

Senate Bill 0185 and House Bill 0027

The Middle River Growth Area Roundtable voted unanimously at their 1-15-2020 meeting to support and encourage passage of Senate Bill 0185 and companion House Bill 0027.

The Roundtable was appointed by the Baltimore County Administration several years ago to conduct an in depth analysis of the potential development impact and infrastructure needs of the Middle River Growth Area as identified in the Baltimore County 2020 Master Plan. It is composed of the major stake holders in the catchment area, both business and community. With county encouragement and support, this group has continued efforts to promote positive best use development in this designated growth area.

The proper and timely redevelopment of Federal Depot Site, with its 2 million sq. ft. building, is essential to success of this Growth Area initiative. Blue Ocean's plans for the new "Aviation Station" represent a major step forward. Their development plans have received widespread support and are consistent with the goals of the Roundtable and the County Master Plan.

It is well recognized that this massive World War 2 aviation production site presented many obstacles and its development would be challenging. Blue Ocean is taking those challenges head on and deserves all the support it can get. The potential benefits this project offers will bolster the success of the entire Middle River Growth Area.

Eastern Baltimore County is benefiting greatly from the State's efforts to support Trade Point Atlantic's redevelopment of their Sparrows Point site. One of the tools provided by the State was a tax incentive similar to the one requested by Blue Ocean for this Middle River site. The Roundtable strongly encourages the State Legislature to authorize this "proven successful" development enhancement tool to Blue Ocean, as we believe it will result high quality development, job creation, and sustainable enhancements to our quality of life.

Finally, the additional future state tax revenue generated by the hiring of new employees as well as the sales, hotel and entertainment taxes paid by the patrons of the new tenants will, in a few years, provide an handsome return on the investment by the state of the sales tax reductions outlined in this Bill.

Robert Bendler, Co-chairman
Middle River Growth Area Roundtable