



Howard County Council

George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043-4392

COUNCILMEMBERS

Christiana Rigby, Chair
District 3

Deb Jung, Vice Chair
District 4

Liz Walsh
District 1

Opel Jones
District 2

David Yungmann
District 5

Work Session Minutes – Approved

Monday, January 23, 2023

Hybrid – In Person and Virtually via Webex

Video Streamed on <https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/Online-Tools/Watch-Us>

9:30 a.m.

Vice-Chair Jung called the meeting to order at 9:43 am

Councilmembers –Chair Christiana Rigby; Vice-chair Deb Jung; Opel Jones, Liz Walsh, and David Yungmann

Staff Present: Michelle Harrod, Council Administrator; Theo Wimberly, Administrative Manager; Margery Sayers, Executive Assistant; Charity Respass, Administrative Assistant; Amanda Mihill, Assistant County Solicitor; Craig Glendenning, County Auditor; Owen Clark, Deputy County Auditor; and Lori Buchmann, Fiscal Manager II.

Agenda

Council Bill 4-2023

Introduced by Christiana Rigby - AN ACT imposing an assessment on each trip generated by a Transportation Network Service company originating in the County; providing for collection of the assessment; creating a Transit Services Improvement Fund; specifying the components and uses of the Fund; requiring a certain Report; and generally relating to for-hire transportation network activities.

Participants:

- Bruce Gartner (Office of Transportation)

Mr. Gartner, Mr. Glendenning, and Ms. Buchmann responded to questions from the Council about the percentage of ride share vehicles on Howard County roads; comparison to other jurisdictions; Auditor's estimates on potential revenue; and State Comptroller's role in revenue collection of this fee.

There was general discussion about transit services such as taxis, Uber and Lift; fee collection based upon origination of ride; impact on low-income individuals; the use of this Fund; and transit services within Howard County.

There was discussion regarding the types of transit projects the revenue would be used to fund and the current underinvestment in the transit category.

In response to questions about the authority of the Council to establish a Transit Services Improvement Fund, Ms. Mihill reviewed that State law allows for the establishment of the fund. She will research the permitted uses of funds, the Council's authority to restrict the use of funds, and the use of funds for Operating and Capital Improvements.

There was discussion about the absence of riders on buses and future enhancements of transit services, including enhancements for current riders and enhancements to increase riders in the future.

Mr. Gartner reviewed transportation goals, including serving the transit dependent population, providing convenience, and connecting to regional transit systems.

There was discussion about the number of cars that go in and out of Howard County and the goal that more of these drivers use other forms of regional transportation. Additional discussion included the population that uses rideshares, the cost of rideshares versus the bus, and the importance of investing in transit routes as the most efficient and sustainable way of transporting people.

Council requested additional information:

- *Office of Law to provide details about the Fund, including uses of funds, restrictions on the funds, Council's authority to restrict the use of funds, and can it be used for Operating and Capital Improvements? In addition, can the Council specify dollar amount and use of these funds? Office of Transportation to provide a copy of the Transit Redevelopment Plan; and details about ongoing transit goals.*

Council Resolution 10-2023

Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive - A RESOLUTION approving an amendment to the Howard County Master Plan for Water and Sewerage to add the Lyhus Property to the Inventory of Existing Multi-Use Community Well and Surface Water Supply and the Summary of Existing and Planned Permit Discharges.

Participants:

- Art Shapiro (DPW)
- Bilal Sarayra (DPW)
- Amy Hart (DPW)
- Jeff Williams (Health)
- Amy Gowan (DPZ)
- Anthony Cataldo (DPZ)
- Brandon Rowe (Bohler Engineering)

Ms. Walsh began the discussion by asking how this legislative action fit into the Site Development Plan process. Specifically, she wanted to know what stage was the Lyhus Property in the development process. Ms. Gowan and Mr. Cataldo stated that the project was in the beginning stages.

Ms. Walsh then moved into discussion about waivers and shared three plans for the Council to review. Ms. Walsh then asked that the maps be added into the legislative records.

Ms. Walsh then asked the Administration why was it in the public interest to allow for a development that would allow for twice as much water and sewer demand on this property. Mr. Shapiro stated that the design for the sewer system has not been finalized. Mr. Yungmann responded that there was a ZRA recently passed that would allow for duplexes in the west. He further stated that this development would allow for seniors to age-in-place in the west.

Ms. Walsh then asked DPW how much would it cost to connect the subject property to public water and sewage. Mr. Shapiro stated that DPW would provide a cost estimate, however, they were concerned about going against long-term Planned Service Area policy. Ms. Walsh stated she is concerned that this action is encouraging sprawl.

Ms. Walsh also asked subsequent State and Federal permitting approvals that may be needed.

Ms. Rigby asked for information on how this development would impact the load capacity at the Little Patuxent Reclamation Plant.

Mr. Yungmann stated that he would look into finding out additional information about this development project.

Ms. Jung asked DPW for cost estimates for adding a mile of water and sewer in the County. Mr. Shapiro stated that it costs about \$2-2.5 million per mile of water line. DPW will get back with an estimate for sewer line.

Council requested additional information:

- *Department of Public Works to provide cost estimates for extending public utilities for this project in addition to providing details of their concerns with the impact on Planned Service Area policies.*

- *Department of Public Works to provide threshold and load capacity of this project on waste water management.*
- *Department of Public Works to provide cost estimate for a ½ mile extension of sewer lines.*

Council Bill 5-2023

Introduced by Christiana Rigby - AN ACT requiring the Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits to report to the County Council with recommendations about changes to the Howard County Building Code that would be needed to require all-electric buildings, requiring the Department to consider specified exemptions and considerations; setting a certain deadline, and generally relating to the Howard County Building Code.

Participants:

- Bob Frances – DILP
- Josh Feldmark – Office of Community Sustainability
- Doug Siglin – Chesapeake Climate Action Network
- Steve Miller – HCAR
- Marche Taylor - BGE

Ms. Rigby summarized the legislation, specifying that it is a two-step process to study the local effect of all-electric building codes this year and adopt the new building code in 2024. Ms. Rigby also clarified these building codes would only effect new buildings in the County.

Mr. Frances gave an overview of DILP’s process for adopting new building codes, including how the County interacts with State and national standards and how they would implement this legislation. There was a discussion with Mr. Feldmark of ways DILP could work with the County Executive’s Climate Subcabinet and the Office of Community Sustainability to accomplish building electrification. Mr. Siglin provided feedback to the Council about other jurisdictions that have adopted electric building codes and what the Council’s role in the building codes can be.

There was a general discussion on possible amendments to the bill, including codifying County Executive climate initiatives, altering the report due date, creating a parallel study outside of DILP, or adopting a building code amendment immediately without waiting for the study.

Ms. Taylor responded to questions on BGE rate increases, choices available for consumers, and the existing energy grid. Mr. Miller gave feedback how changing the building codes will affect County residents and there was a general discussion about the scope of the legislation being considered. Mr. Siglin and Mr. Miller answered questions about rate increases for gas and electric buildings over the next several years.

There was a general discussion of how the County can study all-electric building codes without duplicating work of the State.

Ms. Jung and Ms. Rigby had a discussion on potential exemptions in the bill, in particular for school and commercial properties.

Council requested additional information:

- *Office of Law to provide legal authority of the Council to codify County Executive climate initiatives, and legal authority to immediately adopt all-electric building requirement for new buildings.*
- *Ms. Taylor indicated she would provide the Council with information about what rate increases does BGE expect with changing the building code?*

Chair Rigby adjourned the meeting at 12:13 pm