

MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

From: Alice Kennedy, Housing Commissioner

AK

Date: June 20, 2023

Re: City Council Bill 23-0390 Transit-Oriented Development - Penn Station

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 23-0390 for the purpose of supporting a State Transit-Oriented Development designation for Penn Station, the area surrounding and including Baltimore Penn Station; and providing for a special effective date.

If enacted, Council Bill 23-0390 may assist Baltimore City in obtaining needed State and Federal funds for transportation upgrades. Title 7, Subtitle 1 of the State Transportation Article requires local jurisdictions to obtain support for Transit Oriented Development (TOD) projects by the adoption of a local resolution.

At its regular meeting of June 8, 2023, the Planning Commission concurred with the recommendation of its departmental staff, and recommended that City Council Bill 23-0390 be approved by the City Council. This Bill and companion legislation 23-0389 *Transit-Oriented Development - Reisterstown Plaza* are consistent with the administration's commitments to increase access to public transportation and build assets for the future.

State and Federal grants for transportation upgrades can help to stabilize and connect neighborhoods and surrounding communities and encourage the development of housing options accessible to public transit.

DHCD respectfully request a **favorable** report and passage of City Council Bill 23-0390.

AK/sm

cc: Ms. Nina Themelis, *Mayor's Office of Government Relations*

Brandon M. Scott, Mayor • **Alice Kennedy**, Housing Commissioner

417 East Fayette Street • Baltimore, MD 21202 • 443-984-5757 • dhcd.baltimorecity.gov