



Wes Moore  
Governor  
Aruna Miller  
Lieutenant Governor  
Paul J. Wiedefeld  
Secretary

March 14, 2023

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve  
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee  
Room 251, House Office Building  
Annapolis MD 21401

***RE: Letter of Information – House Bill 1026 – Prince George’s County – Land Use –  
Development of Neglected Property***

Dear Chair Barve and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on House Bill 1026 but offers the following information for the Committee’s consideration.

House Bill 1026 authorizes Prince George’s County to exercise powers of eminent domain to acquire and develop or redevelop certain neglected property which is located within a Prince George’s County business development district and is designated as a Transit-Oriented Development (TOD).

The MDOT requests clarification on if the intention of House Bill 1026 is to include the ability to condemn State-owned property, since it does not distinguish between public and private ownership. Currently, local jurisdictions are unable to condemn State-owned property unless there is legislation established to do so. If House Bill 1026 is interpreted as authorizing Prince George’s County to exercise eminent domain to acquire undeveloped State-owned property that is designated as TOD, then litigation may be necessary for the State to retain property ownership.

Additionally, by including the ability for existing TOD designated property in Prince George’s County to potentially become subject to eminent domain, this could result in additional challenges as future sites are evaluated for TOD designation.

The MDOT looks forward to continued collaboration to ensure that efforts to provide safe transportation infrastructure are also leveraged to support broader goals of economic development and equity in the State.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests that the Committee consider this information when deliberating House Bill 1026.

Respectfully submitted,

Pilar Helm  
Director of Government Affairs  
Maryland Department of Transportation  
419-865-1090