


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 21-0047R		

TO: Mayor Brandon M. Scott
TO: Education, Workforce, and Youth Committee
FROM: Department of Transportation
POSITION: **Oppose**
RE: Council Bill – 21-0047R

DATE: 8/16/21

INTRODUCTION – Upkeep and Maintenance of Vacant Lots and Public Green Spaces

PURPOSE/PLANS – For the purpose of requesting the Director of the Department of Recreation and Parks, the Director of the Department of Planning, the Director of the Department of Transportation, the Director of the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Head of the Bureau of Solid Waste, the Sustainability Coordinator, a representative from the Office of the Comptroller, and the Chief of the Bureau of Budget and Management Research to report on the annual cumulative total of calls for service for the upkeep and maintenance of vacant lots and green spaces; and recommending to the Administration that a single City agency be charged with the responsibility for mowing all City-owned lots, parcels, parks, and green spaces.

COMMENTS – Council Bill 21-0047R calls on a variety of municipal agencies, including Baltimore City Department of Transportation (DOT), to participate in a public informational hearing on mowing of City-owned lots, parcels, parks, and green spaces. DOT is the managing agency for thousands of miles of public right-of-way across Baltimore City, leading to significant vegetation management and mowing responsibilities. Operating out of the agency’s Maintenance Division, DOT’s Landscape Section has a mowing season that officially extends from April 15th through October 15th, with some variation based on weather conditions.

Mowing and vegetation management duties are conducted directly by DOT Landscape Section as well as private contractors managed by DOT Landscape Section, both operating on a two-week rotation during mowing season. Vegetation management and mowing duties include but are not limited to general maintenance of right-of-way, medians, soft shoulders and out of warranty capital projects containing tree pits and specialty plantings. In total, DOT oversees the mowing & maintenance of over 500 green spaces across Baltimore City. Outside of mowing season, Landscape Section serves other critical roles within DOT Maintenance Division, including management of the City’s public salt boxes and snow removal during winter storms.

In 2019, DOT Maintenance Division Landscape Section responded to 842 individual mowing and vegetation management requests.

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT POSITION – Due to the potential for operational challenges resulting from the consolidation all mowing responsibilities under one City agency, the Department of Transportation **opposes** Council Resolution 21-0047R. 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