriation – Department of Transportation – \$2,000,000

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**Purpose:** of providing a Supplementary Department of Transportation Project Fund Capital Appropriation in the amount of \$2,000,000 to the Department of Transportation – PRJ002909 (West Baltimore United), to provide funding for deconstruction and redevelopment of U.S. 40 Highway to Nowhere; and providing for a special effective date.

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#### REPORTING AGENCIES

Agency	Report
Law Department	Approved for form and legal sufficiency
Department of Finance	Favorable
Department of Planning	Favorable
Department of Transportation	Favorable

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#### BACKGROUND

The revenue category for this grant was incorrectly recorded as State funds as part of the FY 2026 budget, which was approved on June 23, 2025. The purpose of the Bill is to re-classify the allocation to Federal funding. The project aims to create 100% designs and construction funding for a cap treatment over the existing US Route 40 in West Baltimore (also known as the Highway to Nowhere). This would create community space while providing increased pedestrian access across the highway.<sup>i</sup> Additional appropriations are permitted during the fiscal year when there are unanticipated grants, and each additional appropriation requires a separate ordinance limited to a single program, purpose, activity or project.<sup>ii</sup>

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#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

##### **Fiscal Note:**

\$2,000,000 represents a grant funded through U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Program, which will be made available to the Department of Transportation for deconstruction and redevelopment of 5 U.S. 40 Highway to Nowhere.

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Analysis by: Paroma Nandi

Direct Inquiries to: 443-890-0839

Analysis Date: 1/2/2026, updated 1/5/2026

**Sources:**

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<sup>i</sup> Baltimore City Ordinance 25-0122. Agency Report – Department of Transportation. (December 10, 2025). Legistar.

<sup>ii</sup> Baltimore City Charter Article VI, §8(b)(2)(ii) and (c).

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 25-0122  
(First Reader)**

Introduced by: The Council President

At the request of: The Administration (Department of Planning)

Introduced and read first time: November 10, 2025

Assigned to: Budget and Appropriations Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of Finance, Department of Planning, Department of Transportation

## A BILL ENTITLED

## 1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

## **Supplementary Department of Transportation Project Fund Capital Appropriation – Department of Transportation – \$2,000,000**

4 FOR the purpose of providing a Supplementary Department of Transportation Project Fund  
5 Capital Appropriation in the amount of \$2,000,000 to the Department of  
6 Transportation – PRJ002909 (West Baltimore United), to provide funding for deconstruction  
7 and redevelopment of U.S. 40 Highway to Nowhere; and providing for a special effective  
8 date.

9 BY authority of

Article VI - Board of Estimates  
Section 8(b)(2)(ii) and (c)  
Baltimore City Charter  
(1996 Edition)

## Recitals

15 The revenue appropriated by this Ordinance represents a grant of federal funds in excess of  
16 the revenue relied on by the Board of Estimates in determining the tax levy required to balance  
17 the budget for Fiscal Year 2026.

18 That grant could not have been expected with reasonable certainty when the Ordinance of  
19 Estimates for Fiscal Year 2026 was formulated.

20        On November 5, 2025, the Board of Estimates recommended this appropriation to the City  
21        Council.

**EXPLANATION:** CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

1                   **SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That  
2 \$2,000,000 shall be made available to the Department of Transportation – PRJ002909 (West  
3 Baltimore United) as a Supplementary Department of Transportation Project Fund Capital  
4 Appropriation for Fiscal Year 2026, to provide funding for deconstruction and redevelopment of  
5 U.S. 40 Highway to Nowhere. The source of revenue for this appropriation is a grant of federal  
6 funds in excess of the amount from this source that was relied on by the Board of Estimates in  
7 determining the tax levy required to balance the budget for Fiscal Year 2026.

8                   **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, That this Ordinance takes effect on the date it is  
9 enacted.



TO: Board of Estimates, Office of Comptroller  
FROM: AGC5700 - Planning : AGC7000 - Transportation  
DATE: 11/05/2025  
Submission #: SB-25-13987  
SUBJECT: FY26 Capital Supplemental and De-Appropriation - West Baltimore United

#### ACTION REQUESTED OF BOARD OF ESTIMATES:

The Board is requested to approve the FY26 Capital Supplemental and De-Appropriation - West Baltimore United.

PERIOD OF Based on Board Approval  
CONTRACT/AGREEMENT:

#### AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDS:

Transaction Amount: \$ 0.00

Project Fund	Amount
-PRJ002909-GRT003243-RC0602	\$ 2,000,000.00
-PRJ002909-RC0603	-\$ 2,000,000.00

#### BACKGROUND/EXPLANATION:

The Board is requested to approve this de-appropriation of State funds for West Baltimore United and supplemental of Federal funds for West Baltimore United for the USDOT Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Program. The revenue category for this grant was incorrectly recorded as State funds as part of the FY26 budget, which was approved on June 23, 2025.

SMBA&D Participation not required / Pass-through of state and/or federal funds

COUNCIL DISTRICT: 9th District

EMPLOY BALTIMORE:	LIVING WAGE:	LOCAL HIRING:	PREVAILING WAGE:
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

1% FOR PUBLIC ART: N/A.

ENDORSEMENTS:



Clerk, Board of Estimates

11-05-2025

# Baltimore City Council



## Budget & Appropriations

### Committee

**Bill: 25-0122**

**Title:** Supplementary Department of Transportation  
Project Fund Capital Appropriation – Department of  
Transportation – \$2,000,000

## Agency Reports

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CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT,  
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW  
EBONY M. THOMPSON,  
CITY SOLICITOR  
100 N. HOLLIDAY STREET  
SUITE 101, CITY HALL  
BALTIMORE, MD 21202

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December 22, 2025

The Honorable President and Members  
of the Baltimore City Council  
Room 409, City Hall  
100 N. Holliday Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: City Council Bill 25-0122 – Supplementary Department of Transportation Project Fund Capital Appropriation – Department of Transportation – \$2,000,000

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department reviewed City Council Bill 25-0122 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill provides a Supplementary Department of Transportation Project Fund Capital Appropriation in the amount of \$2,000,000 to the Department of Transportation – PRJ002909 (West Baltimore United), to provide funding for deconstruction and redevelopment of U.S. 40 Highway to Nowhere. The bill would take effect on its date of enactment.

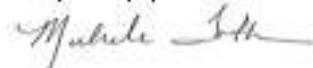
The submission to the Board of Estimates (BOE) regarding this supplementary capital appropriation states that the Board is requested to approve a de-appropriation of State funds for this project (PRJ002909-RC0603, -\$ 2,000,000.00) because the revenue category for the grant was incorrectly recorded as State funds in the Fiscal Year 2026 budget. The BOE was further requested to approve a supplementary appropriation (PRJ002909-GRT003243-RC0602, \$2,000,000.00) for this project from federal funds from the USDOT Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program.

The City attempted to appropriate funds in the amount of \$2,000,000 from a state source in the Ordinance of Estimates for Fiscal Year 2026 for this project. However, since the state did not provide funds for this project, the line in the Ordinance of Estimates attempting to appropriate money that was not marked for the project could not have effectuated an appropriation. This is because no City law can appropriate state funds for a project for which the state did not intend. MD Constitution, Art. 11-A, § 3. Therefore, no de-appropriation is needed. Even if state funds had been erroneously appropriated for this project, they would lapse and return to the General Fund by operation of law. City Charter, Art. VI, § 9(c)(3). The lapse is the Charter's built-in mechanism for de-appropriation.

Rather, the funds intended for this project are federal funds. Thus, Council Bill 25-0122 now seeks approval for a supplementary appropriation of the correct federal funds in the amount of \$2,000,000 to fund the project.

Council Bill 25-0122 cites as authority for the supplementary appropriation Section 8(b)(2)(ii) of Article VI of the City Charter. This section provides that grants from private or governmental sources that could not be expected with reasonable certainty at the time the Ordinance of Estimates was formulated may be made available to the appropriate municipal agency for expenditure. The bill states that the funds are from a grant of federal funds. The supplementary appropriation must be recommended by the Board of Estimates and approved by the Mayor and City Council via an ordinance. The ordinance must identify the source of the funds and may only involve a “single program, purpose, activity or project.” City Charter, Art. VI, § 8(c). The Law Department approves the bill for form and legal sufficiency.

Very truly yours,



Michele Toth  
Assistant Solicitor

cc: Ebony Thompson  
Ethan Hasiuk  
Shamoyia Gardiner  
Nina Themelis  
Ty'lor Schnella  
Aaron Degraffenreidt  
Hilary Ruley  
Jeff Hochstetler  
Ashlea Brown  
Desiree Luckey  
Ahleah Knapp



CITY OF BALTIMORE  
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

<b>TO</b>	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
<b>FROM</b>	Laura Larsen, Budget Director <i>Laura Larsen</i>
<b>DATE</b>	January 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2026 <i>January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026</i>
<b>SUBJECT</b>	City Council Bills 25-0120, 25-0121, 25-0122, 25-0123, 25-0124, 25-0125 Supplementary Capital Appropriations

**Position: Support**

The Department of Finance is herein reporting on City Council Bills 25-0120, 25-0121, 25-0122, 25-0123, 25-0124, 25-0125 Supplementary Capital Fund Appropriations.

**Background**

The Baltimore City Charter authorizes agency capital spending based on the amount enacted in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The Department of Planning recommends appropriation transfers and supplementary appropriations when an agency receives unanticipated revenue, such as grants, or implements new programs that could not have been anticipated at the time the budget was developed. This supplementary appropriation is required to meet the Charter requirements.

- 25-0120- will fund broadband installation at public housing sites
- 25-0121- will fund capital improvements at the Convention Center
- 25-0122- will fund deconstruction and redevelopment of U.S. 40, known as the Highway to Nowhere
- 25-0123- will fund advance concept planning studies for multi-modal transportation improvements to a 30% Design for the Hanover Street Corridor and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Bridge
- 25-0124- will fund the design of a segment of the Jones Falls Trail
- 25-0125- will support the South Baltimore Gateway Partnership's effort to design and construct the Smith Cove Project (SCP)

**Fiscal Impact**

**25-0120**

The revenue appropriated by this Ordinance represents revenue from the Housing Authority of Baltimore City (HABC). In Fiscal 2026, Baltimore City Information Technology (BCIT) did not have an appropriation for unallocated funds. However, HABC had excess revenue of \$13,650,000 in Capital funds. This bill will make \$13,650,000 available to BCIT, to provide funding for a Memorandum of Understanding between the City and the HABC to install broadband internet service at public housing sites

**25-0121**

The revenue appropriated by this Ordinance represents an excess revenue from the Maryland Stadium Authority (MSA). In Fiscal 2026, the M-R: Convention Center did not have an appropriation for unallocated State funds. However, the MSA received excess revenues of \$200,000 in State funds. This bill will make \$200,000 available to M-R: Convention Center for the capital improvements for the Convention Center.

#### **25-0122**

The revenue appropriated by this Ordinance represents a grant from the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Program. The revenue category for this grant was incorrectly recorded as State funds as part of the FY26 budget, which was approved on June 23, 2025. This appropriation will correct the funding source for West Baltimore United.

#### **25-0123**

The revenue appropriated by this Ordinance represents a grant from the USDOT Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RISE) grant. The revenue category for this grant was incorrectly recorded as State funds as part of the FY26 budget, which was approved on June 23, 2025. This appropriation will correct the funding source for the Hanover Street Corridor and Vietnam Veterans Memorial Bridge National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Study.

#### **25-0124**

The revenue appropriated by this Ordinance represents a grant from the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)- State Highway Administration (SHA) Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). The revenue category for this grant was incorrectly recorded as State funds as part of the FY26 budget, which was approved on June 23, 2025. This appropriation will correct the funding source for the Jones Falls Gateway project.

#### **25-0125**

The revenue appropriated by this Ordinance represents a grant from the State. In Fiscal 2026, the Department of Planning did not have an appropriation for unallocated state funds. However, the Department of Planning received this grant for \$17,000,000 in State funds. This bill will make \$17,000,000 available to the South Baltimore Gateway Partnership, who will utilize these funds to support the design and construction of the Smith Cove Project (SCP).

### **Conclusion**

These supplementary capital appropriations are required to authorize agency spending beyond the amount enacted in the Ordinance of Estimates and is necessary due to the availability of new revenue and incorrectly appropriated funds.

**For the reasons stated above, the Department of Finance supports City Council Bill 25-0120, 25-0121, 25-0122, 25-0123, 25-0124, 25-0125.**

cc: Michael Mocksten  
Nina Themelis



CITY OF BALTIMORE  
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

<b>TO</b>	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
<b>FROM</b>	Tim Keane, Director, Department of Planning
<b>DATE</b>	November 24, 2025
<b>SUBJECT</b>	City Council Bill #25-0122

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*Tim*

**Position:** Favorable

**Summary of position:** The Department of Planning supports a favorable position on CCB #25-0122 which will provide \$2,000,000 in Supplementary Department of Transportation Project Capital Project Fund Capital Appropriations to the Department of Transportation. This funding will support the deconstruction and redevelopment of U.S. 40 Highway to Nowhere (PRJ002909).

**Fiscal Impact:** The fiscal impact of this supplemental funding will be a \$2,000,000 decrease in State Grants and a \$2,000,000 increase in Federal Grants.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Sara Paranilam, Division Chief, Policy and Data Analysis at [sara.paranilam@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:sara.paranilam@baltimorecity.gov).



CITY OF BALTIMORE  
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

<b>TO</b>	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
<b>FROM</b>	Veronica P. McBeth, Director, Department of Transportation
<b>CC</b>	Mayor's Office of Government Relations
<b>DATE</b>	December 10, 2025
<b>SUBJECT</b>	25-0122 • Supplementary Department of Transportation Project Fund Capital Appropriation – Department of Transportation – \$2,000,000

**Position: Favorable**

**BILL SYNOPSIS**

The source of the \$2,000,000 allocated for PRJ002909 (West Baltimore United) was erroneously labeled as State funding when, in actuality, it is Federal funding. (Please note that the remaining \$400,000 of the \$2,400,000 of State grant funds were correctly labeled as the State is providing \$400,000 in state matching funds.) Council Bill 25-0122 would simply rectify this discrepancy by re-classifying the origin of this allocation to Federal funds, which is needed to allow the Department to access and spend the funds.

West Baltimore United is a project funded through a Reconnecting Communities Grant which aims to create 100% designs and construction funding for a cap treatment over the existing US Route 40 in West Baltimore (also known as the Highway to Nowhere). This would create community space while providing increased pedestrian access across the highway. The current appropriation of \$2,000,000 will fund the planning portion of this effort.

**SUMMARY OF POSITION**

This corrective bill is essential to facilitate the Department's use of this grant. Therefore, DOT requests a favorable report on Council Bill 25-0122.