



Bill: SB 151/HB 12- Equitable and Inclusive Transit-Oriented Development Enhancement Act

Position: Support

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

The City of Gaithersburg, a municipality of Montgomery County, with a population of almost 70,000 at the time of the 2020 Census is the third-largest city in the State. With an increasing population and our proximity to Washington, D.C., we continue to prioritize transit and the many benefits that transit-oriented development (TOD) can bring to our City and the region.

The Fund outlined in this bill may be used by the Maryland Department of Transportation to provide financial assistance to local jurisdictions for TOD design plans, as specified, public infrastructure improvements within a TOD, or gap funding for public or private development within a TOD. It also allows a private entity, including a nonprofit entity, participating in the development of a TOD may partner with a local jurisdiction to apply for specified financial assistance.

While there are no TODs currently designated within City limits, the 100-acre site of the soon-to-be former Lakeforest Mall is being looked upon as a potential TOD site given what may likely become a dense mix of commercial, residential, and open space alongside a new transit station. While this project is still in the preliminary stages of consideration and planning, we are hopeful that TOD-specific funds may be available to encourage projects like this one.

For these reasons, the City of Gaithersburg supports SB 151/HB 12.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 301-466-5350 or our government relations consultant, Sarah Peters, at speters@hbstrategies.us. We appreciate your support.

Respectfully submitted,

Jud Ashman
Mayor
City of Gaithersburg

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