

March 19, 2009

Tear Down That Wall

\$3 million pledged for MARC parking expansion in West Baltimore

In the 1960s, construction of the "Highway to Nowhere" displaced thousands of West Baltimore residents. The Highway is 1.5 miles long, with blank, 30-foot walls that block out the communities behind it. Thousands of riders use this highway daily, while the communities on either side of the Highway remain broken and divided. Now, through the leadership of the Governor and the Maryland Transit Administration, the walls are coming down.

Governor O'Malley announced Tuesday that he would direct \$3 million dollars of federal economic recovery funds to begin the first phase of the West Baltimore MARC Station Parking Expansion by tearing down the abandoned section of the Highway to Nowhere between Pulaski and Monroe Streets. Demolition is slated to begin this summer.

The project, which calls for the creation of 400 new parking spaces, is a huge first step in realizing the vision of the West Baltimore Coalition's Transit-Centered Community Development Plan. The benefits, however, are much greater than the 400 new parking spaces that will be created. The project

- will reconnect communities in West Baltimore by removing the walls and establishing Payson Street between Franklin and Mulberry Streets;
- will make it possible for transit-oriented development (with parking garages) to take shape on the lots closest to the MARC station; and,
- will provide a small, but significant down-payment to advance the Red Line project, reducing the overall project cost by several million dollars.

To say thank you to Governor O Malley and the MTA for making this important investment in West Baltimore, log on to <http://www.governor.maryland.gov/mail/>

To read more about the West Baltimore Coalition's Transit-Centered Community Development Plan, [click here](#) (pdf).

For more images of the walls targeted for demolition in West Baltimore, go to <http://www.monumentalcity.net/streets/highways/00.html>

¹ Ashley Millburn at <http://www.audaciousideas.org/?p=61>



Pulaski Street

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