



CITY OF BALTIMORE
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

TO	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
FROM	Caron Watkins Interim Director, Office of Equity & Civil Rights Interim Chief Equity Officer
ANALYST	Zachary Wellman Equity Policy Analyst, Office of Equity & Civil Rights
DATE	September 27, 2024
SUBJECT	OECR Report on Baltimore City Council Bill 24-0585 Supplementary Special Revenue Fund Operating Appropriation - M-R: Miscellaneous General Expenses - \$2,165,000

OECR POSITION: No Objection

SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION

The Office of Equity & Civil Rights (OECR) has reviewed and is herein reporting on City Council Bill 24-0585 – *Supplementary Special Revenue Fund Operating Appropriation - M-R: Miscellaneous General Expenses - \$2,165,000*. This is a supplementary revenue appropriations bill.

The bill seeks to accomplish the following:

- Appropriate supplemental funds not outlined in the Ordinance of Estimates for Fiscal Year 2025.
- Balance the budget for Fiscal Year 2025.
- Fund Project Fund 6000-SPC006011-RC0609 (SI002046 - Baltimore County – Center Place Road Extension Project)
- Provide for the purchase of real property.
- Provide an effective date (the day the bill is enacted) for the appropriation.

The bill appropriates the aforementioned funds by the authority of Article VI - Board of Estimates, Section 8(b)(2)(ii) and (c) of the Baltimore City Charter.

ANALYSIS

Council Bill 24-0585 intends to provide a special revenue fund outside of the Fiscal Year 2025 Ordinance of Estimates for the Center Place Extension Project in the amount of \$2,165,000. The project is an initiative of the Mayor’s Administration that would create a new transportation connection between Baltimore City and Historic Dundalk in Baltimore County. The funds would

be appropriated from a grant provided by Baltimore County to the City of Baltimore as a part of a Memorandum of Understanding in which the City of Baltimore will oversee the purchase of real estate for the project.

The Center Place Extension Project would connect Center Place in Historic Dundalk in Baltimore County to the city through the Colgate Creek industrial area. The supplemental fund would be used to purchase property at Block 6990, Lots 1 through 7, Block 6991, Lots 1 through 26, and the bed of Woodhouse Avenue to extend a road connecting Historic Dundalk to Baltimore City. The project would also widen Ralls Avenue.

The project should alleviate congestion along the existing routes between Historic Dundalk and Baltimore City, such as Interstate 95, Dundalk Avenue, Holabird Avenue, and Broening Highway. The alternative route could, in theory, allow for more public transportation routes in which Baltimore residents may more easily travel to Dundalk for work purposes. Additionally, residents living on the Baltimore City side of Historic Dundalk will have more direct access to the rest of the city. Whereas, currently, said residents' most direct path to the rest of the city is Broening Highway, which is an industrial roadway.

CONCLUSION

The Office of Equity & Civil Rights discerns no inequity in the intent of the appropriation nor the Center Place Road Extension Project and, as such, has **no objection** to City Council Bill 24-0585.

Respectfully Submitted,



Caron Watkins
Interim Director, Office of Equity & Civil Rights