

FROM	NAME & TITLE	Laura Larsen, Budget Director 	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Bureau of the Budget and Management Research Room 432, City Hall		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 23-0413 ("The Solid Waste Management Plan for Baltimore - Repeal and Replace")		

DATE:

TO

The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
City Hall, Room 400

October 30, 2023

Position: Do Not Oppose

Background

The 10-Year Solid Waste Management Plan (10-Year Plan) is a regulatory plan of the City’s solid waste operations over the next ten years. The 10-Year Plan contains goals for DPW to expand and reinvest in its solid waste management with a focus on reaching the goals such as zero waste. The City’s most recent plan was adopted in October of 2014 with Resolution 14-019, effective October 30, 2014. It was subsequently amended in December 2015 with Resolution 15-025, effective December 18, 2015. 2023 is the beginning of a new 10-Year Solid Waste Plan cycle.

The Maryland Recycling Act (MRA) requires each county and Baltimore City to adopt and maintain a comprehensive solid waste plan that covers at least the prior 10-year period. Each county and Baltimore City must also periodically review the plan and, if needed, amend the plan. Every 10 years, Maryland’s localities need to update their plans and revisit those updates every three years.

The resolution is not prescriptive, it is the City of Baltimore’s way of fulfilling its decennial obligation to create the plan. Strategies and initiatives identified in this update will impact General Fund expenditures and revenues. The ability to implement these strategies is contingent upon annual budget appropriations set in the City’s budget.

The 10-Year Plan documents DPW’s desire to increase the diversion rates for both MRA recyclables and non-MRA recyclables because the Quarantine Road Landfill (QRL) is nearing the end of its useful life (2028), and the planned expansion project will only keep the QRL open through 2035. After this point the City will have to find a location, most likely out of state to store its waste. Altering the amount of waste placed in the landfill, through diversion, will keep the landfill open for longer, and then reduce the amount of waste that the City will have to ship to the new location.

The 10-Year Plan is informed and guided by various Baltimore City government planning processes. The 10-Year Plan is based on the goals stated in the Baltimore Sustainability Plan, the Less Waste Better Baltimore Plan, the Waste-to>Wealth Initiative, Baltimore Food Waste and Recovery Strategy, Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Planning, and the Zero Waste Resolution.

Fiscal Impact

As stated previously, the updated plan includes a series service level changes that would impact the City’s General Fund. The City’s ability to implement these recommendations will be based on the actions taken

as part of the annual budget process. The total estimated cost of these recommendations is split into \$275,935,000 in capital costs and \$72,364,639 in operating costs. Note, these amounts are based on 2023 costs and do not anticipate inflationary impacts associated with future costs.

Initiative	Description	Annual Cost	Capital Cost
Increase Recycling Rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Return to weekly recycling Recycling educational campaign Improve enforcement Improve recycling in public spaces 	\$230,000	\$8,200,000
Bulk Waste Diversion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education and outreach Program Management Staffing 	\$120,000	-
Organic Waste Diversion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education and outreach Program management Health Monitoring Enforcement Residential and institutional receptacles Collection vehicles Compost training facility 	\$2,848,511	\$945,000
Construction & Demolition Material Diversion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diversion of debris from construction and demolition of buildings 	\$130,000	-
Other Waste Diversion Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education and outreach, staffing 	\$140,000	-
Litter Reduction and Cleanup	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education and outreach, staffing 	\$140,000	-
Residential Drop-off Center Upgrades	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand visitor drop off capacity Expand solid waste capacity Expand types of waste accepted Facilities improvements for employees 	\$360,000	\$17,125,000
Composting Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction & operation of composting facilities 	\$1,036,128	\$2,665,000
Regional Transfer Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction & operation of new location 	\$24,910,000	\$60,000,000
Quarantine Road Landfill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lateral Expansion 	-	\$99,500,000
Eastern Transfer Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase capacity to receive waste of Bowley's Lane 	\$11,550,000	\$16,000,000

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase types of waste processed • 		
Camp Small Capacity Upgrade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing operation 	\$200,000	\$1,500,000
Long-Haul Disposal Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-Quarantine Road strategy for solid waste 	\$30,700,000	\$70,000,000

Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, the Department of Finance does not oppose City Council Bill 23-0413.

cc: Michael Moiseyev
 Nina Themelis