

January 24th, 2023

The Honorable Guy Guzzone Budget and Taxation Committee Miller Senate Office Building, 3 West Annapolis, MD 21401

SB151/HB12- Equitable and Inclusive Transit-Oriented Development Enhancement Act-Support

Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee,

I am writing to you today in the capacity of ICSC Maryland Government Relations Chair to urge a favorable report of Senate Bill 151,the Equitable and Inclusive Transit-Oriented Development Enhancement Act. ICSC is the marketplaces industry association supporting more than 45,000 members. In Maryland, we support almost 1,000 members, 500,000 jobs and provide nearly \$7.1 Billion in state sales and use tax revenue.

This bill would establish much needed funding for transit-oriented developments (TODs) around transit stations and gives authority to MDOT to award grants for development projects around transit facilities. With the ongoing State investment into multi-modal transit options, it is important to create strong and inclusive developments around new and existing transit facilities. Additional development around transit facilities will create a positive environment for businesses and more equitable opportunity for Marylanders for travel and employment. Incentivizing such projects with dedicated funding and a robust grants program is critical.

We respectfully urge the Committee to give this bill a favorable report. Thank you for your consideration, and if you have any questions regarding our stance or would like to discuss more please reach out to Sushant Sidh at Sushant.Sidh@capitol-strategies.com.

Eric McWilliams, R.L.A Chair, ICSC Maryland Government Relations Chair