

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1491 (Delegate Oaks, *et al.*)
Environmental Matters

Finance

Transportation - Citizens' Advisory Council for the Baltimore Corridor Transit Study - Red Line

This bill authorizes a member of the Citizens' Advisory Council for the Baltimore Corridor Transit Study – Red Line to receive reimbursement for expenses under the standard State travel regulations, as provided in the State budget.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any expense reimbursements for council members are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: Minimal.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: The Red Line is a proposed 14-mile, east-west light rail line that would run from Baltimore County's Woodlawn employment and commercial centers through downtown Baltimore City to the Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center Campus. It would link to the north-south light rail, metro, and MARC trains.

Chapters 2 and 3 of the 2006 special session established the Citizens' Advisory Council for the Baltimore Corridor Transit Study – Red Line. The council consists of 15 members. The Maryland Transit Administration is required to provide staff for the council. Council members may not receive compensation, and members serve until the initial phase of passenger service begins or until project funds are otherwise expended.

The council is responsible for advising the Maryland Transit Administrator on major policy matters concerning the Baltimore Corridor Transit Study, including, among other things, ensuring that the project:

- includes, during its planning phase, the distribution of factual information that allows the community to compare the costs, benefits, and impacts of all construction alternatives;
- benefits the communities through which it travels; and
- favors alignments that produce the least negative community impacts possible.

Since its inception, the council has produced five annual reports. In its most recent report, released in September 2012, the council discussed the creation of subcommittees to focus on construction impacts on local communities, hiring preferences and other benefits for jurisdictions in which the Red Line project will be constructed, and ensuring meaningful public input throughout the planning process.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City, Maryland Department of Transportation, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 11, 2014
ncs/lgc

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