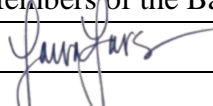




CITY OF BALTIMORE  
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

<b>TO</b>	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
<b>FROM</b>	Laura Larsen, Budget Director 
<b>DATE</b>	October 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2024
<b>SUBJECT</b>	City Council Bill 24-0583, The 2024 Comprehensive Master Plan for the City of Baltimore

**Position: Support**

The Department of Finance is herein reporting on City Council Bill 24-0583, The 2024 Comprehensive Master Plan for the City of Baltimore, for the purpose of reviewing, revising, and adopting the 2024 Comprehensive Master Plan for the City of Baltimore; and providing for a special effective date.

**Background**

Baltimore City is required by state law (State Land Use Article, § 1-405) to enact, adopt, amend, and execute a comprehensive plan that contains the policies, statements, goals, and interrelated plans for private and public land use, transportation, and community facilities for the City’s future development in accordance with Part III of Subtitle 4 of the State Land Use Article. Following adoption, the City needs to review the comprehensive plan at least once every 10 years, and, if necessary, revise or amend the compressive plan to include: (i) implementation the visions set forth in § 1-201 {“Visions”} of the State Land Use Article; (ii) development regulations; and, (iii) the sensitive areas element of the plan.

The Mayor and City Council most recently adopted a Comprehensive Master Plan in November 2006. Subsequently, the Maryland General Assembly changed the review cycle for comprehensive plans from every 6 years to every 10 years to coincide with the decennial census. This is the first comprehensive plan in that new cycle.

**Discussion**

The Comprehensive Plan is intended to guide equitable neighborhood development in the City over the next 10 years and beyond. The purpose of the plan is to provide an outline to guide development and growth in Baltimore City over the next decade. The Plan update is organized into 17 policy topic areas into four overarching themes: (1) Livable Places, (2) Equitable Access, (3) Healthy Communities, 38 and (4) Inclusive Economy. Each of these topic areas came with goals and each of these goals have measures attached to show progress.

The Comprehensive Master Plan has a series of recommendations in Appendix 1. These recommendations expand beyond the capital budget and would require significant future investment to fully implement. The City is currently pursuing a strategy to increase funding in the capital budget over the next 10 years. Under this strategy annual General Obligation Borrowing will increase from \$80 million annually to \$200 million annually. Additional capital increases beyond this strategy will be difficult to fund on a recurring basis.

**Conclusion**

The Department of Finance is generally supportive of the framework and intent of the Comprehensive Plan

update. Recommendations with cost implications will have to be evaluated on an annual basis through the annual budget process.

**For the reasons stated above, the Department of Finance supports City Council Bill 24-0583.**

cc: Michael Mocksten  
Nina Themelis