
CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW
JAMES L. SHEA, CITY SOLICITOR
100 N. HOLLIDAY STREET
SUITE 101, CITY HALL
BALTIMORE, MD 21202

October 24, 2022

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

Re: City Council Bill 22-0264 – Landmark List: Exteriors – Canton Railroad
Transfer Bridge

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 22-0264 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill places the Canton Railroad Transfer Bridge on the Landmark List: Exteriors.

An ordinance of the Mayor and City Council is required to add a structure to the “Landmark List: Exteriors.” City Code, Art. 6, § 4-2(1). The ordinance must indicate the structure’s boundaries in one of three ways, including “by Section, Block, and Lot Number, which indicates that all land or other property on that lot is included in the Landmark designation.” City Code, Art. 6, § 4-3(a)(2)(ii). The bill contains this information for the structure in question.

The City Council must refer the bill for written reports and recommendations to the Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation (CHAP), the Planning Commission, and any other agency that the Council President designates. City Code, Art. 6, § 4-5(a). The First Reader version of the bill indicates that it was referred to CHAP and the Planning Commission, among others.

If a bill that seeks to add a structure to the “Landmark List: Exteriors” was not initiated by CHAP, the City Council may not take action without receiving CHAP’s written report and recommendations. City Code, Art. 6, § 4-8(b). However, if the Council does not receive CHAP’s report and recommendations within 100 days of the referral, it may proceed. City Code, Art. 6, § 4-8(c). In any case, the Council must adhere to the public notice and hearing requirements in Section 4-6 of Article 6 of the City Code.

Assuming the above requirements are satisfied, the Law Department can approve the bill for form and legal sufficiency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey Hochstetler', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeffrey Hochstetler
Chief Solicitor

cc: James L. Shea, City Solicitor
Nina Themelis, Mayor's Office of Government Relations
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor, General Counsel Division
Hilary Ruley, Chief Solicitor
Ashlea Brown, Chief Solicitor
D'Ereka Bolden, Assistant Solicitor
Michelle Toth, Special Solicitor