



RED LINE READER

NEWS AND UPDATES FROM THE CITY OF BALTIMORE ON THE RED LINE TRANSIT PROJECT

Community Leaders Report on Transit Tours

On Monday, October 20, over 100 citizens, neighborhood activists, business leaders, and elected and City officials attended presentations on Transit Around the Nation II at the University of Maryland Biopark. Tour group members spoke about what they saw, heard and learned during their visits to rail transit projects in Los Angeles, Phoenix, Portland and Seattle. Afterwards, they fielded questions from the audience about how lessons from these other cities can be applied to Baltimore's Red Line—from involving the community to supporting businesses to encouraging new growth and home-ownership. You can view the presentations at www.gobaltimoreredline.com under "News and Information."



Red Line Public Hearings

November 6th marked the first public hearing on the Red Line, initiating a series of four hearings in which the public was invited to comment on the project and the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The City of Baltimore has promoted these hearings as an opportunity for citizens to have their voice heard, especially if they want to see the project become a reality. Subsequent hearings were held on November 8th, 12th, and 13th. You can still make your voice heard by submitting written comments at www.baltimoreredline.com/deis-comment.



Reaching Out, One Person at a Time

During the weeks leading up to the DEIS hearings, the City of Baltimore led an effort to bring awareness and accurate information about the Red Line project to citizens living along the corridor. Fact sheets and flyers were passed out in a door-to-door push to make sure no one lost an opportunity to participate. Along with that, the City's Red Line Coordinator, MTA's Community Outreach office, and the Citizens Planning and Housing Association have come together to sponsor informal house parties during November and December. These small gatherings allow for in-depth conversation about the project and allow people to ask questions in a smaller setting. Discussing the impacts and benefits of the project can help deter myths about how the Red Line will affect communities and helps residents feel more included in the process. If you would like to host a house party to help your neighbors better understand the Red Line, contact Danyell Diggs at 443-984-4097.

Neighborhood History Tours Put Red Line in Context

Baltimore Heritage, Inc., a non-profit firm dedicated to preserving Baltimore's historic buildings, has launched its own education campaign about the Red Line. On Saturday, October 25, they led their first community history walking tour in Franklin Square. Retired Professor Roderick Ryon, author of the book *West Baltimore Neighborhoods: Sketches of their History, 1840-1960* spoke about how this area west of downtown was the first planned suburb. Later, growth spread with the introduction of the streetcar, making it one of the first sectors for transit oriented development in the country. Carl Thistle of the Baltimore Streetcar Museum then gave an overview of the dismantling of the streetcar network, a system that at one time transported nearly everyone to work, school, and shopping. More tours are planned for the Westside. Call 410-332-9992 or visit <http://www.baltimoreheritage.org/> for more information.

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