



RED LINE

# ABOUT THE BALTIMORE RED LINE

Connecting Communities, Expanding Opportunities for All



## What is the Baltimore Red Line?

The Baltimore Red Line (Red Line) will be a high-frequency, high-capacity light rail transit line that will run through downtown Baltimore and fill a critical gap in east-west transit service between Woodlawn and Bayview. For more information on the history of the project, visit this section of the website: [Background - Red Line \(redlinemaryland.com\)](https://www.redlinemaryland.com/background).

## The Red Line Advances Our Local, State, and Regional Goals

A more connected region means a more economically vibrant region. When we provide increased access to jobs, essential services, healthcare, and entertainment districts, more people contribute to the economy. According to the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), for every \$1 spent on transit, \$4 is returned to the local economy.

Over the past 10 years, the Baltimore region has seen significant development completed, underway, or planned along the Red Line corridor such as the Security Square Mall redevelopment, West Baltimore United, the Frederick Douglass Tunnel program, and the residential and commercial growth in Southeast Baltimore.

Transportation investments are critical components in a greater ecosystem of connectivity designed to move people, goods, and services. Local and state Complete Streets policies require transportation projects focus on efficiently moving people by prioritizing pedestrians, cyclists, and transit users over private vehicles. Whether in dense urban centers, conventional roadways, or along neighborhood spines, transit moves more people with less space.

### Recommended Mode: Light Rail Transit (LRT)

In June 2024, Governor Wes Moore announced the Red Line mode recommendation as Light Rail Transit (LRT). The mode recommendation was based on measures of effectiveness and community input.

#### Key differentiators included:

- Ridership
- Capacity
- Travel time
- Reliability
- Equity considerations
- Public Input

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Moving People Efficiently

Capacity of a single lane by mode at peak conditions with normal operations (National Assoc. of City Transportation Officials).

Private Motor Vehicles  
600-1,600/hr

Mixed Traffic with Frequent Buses  
1,000-2,800/hr

Two-Way Protected Bikeway  
7,500/hr

Dedicated Transit Lanes  
4,000-8,000/hr

Sidewalk  
9,000/hr

On-street Transitway, Bus, or Rail  
10,000-25,000/hr

Selecting an Alternative

Three alignment options, all of which are LRT, are under consideration. The alternatives each follow a different route (referred to as an alignment) and explore tunnel versus surface options. All alternatives improve transit access and reliability.

**Alternative 1**  
(LRT Tunnels):

Similar to the 2012 Preferred Alternative, with some modifications. It includes surface transitways along I-70, Edmondson Ave., and Boston St., and tunnels under Cooks Lane and Downtown.

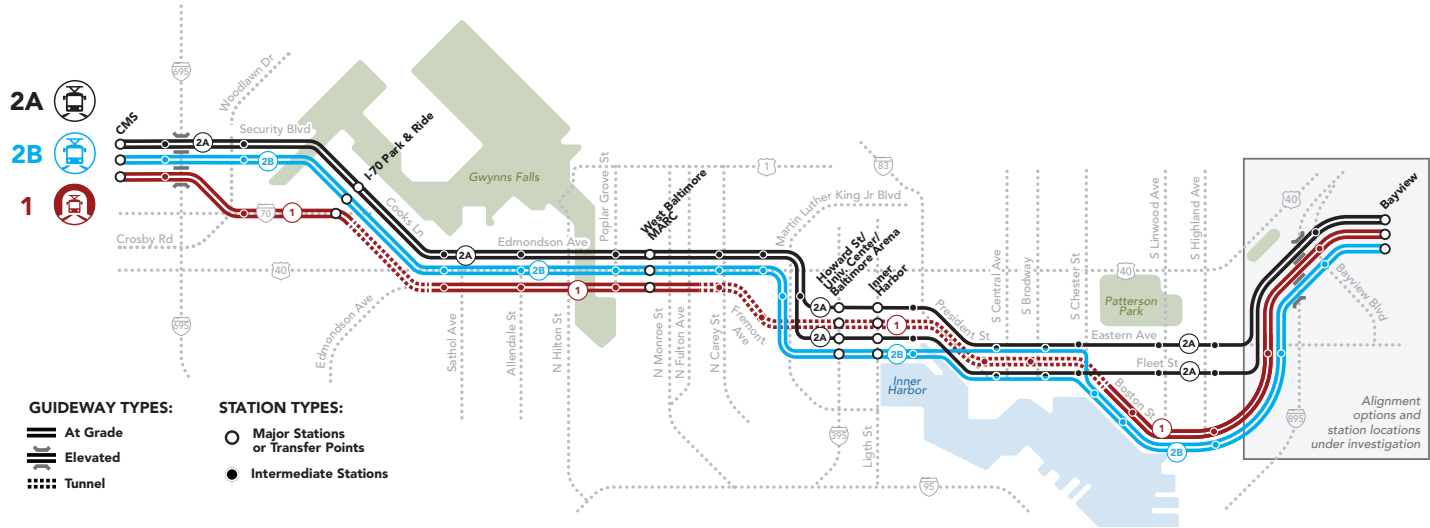
**Alternative 2A**  
(LRT Surface North):

Includes a surface transitway along Security Blvd., Edmondson Ave., MLK Jr. Blvd., mixed traffic operations along Cooks Lane, and transit couplets along Baltimore St./Lombard St. and Eastern Ave./Fleet St.

**Alternative 2B**  
(LRT Surface South):

Includes surface transitways along Security Blvd., Edmondson Ave., MLK Jr. Blvd., Pratt St., and Boston St.; and mixed traffic operations along Cooks Lane.

Alternatives Under Consideration



Key Alignment Decisions

An alignment recommendation will draw upon jurisdictional, regional, and partner agency priorities, public input, and performance metrics. Key factors include access to jobs, cost to build and operate, time to construct, risk, travel time, parking impacts, environmental impacts, equity considerations, economic and transit-oriented development opportunities, and access to stations. Specific decision-points along the corridor remain regarding route and tunnel versus surface; each presents opportunities and challenges.

Key alignment decisions include:

- Western Route:** Traveling along either I-70 or Security Blvd.
- Cooks Lane Alignment:** Traveling on the surface in mixed-use traffic or in a tunnel.
- US 40 Freeway Route:** Three routes are being evaluated: Single tracks along Franklin St./Mulberry St.; both tracks along Franklin St.; or both tracks along the US 40 median.
- Downtown:** Three alignments are being evaluated: Tunnel beneath Lombard St.; surface couplet on Baltimore St./Lombard St.; or surface on Pratt St. East of President, options travel beneath Fleet St., or on the surface with one-way couplets on Eastern Ave./Fleet St., and/or Boston St.
- Southeast Baltimore Route:** A range of conceptual alignments are being evaluated to address significant challenges that complicate a direct connection from Southeast Baltimore to Johns Hopkins Bayview Campus.

For more detailed information on alignment options and considerations, see the Fall 2024 Boards in the Project Documents section of the website.

[Project Documents - Red Line](#)  
([redlinemaryland.com](#))

What's Next

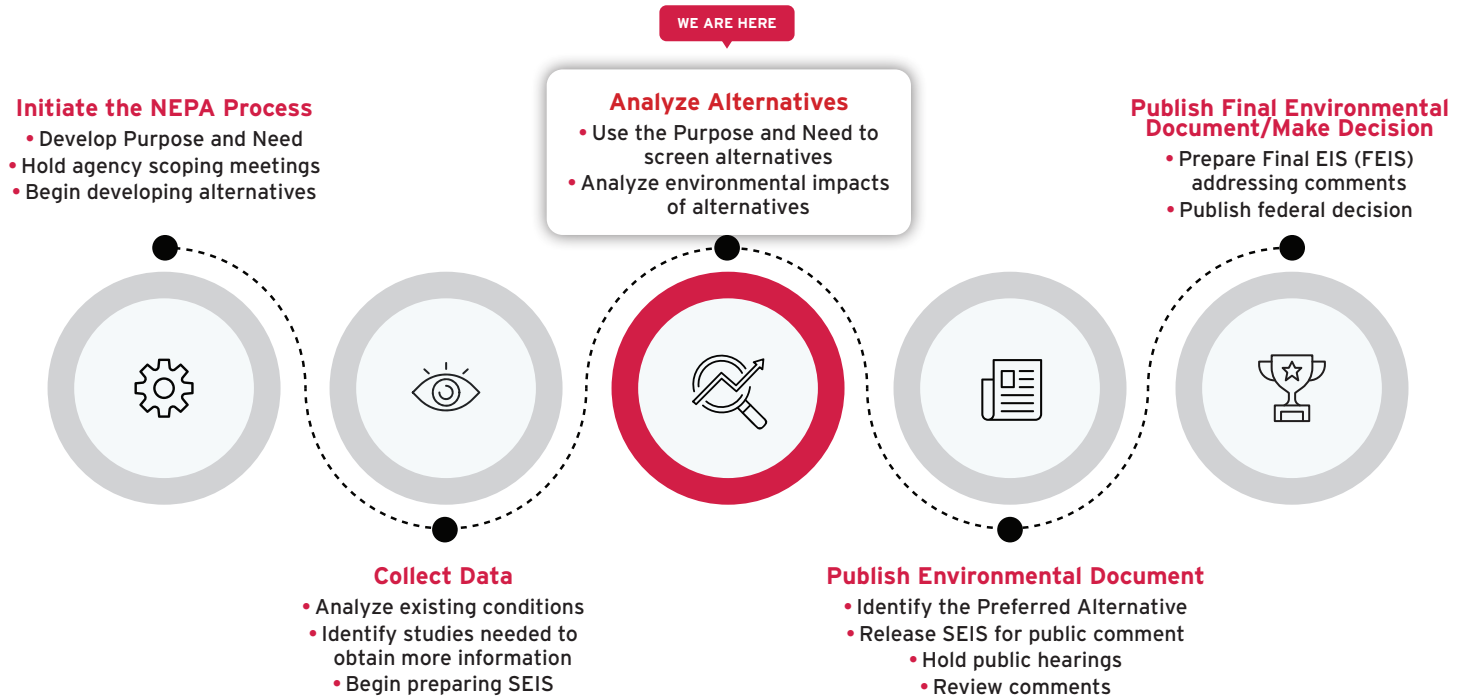
Advancing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process

In May 2024, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and MTA announced that a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) would be prepared, adhering to the NEPA process (illustrated in the figure on the following page). The SEIS will build upon the previous NEPA analyses and review any changes in the affected environment and project impacts, as well as operational changes, regulations, and mitigation measures. The SEIS includes coordination activities and input from Federal, State, and local agencies; as well as public involvement.

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# Process to Advance the Project through NEPA



## Engaging Communities

### Community Advisory Team (CAT)




In spring 2024, MTA selected the Community Advisory Team (CAT), corridor community members and stakeholders. The CAT meets quarterly to inform Red Line community engagement efforts with diverse perspectives.

### Engagement Events

The Red Line team regularly engages communities at fairs, festivals, and community events. You can request the Red Line team attend your community meeting or neighborhood event by contacting us at [outreach@redlinemaryland.com](mailto:outreach@redlinemaryland.com).

## Ways to Stay Engaged

We are committed to sharing information through in-person and web-based tools:

-  Follow the Red Line on social media via X, Threads, Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram: [@redlinemaryland](https://www.instagram.com/redlinemaryland)
-  Find all project materials from open houses and other events at: <https://redlinemaryland.com/resources/>
-  To reach the Red Line project team, please email [outreach@redlinemaryland.com](mailto:outreach@redlinemaryland.com)

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