

WE NEED YOUR HELP

In October 2006, hundreds of West Baltimore residents told us about the problems they see in the neighborhood and came up with some general ideas about how to address the problems.

Coming up with short and long term solutions to these challenges is the purpose of the upcoming workshops being held **May 7 through May 10**. Your thoughts about the future of West Baltimore are critical. In order to make

this effort a success, we need you to add your voice and ideas to the discussion.

Different topics will be discussed each night. The final workshop will provide a summary of the ideas from the previous three meetings. All workshop meetings will be from 7pm to 9pm at the **Lockerman Bundy Elementary School – 301 N. Pulaski Street**.

Workshop Topics and Schedule

May 7 - 7pm to 9pm
Neighborhoods
Housing

May 8 - 7pm to 9pm
Development
Jobs

May 9 - 7pm to 9pm
Safety
Transportation

May 10 - 7pm to 9pm
Summary and Next Steps

Location

Lockerman Bundy Elementary School – 301 N. Pulaski Street.

TRANSIT

CENTERED

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

UPDATE FROM THE WEST BALTIMORE COALITION

A new day is dawning for the west side of town. At last, opportunity has come for this part of the city to regain and have an improved quality of life for its remaining residents.

Recognizing the potential for development around the MARC Train Station, we in the surrounding communities have come to collaborate with interested agencies, real estate interest (for example, the person that has purchased the Ice House) and regional environmental justice groups.

We have participated in the "charrette" where community members articulated our quality of life, social, housing, transportation and environmental needs:

- Community recognition
- Entrepreneurial opportunity for communities

- Affordable housing ownership
- Senior care provisions (seniors that live independently)
- Transit consistent with community needs
- Employment and skills training opportunity
- Educational facilities improvements consistent with redevelopment
- Recreational and community facilities
- Safety
- Community beautification
- Greening neighborhoods and spaces

Our desire is for a stable and sustainable environment; required for having beautified neighborhoods and a type of economic growth and development that is appropriate to meet our entrepreneurial needs.

The residents have expressed emphatically that rather than be displaced or replaced by growth and development they have a desire to participate as the recipients and directors of the neighborhood's growth and development. As such, we

do not expect to see another "Road to No Where". We expect to see our community that has been negatively impacted in the past by planning policies and administrative practices, become, as they were neighborhood models of affordable living and social amenities.

We need one hundred per cent (100%) participation in the upcoming "charrette". It is mandated if you want maximum exposure. From a community perspective, we are ready to rebuild and strengthen every neighborhood in our community, to innovatively define new land-uses for underutilized and wasting properties and to do so in a professionally accepted way.

In keeping with the goals and objectives of the West Baltimore Coalition's concept – Transit Centered Community Development – the charrette emphasizes the use of innovative community involvement processes in collaboration with rigorous but appropriate analysis of the issues and solutions as we rebuild and restore the neighborhoods in the West Baltimore area."

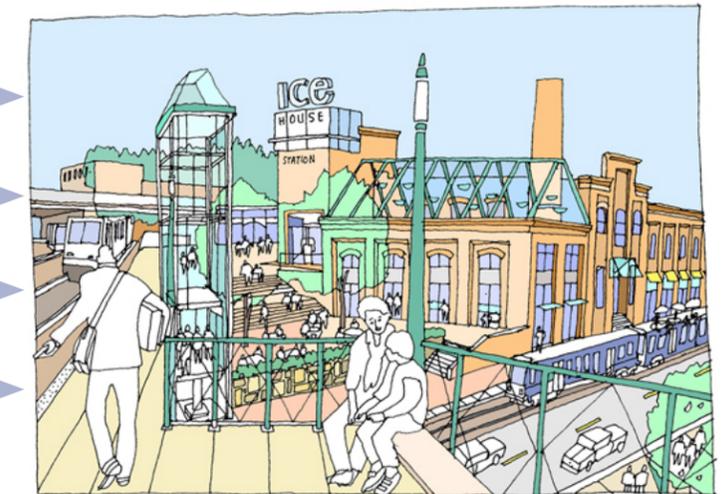
This is a "Win Win situation".

Collectively, One Voice making our request known and demanding what we want.

-West Baltimore Coalition



Special thanks to Bon Secours staff, Life Celebration Church, Edmondson Community Organization, Operation Reach Out South West (OROSW), and all West Baltimore Coalition members.

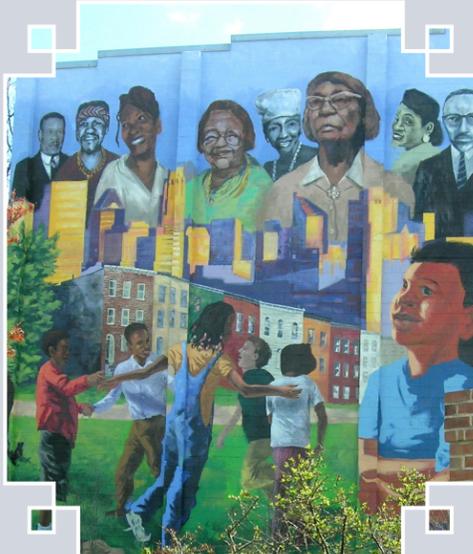


The MARC train station is a development opportunity that could bring jobs, services and residential opportunities into the existing community.

NEXT COMMUNITY WORKSHOP IN JUNE OR JULY... PLEASE COME!

WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON?

The residents and businesses around the West Baltimore MARC station are participating in a community planning effort organized by the City of Baltimore and the Maryland Department of Transportation. The purpose of the effort is to develop a community vision for the neighborhoods around the station and to identify short- and long-term actions and activities that can be made to improve existing – and to attract new – housing, businesses, and services in the area.



Community pride is shown through public art and clean open spaces in Franklin Square.

A five-day planning workshop or “charrette” was held in October 2006. Hundreds of West Baltimore residents gave up a Saturday and several evenings to attend the charrette. At the charrette and through ongoing meetings with the West Baltimore Coalition, West Baltimore residents have been working with their neighbors to identify goals they would like to achieve for the area. **At the workshops in May, you will be asked to identify additional goals and to figure out the short- and long-term actions needed to achieve the goals.**

Quality Development

The journey to improve the quality of life in West Baltimore is made up of small steps that need to be taken by many people. So that the actions of the many participants are coordinated it is necessary to identify – at least in general terms – what the participants want to see happen.

- Implement short-term actions, both small and large
- Identify funding sources and look for opportunities to use them
- Increase the variety of housing and employment available
- Maintain affordability



The former Lutheran Hospital site can become a new residential and academic community.

Parks and Open Space

The opportunity to transform the landscape of West Baltimore can be implemented with actions that can be taken by residents, the city, and the state. Adding more parks and open spaces or “greening” West Baltimore will transform the landscape making the community more inviting and enjoyable to live in.

- Reinvent the image and purpose of “lost” places
- Make sidewalks and public spaces safe, green, and inviting
- Maintain clean and green public places



The playground at Lafayette and Payson will be completely renovated by the City by early July 2007.

Transportation Improvements

West Baltimore is an active transportation area utilizing a variety of transportation modes such as commuter trains, buses, local roads, and highways. The neighborhood will succeed when it has taken advantage of the positives (such as quick and convenient access to downtown Baltimore and Washington, DC) and minimized the impacts of the negatives (such as high speed traffic on local roads and commuter parking on residential streets).

- Use the MARC station to encourage community investments
- Make walking to transit safer, inviting, and convenient
- Match traffic behavior to different kinds of streets



Abandoned and underutilized land could be transformed into assets that serve the community.

HOW TO STAY INFORMED

You can contact Zelda Robinson, Acting Chair of the West Baltimore Coalition at zelda888@msn.com and participate in the WBC’s meetings, which are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm to 8:00pm at the Edmondson Community Center located at 2114 Edmondson Avenue.

You can also contact your Baltimore City Comprehensive District Planner for more information.

- If you live North of Route 40 and Mulberry Street, your planner is Andrea Limauro. He can be reached at: (410) 396-5934 or Andrea.Limauro@BaltimoreCity.gov. In addition, your community umbrella group is ARCO, which can be reached at (410) 945-1264, and ECO, which can be reached at (410) 542-0744.

Strong Community Centers

In order for the West Baltimore neighborhood to thrive, it needs to have a strong center – not just a physical center, but also an emotional one. The neighborhood needs to be filled with people who are invested in the area’s success.



Monthly meetings of the West Baltimore Coalition take place at the Edmondson Community Center.

- Expand and strengthen community involvement
- Encourage and increase ownership of housing and businesses
- Foster community “ownership” and self-governance
- Restore local businesses, library, post office, and other services
- Start by encouraging development in areas that are already doing well

- If you live South of Route 40 and Mulberry Street, your planner is Brent Flickinger. He can be reached at (410) 396-5936 or Brenton.Flickinger@BaltimoreCity.gov. In addition, your community umbrella group is OROSW and can be reached at (410) 362-3239.

Don will provide sentence on Red Line that will go here. For more information on the Red Line project you can contact the MTA’s project manager, Lorenzo Bryant at (410) 767-3754. You can also visit the project’s website at <http://www.baltimoreredline.com/index.htm>.

If you would like the MTA to come and speak to your community about the Red Line project, please call Anthony Brown, Red Line Public Involvement Coordinator at (410) 533-9777 and request a speaker.