



*Caitlin Tobin, PE,
Project Director,
Baltimore Red Line*

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

I consider it the honor of my career to join the MTA team as the Project Director for the Baltimore Red Line, a project that holds special meaning to me both as a Baltimore resident and as a transportation professional dedicated to enhancing our city's infrastructure. Having worked on the Red Line in supporting roles for several years, I am deeply passionate about working with our project partners to see this project come to life.

This project represents more than just a transportation solution—it's an opportunity to transform the Baltimore region's connectivity, access to opportunities and overall quality of life. I am thrilled to work alongside our project team, key partners, and the communities the Red Line will serve, ensuring we make meaningful progress toward bringing this vital project to fruition.

In 2023, I had the privilege of leading public engagement efforts during the Red Line's relaunch, which included developing the strategic framework for our Community Advisory Team (CAT). Over the past year, I've played an integral role in supporting the General Engineering Contract, coordinating early corridor development, and contributing to partner collaboration, including the successful implementation of the Red Line's High School Internship Program. Throughout my 15-year career as a transportation planner and engineer, I've had the privilege of working closely with cities and partners to develop strategic, safe, and impactful transportation solutions that enhance livability. The Red Line will be a cornerstone of this vision for Baltimore. Beyond my consulting experience, I also had the opportunity to serve as the Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator for the Baltimore City Department of Transportation, a role that deepened my commitment to sustainable, inclusive urban mobility.

With a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Bucknell University and a Master of Science in Urban Planning from Oxford Brookes University, I am energized by the chance to bring my skills, experience, and passion to this transformative project. Together, we will create a more connected and vibrant future for Baltimore.

People of the Baltimore Red Line

Please visit our YouTube Channel to check out recent videos in this series, including interviews with Lucia Islas, one of our Community Advisory Team (CAT) members, and Rod Easter, Community Association Leader: youtube.com/@RedLineMaryland. And stay tuned to our YouTube channel for new video releases each month!



Community Advisory Team (CAT) Update

The CAT met on April 2 with a packed agenda to discuss the Maryland Department of Transportation's budget, MTA's role in planning around stations, and an update on where the Red Line currently is in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA.) The meeting shed light on how MTA works with agency partners at the city, county, state and federal levels on getting "transit ready" in order to make holistic project decisions that advance communities' goals. The presentation, given by Caitlin Tobin, Red Line's Project Director, touched upon land use, economic development and affordable housing plans as part of a competitive New Starts program application for the Red Line. The meeting concluded with breakout group discussion on refreshing the 2008 Community Compact which was organized around four overarching goals that described and promoted actions, activities, policies, and guidance to ensure that residents benefited from the project.

In the Community

Meet Ambassador Marco Ávila



*Marco Ávila, PE,
Southeast Baltimore
segment ambassador*

Did you know that the Red Line has ambassadors? Each segment of the Red Line has its community, identity, and ambassador. They are liaisons between the project team and the community. Marco V. Ávila, PE, is the segment ambassador for Southeast Baltimore, which starts at Albemarle Street and ends at the Bayview MARC station. He is a professional engineer with more than 38 years of experience. He is actively involved in several professional societies, including the American Society of Highway Engineers, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Council of Engineering Companies-Maryland, and the Engineering Society of Baltimore. He is also a Maryland Hispanic Chamber of Commerce member. The ambassador role is vital in ensuring that the project aligns with the needs and aspirations of the communities they serve. If you have questions about the Red Line in the Southeast Baltimore Segment, you can contact Marco Ávila at mavila2@mdot.maryland.gov.

Youth Engagement Program Connects with MTA Youth Transit Council

The Baltimore Red Line Youth Engagement program aims to promote awareness of the Red Line, focusing on high schools and existing MTA youth programs. The program also seeks to strengthen relationships with meaningful, interactive, and educational activities and to collaborate with youth-focused organizations to design and implement impactful engagement.

The February Youth Transit Council meeting was packed with activities. Red Line project team members presented background information on the Red Line, and the draft youth engagement strategy, and facilitated a brainstorming session on People & Places, Telling the Story, and Branding the Red Line. Jerome Horne, Acting Deputy Director of Red Line Communications, and Engineering and Design Segment 1 & 2 Lead Betty Seifu also spoke with youth about their vision for the Red Line.



The Red Line Youth Engagement team presenting at the MTA Youth Transit Council Meeting at the Central Enoch Pratt Library

Red Line Team Holds High School Internship Information Sessions



The Red Line team's intern program visit to Patterson High School

During the week of March 24, several Red Line staff, including Red Line Communication and Community Engagement Director Ken Melton, visited Patterson, Woodlawn, and Edmondson-Westside High Schools to share information about this year's upcoming program. This unique six-week-long paid internship offers three students from each school the opportunity to learn about careers in transportation, planning, and engineering while also helping to shape the future of transit in Baltimore.

Celebrate Earth Day with us

Public transit, like buses, trains, and light rail, can reduce congestion on the road, cut emissions, and improve air quality. Celebrate Earth Day with free transit across all of MTA's services: local bus, light rail, metro subway, marc train, commuter bus, and mobility on Tuesday, April 22. Keep an eye out on Earth Day for our most recent blog post about the environmental benefits of transit and the Red Line here: redlinemaryland.com/news-press/.

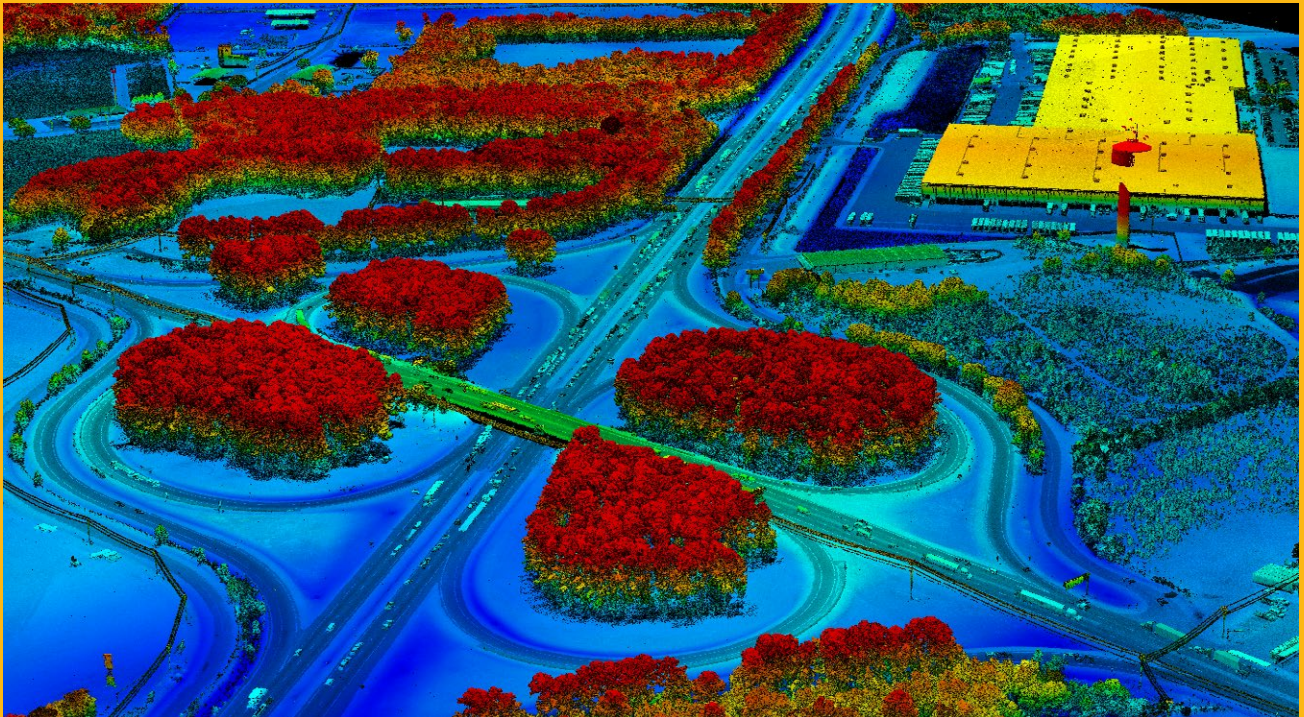




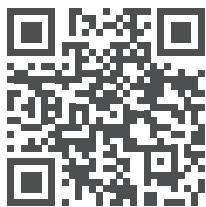
Did You Know?

Coming into Focus with LiDAR

The Red Line project team uses LiDAR (light detection and ranging) aerial photography to create a topographic survey to inform the final project alignment. Survey crews will establish survey control points in the field, the horizontal and vertical coordinates of these control points are determined, and marking tape is applied in the shape of a cross or a chevron to establish a “target”. The data takes the form of millions of individual points. The collection of data points generated by the sensor in a drone or aircraft’s LiDAR equipment is referred to as a point cloud. Each individual point in the point cloud is located in space. Point cloud data is processed and correlated with the known locations of the targets placed on the ground to develop reliable and highly accurate base mapping for the project.



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