


F R O M	NAME & TITLE	Steve Sharkey, Director	CITY of BALTIMORE	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Transportation (DOT) 417 E Fayette Street, Room 527		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 20-0558	M E M O	

TO: Mayor Bernard C. “Jack” Young
TO: Transportation Committee
FROM: Department of Transportation
POSITION: **Support**
RE: Council Bill – 20-0558

DATE: 10/27/20

INTRODUCTION – City Officers and Employees - Commuting Benefits

PURPOSE/PLANS – For the purpose of requiring that the Department of Human Resources have a written policy regarding certain parking benefits; requiring the Department of Human Resources offer a public mass transit subsidy to every officer and employee of the City; requiring the Department of Human Resources offer a cash equivalent alternative to any City officer or employee entitled or eligible to receive a parking benefit; defining certain terms; and generally relating to encouraging the use of public mass transit by City officers and employees.

COMMENTS – Council Bill 20-0558 looks to formalize municipal government standards regarding the issuance of parking benefits. Furthermore, the legislation seeks to establish a formal mass transit subsidy for every municipal employee. Additionally, a monetary benefit would be established for employees eligible for parking benefits who do not utilize the available parking benefits.

The proposed legislation falls in line with the Department of Transportation’s Complete Streets efforts, aimed at diversifying the prioritization of Baltimore City’s right-of-way dedicated towards transportation. Incentives designed to encourage municipal workers to utilize mass transit stand to help mitigate traffic congestion, reduce the use of fossil fuels, improve air quality, and improve employee health by way of less driving and more walking. There is also precedent of such a program, the Federal Government’s TRANServe program being the most obvious example.

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT POSITION – Though further discussion is required regarding the bill’s fiscal impact on individual agencies, the Department of Transportation agrees with the merit of Council Bill 20-0558 in its effort of encouraging and incentivizing municipal workforce utilization of mass transit. The Department of Transportation **supports** Council Bill 20-0558.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Liam Davis at Liam.Davis@baltimorecity.gov or at 410-545-3207.

Sincerely,

Steve Sharkey
Director