


<b>F R O M</b>	NAME & TITLE	Corren Johnson, Interim Director	<b>CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO</b>	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Dept. of Transportation (DOT) 417 E Fayette Street, Room 527		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 23-0347		

DATE: 7/19/2023

TO: Mayor Brandon Scott  
TO: Rules and Legislative Oversight Committee  
FROM: Department of Transportation  
POSITION: **Support with Amendment**  
SUBJECT: Council Bill 23-0347

**INTRODUCTION** - Department of Business Licensing and Consumer Protection

**PURPOSE:** For the purpose of creating the Department of Business Licensing and Consumer Protection as an independent City agency; providing for the leadership and staffing of the Department; establishing the Department’s purpose, powers, and duties; creating the Commission on Business Licensing and Consumer Protection; providing for the membership of the Commission; establishing the purpose, powers, and duties of the Commission; transferring the administration of certain business licenses to the Department; repealing certain obsolete Boards; providing for a special effective date; and generally relating to business licensing and consumer protection.

**COMMENTS:** Council Bill 23-0347 proposes to establish an agency charged with the management of various permits and licenses. Two processes that would be transferred from DOT to the proposed agency under this bill include trespass towing and street vendors. DOT is actively working to reform oversight and management of the City’s Trespass Tow Board. Additionally, internal staff have expressed concerns specific to street vendor licenses within provisions of the bill. In particular, DOT’s existing working relationship with the street vendor community is aligned with the agency’s Special Events Office, the entity tasked with reviewing and coordinating large public events. This existing alignment provides DOT’s Special Events Office the opportunity to reach new potential applicants, helping foster successful public events. Some of the special events that benefit from these synergies include Flower Mart, AFRAM, Caribbean Festival, and various farmers markets that occur within Baltimore’s neighborhoods.

**AGENCY POSTION:** Baltimore City Department of Transportation supports the bill’s goal of providing better customer service and streamlining permitting processes within City government. That being said, DOT is concerned with the legislation’s intent to transfer management of trespass towing and street vendor licenses over to the proposed agency. For these reasons, the Department of Transportation is recommending **support with amendment** for Council Bill 23-0347, requesting that language specific to trespass towing and street vendor licenses be removed from the legislation.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Liam Davis at [LiamF.Davis@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:LiamF.Davis@baltimorecity.gov) or at 410-545-3207

Sincerely,

Corren Johnson,  
Interim Director