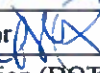



FROM	NAME & TITLE	Michelle Pourciau, Director 	CITY of BALTIMORE  M E M O	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Transportation (DOT) 417 E Fayette Street, Room 527		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 18-0228		

TO: Mayor Catherine E. Pugh

DATE: May 4, 2018

TO: Respective City Council Taxation, Finance and Economic Development Committee  
 FROM: Department of Transportation  
 POSITION: Support  
 RE: City Council Bill 18-0228 - Issuance of Revenue Obligations - Stormwater Projects

**INTRODUCTION** – For the purpose of authorizing the issuance, sale and delivery from time to time by the City of revenue obligations that may be issued by the City to finance or refinance stormwater facilities; prescribing that the maximum aggregate principal amount of such revenue obligations that may be outstanding at any one time is \$202,000,000; authorizing the Board of Finance of the City to specify, prescribe, determine, provide for, approve, and amend the form, terms, provisions, manner or method of issuing and selling, the time or times of issuance, and all other details of the revenue obligations and any other matters necessary or desirable in connection with the authorization, issuance, sale, and payment of these revenue obligations; providing for a special effective date; and generally relating to the issuance and payment of revenue obligations.

**PURPOSE/PLANS** – The Department of Public Works (DPW) operates and maintains the City's system of 1,146 miles of storm drain pipe; 52,438 inlets; 27,561 manholes; 1,709 outfalls; four storm water pumping stations; and 5 large debris collectors. Under the new Stormwater utility, DPW will protect, enhance and restore watersheds by implementing BMPs throughout the City to improve the quality of water in our streams, harbor and Chesapeake Bay. These activities are required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through the Maryland's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm System (MS4) permit for the City's public storm drain system.

In 2012, the Maryland State Legislature passed a law which mandates that the 10 largest jurisdictions in the State create a Maryland Stormwater Fee by July 1, 2013. The Stormwater Fee is a service fee like water, sewer, gas, and other vital utility services. The purpose of the fee is to provide a sustainable dedicated revenue source for maintaining, operating, and improving the stormwater management system, including installing practices to improve stormwater quality. In 2015 the Legislature changed the law to give the City and counties the option to fund their stormwater programs through a dedicated fee or by other means, provided they can prove that their programs are funded sufficiently to meet the requirements of their stormwater permits.

Historically, money from the City's General Fund (property taxes and gas taxes) funded stormwater operations and capital improvements. However, this funding source is used for many other City programs and has not been adequate to keep up with improvements to and maintenance of the storm drain system, nor are they able to fund the improvements required by federal laws to reduce pollution and make our surface waters cleaner.

The Baltimore City Department of Transportation believes that capital funding for stormwater project is necessary for continuous improvement of the City's stormwater management plan.

**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT POSITION** – The Department of Transportation supports City Council Bill 18-0228, and respectfully requests a favorable report.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Katelyn McCauley at [Katelyn.McCauley@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Katelyn.McCauley@baltimorecity.gov), (443) 677-9391.

Sincerely,

  
 Michelle Pourciau  
 Director