
March 5, 2024

The Honorable Ben Barnes
Chair, House Appropriations Committee
121 House Office Building
Annapolis Maryland 21401

RE: Letter of Support with Amendments – House Bill 897 – Baltimore Convention and Tourism Redevelopment and Operating Authority Task Force

Dear Chair Barnes and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) supports House Bill 897 with amendments and offers the following information for the Committee’s consideration.

House Bill 897 would establish the Baltimore Convention and Tourism Redevelopment and Operating Authority Task Force to study and make recommendations concerning the membership, purpose, and function of an authority to govern the renovation, revitalization, financing, and ongoing maintenance and management of the Baltimore Convention site and surrounding areas.

The Task Force will have the ability to make recommendations about how the Authority could influence the Convention site and the surrounding area. This area encompasses the Maryland Transit Administration’s (MTA) Light Rail and Core Bus routes, as well as the potential Red Line alignment. The MTA respectfully requests that the Administrator or their designee be named to serve on the Task Force to provide input from the transit perspective.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee grant House Bill 897 a favorable report with amendments.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Einhorn
Director of Governmental Affairs
Maryland Transit Administration
410-767-0820

Pilar Helm
Director of Government Affairs
Maryland Department of Transportation
410-865-1090