



STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE

MAYOR

*100 Holliday Street, Room 250
Baltimore, Maryland 21202*

June 16, 2010

The Honorable Ulysses Currie
Chairman
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis MD 21401-1912

The Honorable Norman H. Conway
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
Room 121, House Office Building
Annapolis MD 21401-1912

Dear Chairmen Currie and Conway:

This letter communicates Baltimore City's strong support for approval of the Phase One agreements for the State Center Transit Oriented Development (TOD) project. In the midst of a severe economic downturn, State Center offers a special opportunity. In late 2010 when construction is estimated to begin, 1,200 jobs and \$7 million in new tax revenues will be created and, at build-out, the City is expected to receive \$3 million in taxes annually.

From its inception, the State Center TOD project has been supported by an innovative public private partnership that not only addresses a long standing State need for its 28-acre campus but also rebuilds this crossroad neighborhood and adds an important addition to the City's and State's tax base. The project will bring employment opportunities and major contracting for local companies. It is no surprise that the project was selected last month by the Congress for New Urbanism's jury of experts as one of the seven best projects in the Excellence in Urbanism category. As jury chair Vince Graham stated,

These winning projects put the communities where they're located out front in finding solutions to the staggering pressures affecting their growth and development. The results are cutting-edge but also timeless and livable. They help put communities on a path for a more economically sound future

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We agree with this recognition that the State Center project process serves as a fine example of community building through TOD. This project has been developed through a consistent process of community participation. Over five years of meaningful involvement, the State Center Neighborhood Alliance has crystallized into a recognized representative of the nine neighborhoods surrounding State Center.

In addition, this project has regional significance. It's location within a vital transportation area connected by bus, light rail, subway and commuter rail (Penn Station) affordably serves the State's BRAC's needs, between Ft. Meade and the Aberdeen Proving Grounds.

As the next step in the process, we need the State of Maryland Board of Public Works (BPW) to approve the implementation package that covers the first project phase. We respectfully ask that you communicate your support to the BPW.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
Mayor
Baltimore City

SRB:mjb

cc: The Honorable Martin O'Malley, Governor
The Honorable Mike Miller, President, Maryland Senate
The Honorable Michael Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates
Mr. Jay Brodie, President, Baltimore Development Corporation
Ms. Kalliope Parthemos, Deputy Mayor of Neighborhood and Economic Development

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