




CITY OF BALTIMORE
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

TO	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
FROM	Chris Ryer, Director, Department of Planning 
DATE	June 20, 2024
SUBJECT	City Council Bill #24-0535 - Bond Issue - School Loan - \$55,000,000

Position: Approval

SUMMARY OF POSITION

The Department of Planning (DoP) annually prepares a six-year Capital Improvement Program, the first year of which becomes the City's capital budget. DoP works with agencies that manage physical infrastructure and support improvements to the physical environment of the City. General Obligation (GO) bonds are a small but extremely important piece of the City's capital budget, used to match state and federal funds, fund the City's highest priority projects, and fund necessary projects for which no other source is available. Every two years, the City of Baltimore must get permission from voters through a ballot referendum to issue general obligation bonds (GO bonds). GO bonds are borrowed funds that are used for capital projects, including housing and neighborhood revitalization; school renovations and improvements; economic development; improvements to City parks, recreation centers, and other government facilities; transportation infrastructure; and key City institutions and cultural attractions.

School Loan

Baltimore City Public Schools, the City of Baltimore, the State of Maryland, and the Maryland Stadium Authority are partnering to implement the 21st Century Schools initiative, a nearly billion-dollar initiative to renovate or replace 28 school buildings. This loan authorization complements that investment by making critical systemic improvements, such as fire alarms, HVAC systems, and other urgent needs in schools that are not currently funded through the 21st Century Schools Initiative. This loan authorization also allows renovation and replacement of additional schools to take place, leveraging traditional State capital support through the Maryland Public Schools Construction Program. This City contribution is used to match approximately \$35 million in annual State funding through the Public School Construction Program for improvements to school buildings outside of the 21st Century Schools initiative.

CONCLUSION

This bill is consistent with what was approved by the Planning Commission in its public meeting on November 2, 2023, and so the Department of Planning recommends that this bill be approved.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Eric Tiso, Division Chief, Land Use and Urban Design Division at eric.tiso@baltimorecity.gov or at 410-396-8358.