

# THE GREATER TOWSON COMMITTEE



February 16, 2022

Re: SB 584

Dear Distinguished Senators,

My name is Katie Chasney Pinheiro and I am the Executive Director of The Greater Towson Committee "GTC" as well as a Baltimore County Planning Board Commissioner. The GTC is a non-profit focused on smart development and revitalization within Towson's Core. I am writing you on behalf of the GTC and also as a Towson resident and parent.

There is no denying that Towson has experienced a significant amount of change and growth in the last 18-24 months with developments such as Avalon, Circle East, 101 York and Towson Row to name just a few. The developers of these projects, Greenberg Gibbons, Caves Valley Partners, Avalon and RPAI, are known for their exemplary commitment to the community that they serve and take pride in their developments and the surrounding common areas such as sidewalks, alleys and green spaces. We need to ensure that the same level of care and pride is taken with respect to the stretch of York Road that runs through Downtown Towson. This section of York Road serves as the main thoroughfare of Downtown Towson and yet the GTC, as well as many others in the community with whom we have spoken, feel that it could be greatly improved. The traffic patterns, infrastructure, street parking, bike lanes, sidewalk width, walkability, cleanliness and signage could all be improved dramatically. An improved York Road will lead to an improved Towson and in turn an improved Baltimore County.

Before we can begin to figure out how to improve all of the above mentioned items, we first need to study the problems and work together as stakeholders to figure out the best and most appropriate solutions. This is exactly what proposed SB 584 will accomplish. By assembling a Task Force consisting of community leaders and stakeholders, SB 584 will establish the framework by which we can ensure that York Road and Towson reach their fullest potential. This will, in turn, attract more visitors, businesses, pedestrians and cyclists to Downtown Towson and the surrounding areas. This will all help Towson in its growth and allow it to thrive as the economic and cultural center of Baltimore County.

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As noted above, Towson has experienced tremendous growth in the last few years. We do not want to see York Road continue to lag behind and drag down the area, as that will have a larger negative impact on Towson and discourage future growth. SB 584 is a great step towards ensuring that York Road and Towson thrives. As Executive Director the Greater Towson Committee, Towson resident and parent, I fully support SB 584 and I strongly urge that you vote in favor of the bill as the 1<sup>st</sup> step of many to guarantee Towson's success as the County seat.

Sincerely,

Katie Chasney Pinheiro

Executive Director

The Greater Towson Committee