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**HB 107**

March 10, 2020

**TO:** Members of the Environment & Transportation Committee

**FROM:** Matthew Stegman, Deputy Director of Government Relations

**RE:** HOUSE BILL 107 - Baltimore City - Complete Streets Program Funding - Traffic and Vehicle Monitoring Systems

**POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT**

Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports with amendment** House Bill (HB) 107.

As altered by amendment 693720/1, HB 107 would require Baltimore City to spend revenues generated by traffic control, vehicle speed, school bus monitoring, and vehicle height monitoring camera systems on public safety and transportation purposes that are consistent with the State and local complete streets programs. The City would be permitted to first recoup the cost of installing and administering the camera systems.

In 2018, Baltimore City passed one of the most thorough and forward-looking complete streets ordinances in the country.<sup>1</sup> All transportation projects undertaken by the City must be evaluated through a complete streets lens and give consideration to use by all types of road users – public transit, pedestrians, bicycles, and other transportation modes as well as cars. The BCA is in the process of completing the city’s Complete Streets Manual, which is set to be released in April.

As drafted, HB 107 would severely limit the City’s discretion to apply revenues generated by speed and red light camera citations. Revenue from those programs would be remitted to the State, subject to the State budgeting process, and would not permit the City to recoup the cost of implementing and administering the traffic and speed monitoring programs. Such a change would cost Baltimore City millions of dollars at a time when the

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<sup>1</sup> See, Baltimore City Code, Art. 26, §40

BCA is planning to invest millions into public education and public safety initiatives. The BCA is sincerely grateful to the sponsor of the bill for her work on amendments that advance the goal of building a world-class complete streets transportation network in Baltimore City while preserving the BCA's financial flexibility.

We request a report of **favorable with amendment** report on House Bill 107.