



# 5 Establishing the Region's Business Investment Program

Since 2023, GBC has partnered with the U.S. Department of Commerce to host the Baltimore Region Investment Summit—an official SelectUSA spinoff and the nation's premier foreign direct investment event. The Summit reflects broader efforts to position the Baltimore Region as a destination for business growth and capital investment, the core role of a regional economic development organization.

Maryland and the Baltimore Region must aggressively attract private capital while tackling barriers to competitiveness. Priorities include creating a Certified Sites Program to accelerate site selection and reviewing state business tax credits, incentives, and financing tools.

As a first step, GBC launched the region's first economic scorecard, capturing \$3.7 billion in private investment in 2023 and \$4.4 billion in 2024. To build a stronger pipeline, we engaged Bloomberg Associates, studied national best practices, and, through the integration of UpSurge Baltimore, added a database of the region's most promising startups.

National visibility has also grown. GBC's partnership with the Site Selectors Guild and appointment to the Board of Directors of the International Economic Development Council strengthen the region's connectivity to leading site consultants and global investors.



"The Greater Baltimore Committee has driven sustainable growth. In the Merriweather District, we've seen increased interest from market-leading companies. We look forward to continuing our work with GBC to realize our shared vision for a thriving, prosperous region."

*—Greg Fitchitt*

*Co-Chair, Business Retention and Expansion Committee, EVP, Government Affairs & Business Development, Howard Hughes*

# 6 Baltimore's Transit Future

A reliable transit system is essential for regional mobility and economic growth. Through the Baltimore's Transit Future Campaign (BTF), a collaboration with the Greater Washington Partnership, GBC has mobilized the private sector to push for new transportation funding and infrastructure improvements.

We've advocated for restoring Maryland Transportation Authority funding, advanced policies for transit-oriented growth, and rallied more than 70 business and civic partners to address structural revenue shortfalls, expand bus service, and strengthen long-term transit investments.

GBC's leadership has helped secure partner appointments to key bodies including the Commission on Transportation Revenue and Infrastructure Needs, the Baltimore Regional Transit Commission, and the Baltimore Metropolitan Council.

Building on this foundation, we launched an annual fall series on the future of transportation and economic development—bringing together elected officials, business leaders, and cultural voices to highlight transformative projects such as the Red Line East-West Connector, Lutherville Station redevelopment, and Downtown RISE.



"To quote Governor Moore, 'you can't have economic mobility without physical mobility.' GBC's leadership in Baltimore's Transit Future coalition is essential to securing the improved transit system our region's residents and businesses need."

*—Jon Laria*

*Co-Chair, Baltimore's Transit Future Campaign, Special Counsel, Ballard Spahr LLP*



# 7 Our Response: Key Bridge Collapse

In response to the Key Bridge collapse in March 2024, GBC partnered with the Baltimore Community Foundation (BCF), Governor Wes Moore, and regional leaders to form the Maryland Tough Baltimore Strong Alliance—uniting more than 130 partners and raising over \$16 million for relief.

BCF has already disbursed nearly \$8 million to support direct relief, small business recovery, community resilience, and remembrance efforts. This reflects a comprehensive approach that addresses both immediate needs and long-term recovery.

The collapse underscored the port’s central role in the regional economy. Manufacturing—one of the Baltimore Region’s top growth priorities in GBC’s 10-Year Plan—depends on efficient port access to compete globally. Restoring the Key Bridge is critical to sustaining our manufacturing base and long-term competitiveness.

GBC reinforced this priority by joining state and local leaders at the collapse site and elevating the bridge’s reconstruction as a core infrastructure project. To sustain momentum, we have also established an Infrastructure Committee to champion major investments vital to the region’s economic future.



# 8&9 Improving Public Safety

Over the past few years, Baltimore has seen a significant drop in crime across nearly every category—a testament to the collective leadership of city, regional, and state officials, and strong collaboration with private, nonprofit, and philanthropic partners.

In close partnership with the Baltimore Police Department (BPD), GBC identified two areas where the business community can drive meaningful change: reducing gun violence and strengthening police recruitment and retention—challenges facing cities nationwide.

Additionally, our partners have been critical supporters of community violence intervention efforts, which have contributed to this progress and helped position historically disinvested neighborhoods for broader investment.

In 2023, GBC developed data dashboards and reports to keep our board and stakeholders informed on public safety trends, and we continue to work with BPD and regional leaders to implement targeted strategies that support officers and help rebuild the force.



“After years of decline, Baltimore is making major inroads in public safety—with a 39% drop in homicides since 2022 and a 33% decrease over the past year. GBC and its members have supported this momentum through collaboration, recruitment efforts, media partnerships, and convening experts to ensure we stay on this path. Baltimore is ready to shed its outdated reputation and show the world it is open for business.”

—William Moore

Co-Chair, Gun Violence Steering Committee, President, Southway Builders



“Our police recruitment task force brought together HR experts from top Baltimore organizations to support the City’s recruitment efforts. The Commissioner and BPD were receptive to our suggestions, and we continue working together to help the force grow and better serve Baltimore City and its citizens.”

—Gary Attman

Co-Chair, Police Officer Recruitment and Retention Committee, President and CEO, FutureCare