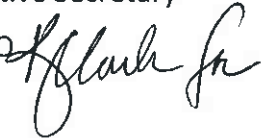


MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable President and Members of the City Council
Attention: Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

FROM: William H. Cole, President and CEO 

DATE: March 16, 2018

SUBJECT: Council Bill No. 17-0102 - Complete Streets

The Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) has been asked to provide a response to City Council Bill 17-0102, for the purpose of constructing and operating a complete streets system, creating a coordinating council, establishing design standards, and establishing various other related measures.

BDC believes that investing in infrastructure projects that support multiple modes of transportation - and that are appropriate in scale based on the character of the areas in which they are built - is critical to strengthening the vitality of our commercial districts and neighborhoods. Given the degree to which economic development and reporting metrics are referenced in the legislation, BDC is interested in participating in any inter-agency advisory body that may be created to support this effort.

BDC is interested in what comprehensive approaches will be followed to identify priority projects, coordinate their construction with subsurface improvements to maximize efficiency, and strategically integrate improvements so they relate to each other as part of a connected network. BDC believes that density and travel demand should be major considerations. BDC advocates for prioritizing streets that have the greatest need for improvements and that serve commercial corridors.

While BDC supports the establishment of clear design standards, the bill includes very specific lane width prescriptions, which, as currently written, may not be flexible enough to accommodate the needs of industrial users and commercial property owners in certain cases. BDC is also interested in whether certain proposed reporting requirements are the most practical or appropriate approaches in relation to the goals of the legislation. BDC respectfully requests that consideration be given to providing for greater flexibility regarding design specifications and reporting metrics in the legislation, understanding that these components will be specified in greater detail upon completion of the proposed Complete Streets Manual in consultation with the proposed inter-agency advisory body.

cc: Kyron Banks