

Community Advisory Team Kick-Off

Meeting Summary



Notable attendees:

- Delegate Sheila S. Ruth
- Delegate Samuel I. Rosenberg
- MTA leadership
 - Holly Arnold, Administrator
 - Martha Gross, Executive Director for Transit Development and Delivery
 - Allison Scott, Red Line Senior Project Director
 - Erica Rigby, Red line Deputy Director
 - Ken Melton, Red Line Communications and Community Engagement Director

CAT attendees

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Mansur Abdul-Malik | 13. Timothy Bridges |
| 2. Howard V Hughes | 14. Sue Carlin |
| 3. Lucia Islas | 15. Anita Cathcart |
| 4. Scott Kashnow | 16. Marita J. Cush |
| 5. Samia Rab Kirchner | 17. Greg Dewey |
| 6. Katie McRury | 18. Ryan Dowdell |
| 7. Derek Moore | 19. Sonia Eaddy |
| 8. Carolyn A. Myers | 20. James Footman |
| 9. Cynthia Shaw | 21. Manny Grogan |
| 10. Bernard K. Sims | 22. Ginger Hanson |
| 11. Min. Glenn Smith | |
| 12. Ayana Bass-Myers | |



Agenda

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
 - Andrew Bing, CAT facilitator started the meeting and introduced the MTA leadership
 - Leadership welcomed CAT members and delivered opening remarks
2. **Review of CAT Purpose and Goals**
 - The Facilitator reviewed roles and responsibilities of the CAT, ground rules and expectations
3. **CAT member introductions**
 - Where you live
 - Area or organization you are representing
 - Why is the Red Line important to you?
4. **Project updates**
 - Red Line team provided an overview of the current status of the project and the next steps in the project including technical analysis and NEPA work underway.
 - Red Leadership shared that the project's recommended mode (Light Rail Transit or Bus Rapid Transit) announcement is likely to be made by the end of June 2024.
 - Reviewed upcoming planned community engagement activities



Discussion

1. **Question about the Blue and Orange lines and whether potential modifications or additional bus service will be considered as part of the Red Line.**
 - Red Line team explained changes in the feeder bus system and the impact the Red Line will have on those services. Team clarified that the Red Line cannot take specific recommendations about the Blue and Orange lines and implement them, but it is in the project's scope to look at the system impacts as it relates to the Red Line.
 - Noted there is a separate East-West RAISE grant project specifically looking at improvements to the Orange and Blue Line.

2. **Question about the possibility of phasing the project and building part of the line now and opening. For instance, building the line from West Baltimore to Downtown**
 - Red Line team explained there are clear “logical termini (rational end points for transportation improvements)” identified in the project that are required by FTA to fund, complete the project. At the moment, phasing is not part of the project plan.
3. **Question about who conducts the NEPA study and how transparency of the process can be guaranteed.**
 - MTA is the project sponsor and undertakes the NEPA study with support by a consultant team; The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will ultimately decide whether to approve the project and MTA oversees the process.
 - A public document will be prepared and provided to the public for public comment and eventually a public hearing. That information will also be provided to the CAT. The intent of NEPA is to make the project process transparent and provide opportunities for meaningful input. There are clear points along the process where public involvement is required, and MTA is required to have a public hearing. MTA is also providing opportunities, like the CAT, to actually participate in the project activities.
4. **Question about the recommended mode announcement and the CAT’s role in discussing that project decision.**
 - Red Line team explained that the mode decision will remove 3 of the 6 alternatives. There will still be decisions to be made regarding the tunnel, the street alignment, station area etc.
 - Explained that there was substantial feedback from the public last year on the mode preference through the open houses, surveys, pop-ups and canvassing in West Baltimore. That was all considered along with the technical analysis on the mode recommendation. The team added that making this decision on this timeline is important to keep the project on schedule.
 - Added that an analysis regarding the mode is made based on the Measures of Effectiveness.
 - CAT facilitator reminded the group that the CAT is not a decision-making body. Their role is to be an advisory group supporting the public engagement process.
5. **Question related issues of safety, trash and crime specifically around Security Mall and Chadwick Elementary school**
 - Red Line team will coordinate with relevant agencies on these issues.
6. **Question on whether funding is available for construction.**
 - Full construction funding is not secured yet. Red Line has \$160 million to cover project development, planning and design. This is a multi-step process, and we would not typically see funding at this time.
7. **Comment regarding cleanliness, customer experience and performance management as we design and build the RL.**
8. **Question about the actual phases of the project and what phase the project is currently in.**
 - Project is in the Alternative Analysis phase.
 - MTA will develop a SharePoint folder to upload documents that can help clarify project information.
9. **Comment about the Edmondson High School needing upgrading. It is the only high school in that area.**
 - Red Line leadership is working with other departments responsible for those supportive decisions, so they can take this back to the Education Department.
10. **Comment about regularly showing up in communities and being more visibly present at meetings and with a focus on reaching Latino community.**
11. **Comment emphasizing transit and how a line should have been built 30 years ago to serve the people of Baltimore.**
12. **Concern about residential displacement as a result of the Red Line.**
13. **Concern about not reaching communities that will be impacted by tunnel versus surface alignment like Poppleton.**
 - Team will check on invitations that went out for open houses in the Fall. Agreed that community associations should receive notice of focused engagement periods. The team will rectify in the future if that didn’t happen.



Upcoming Events and Engagement Opportunities

June 19	C.A.L.L.E.D. Health and Resource Community Information Fair @ Perkins Square Baptist Church
June 22-23	AFRAM
July 1	Hunting Ridge Community Association Meeting
July 13-14	Latin Fest
July 13	Baltimore Washington One Caribbean Festival
July 17	West Hills Community Association Board Meeting
July 27	Fells Point Farmers Market
August 1	WTMD's First Thursday Festival
August 2	Highlandtown First Friday Artwalk
August 3	Artscape

Visit our website for more updates: <https://redlinemaryland.com/staying-engaged/>



Summary of Action Items:

- Follow up on reaching out to Poppleton Community Association.
- Follow up on reaching out to Latinx community.
- MTA to develop and share a SharePoint location for Red Line documents.
- MTA will confirm next meeting date, time and location
- MTA will look into incorporating an event at West Baltimore MARC parking lot in upcoming outreach activities.



Next Meeting:

These dates are tentative and will be confirmed.

Date: Wednesday, August 7, 2024 **Time:** 5 - 7:30pm

Location: Downtown Baltimore (location to be confirmed)

June 15, 2024