

Baltimore Red Line

RTA 2026 Leadership Briefing
July 21, 2026



Agenda

- Project Overview and Goals
- Project Challenges and Advancing the Red Line
- BRT in Baltimore

Project Overview and Goals

The History



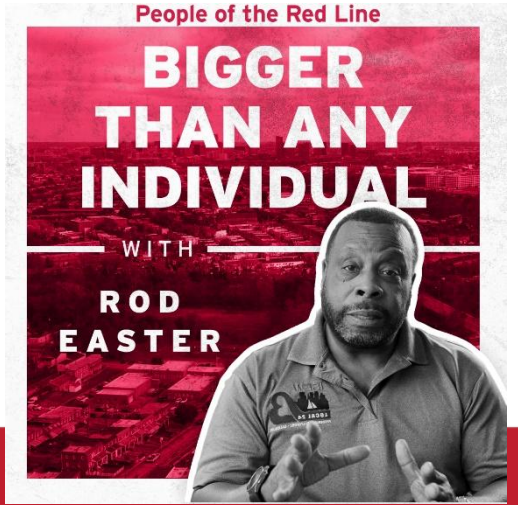
People of the Red Line



People of the Red Line



People of the Red Line



Why is the Project Important?

- **Connect communities** to jobs, education, services, and opportunities
- Deliver **high-frequency, high-capacity premium transit** across the region through downtown Baltimore
- **Connect to existing transit services** to create network
- Support **economic growth, economic opportunities, and shared prosperity**



Project Challenges and Advancing the Red Line

What Has Changed Since 2024

Changing Federal and National Landscape

- **Federal transportation grants** have been threatened, canceled, and federal investment priorities have changed.
- **Inflation and tariffs** pose cost risks to a 14-mile LRT line.
- **Federal Surface Transportation Authorization bill** expiring September 2026.
- There are currently 48 projects in the CIG program, **33 of those projects are BRT projects** signaling an industry shift to BRT.
- No projects have entered into a Full Funding Grant Agreement since January 2025

Approaches to Advance the Red Line

In this new reality we are considering three approaches to advance the Red Line, each with distinct costs and timelines:

Approach 1: Full LRT

Stay the long-term course of an LRT project.

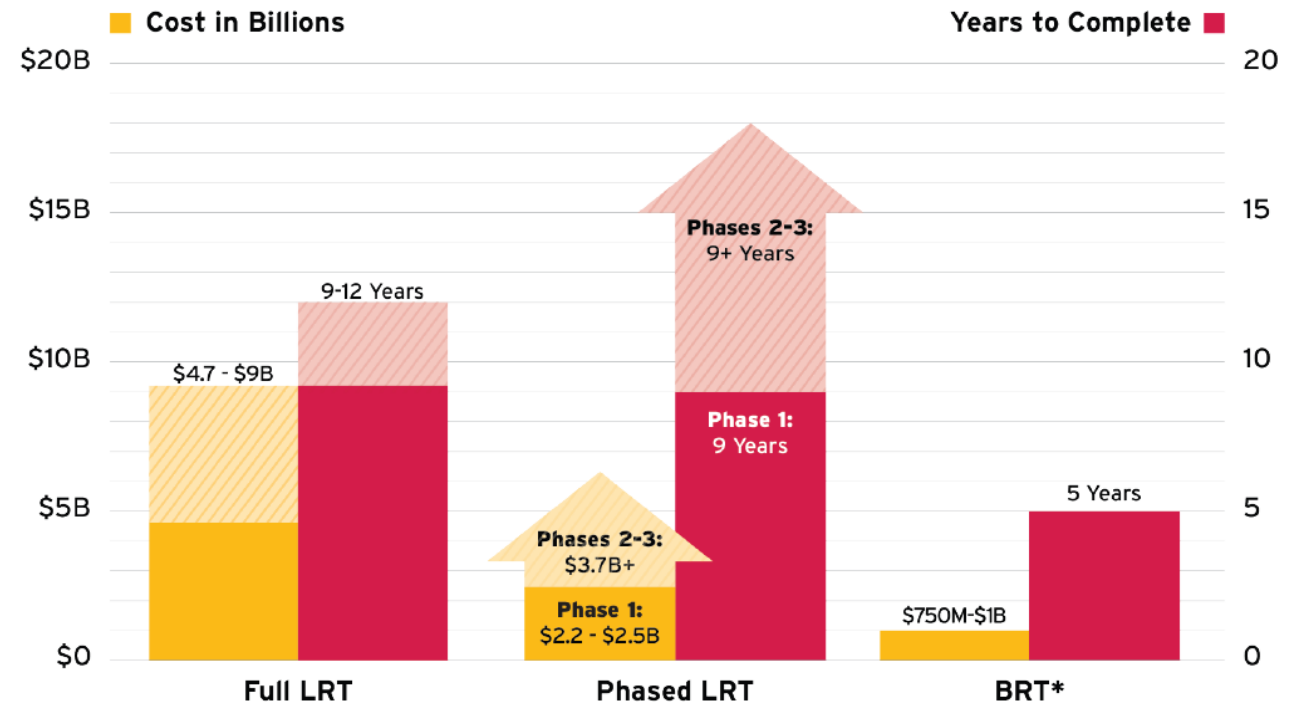
Approach 2: Phase LRT

Move phase 1 of the LRT project forward.

Approach 3: Full BRT

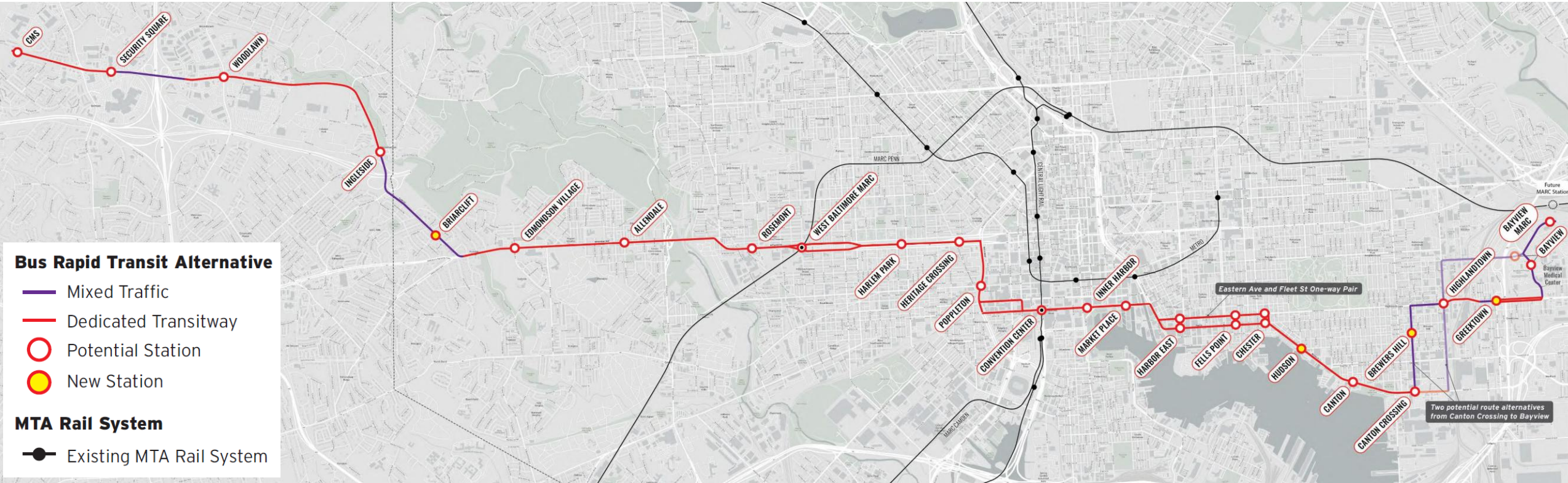
Revisit BRT as a mode with stakeholders/public.

Cost and Years to Complete by Approach



BRT in Baltimore

Red Line BRT Approach



Lower Costs



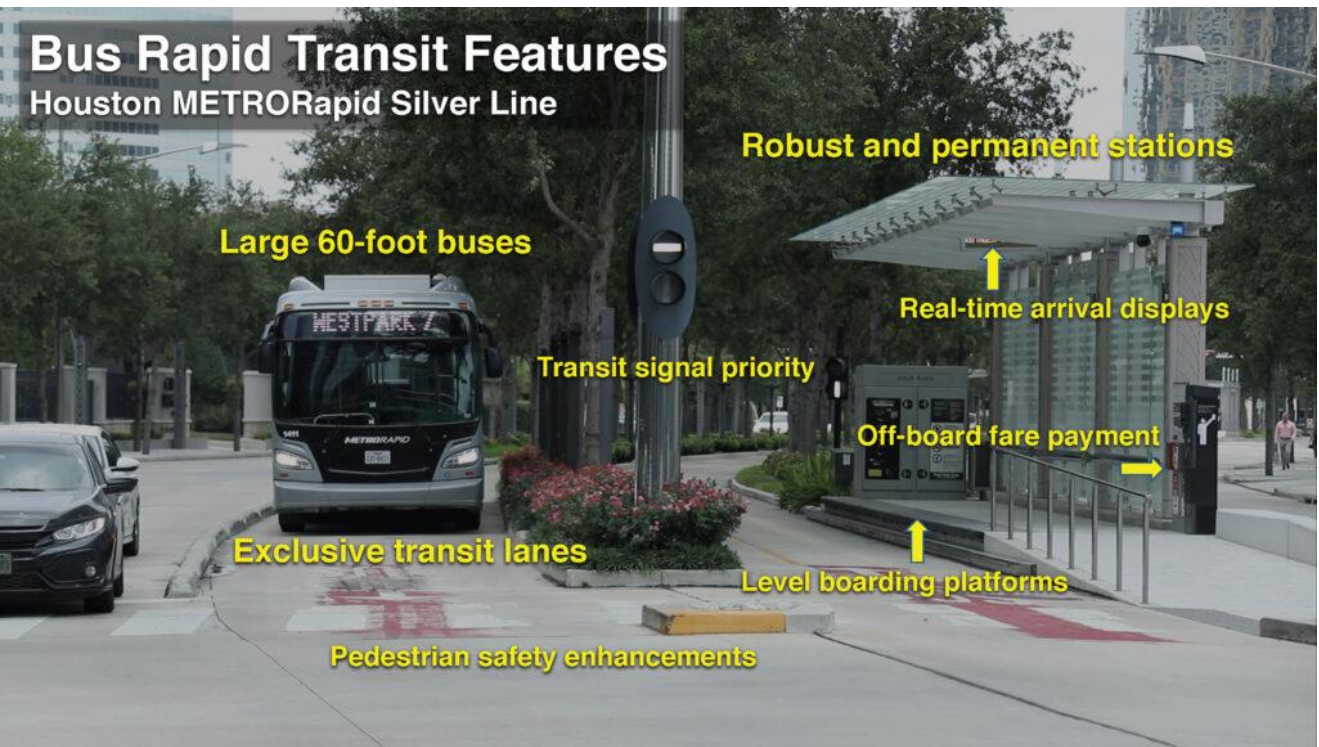
Faster Construction



Travel Time & Customer Experience Similar to LRT

RED LINE

High-Performing BRT Design



5 Essentials for High-Performance Transit



Dedicated Lanes



Median Alignment



Off-Board Fare Collection



Intersection Priority



Platform-Level Boarding

Downtown

Focused on moving
more people
through Downtown,
not more traffic

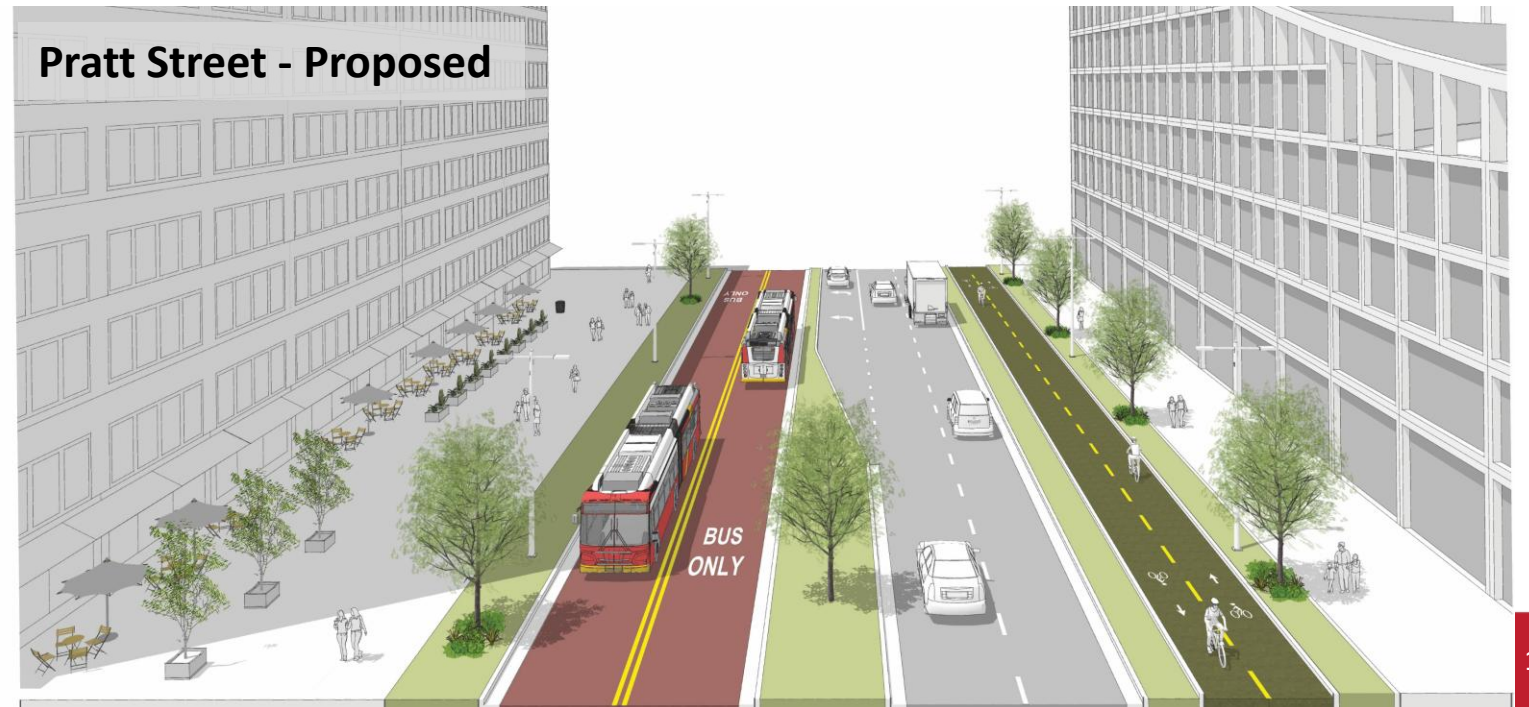


RED LINE

Pratt Street - Today



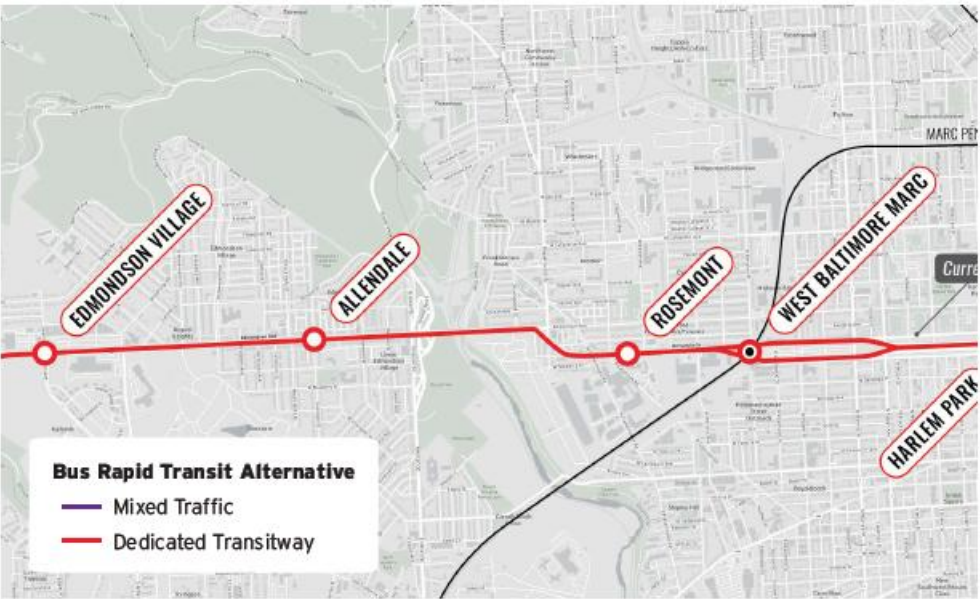
Pratt Street - Proposed



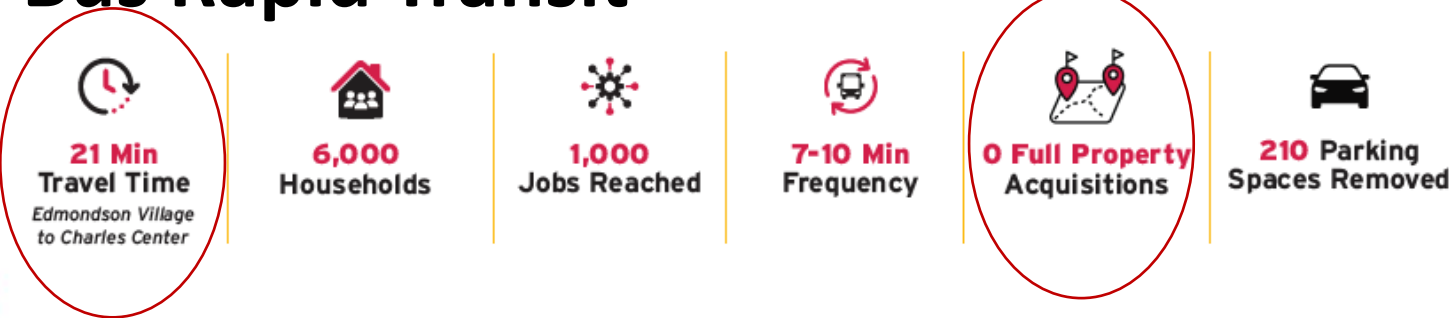
Performance vs. Impact



Light Rail Transit



Bus Rapid Transit



Transit and Economic Development

*Economic Development around transit
requires a holistic planning approach*

Cleveland HealthLine

The Link



Harrington Discovery Institute



Minneapolis Gold Line

Norhart Oakdale Apartment Complex



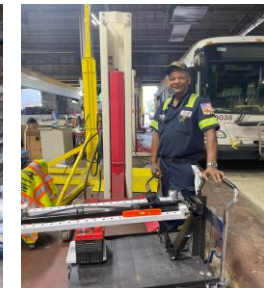
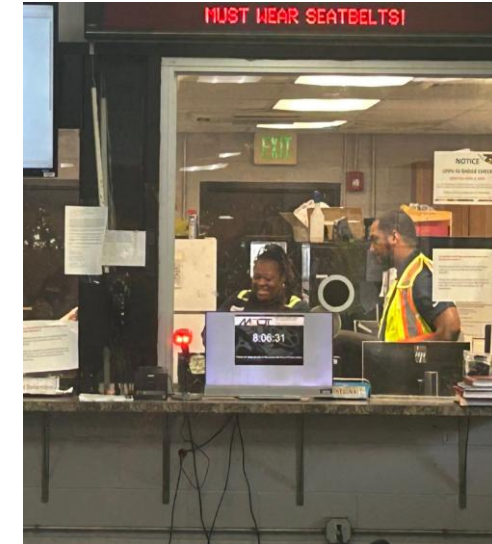
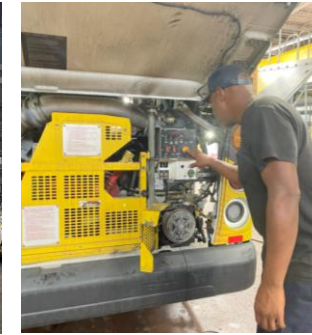
Richmond's The Pulse

Scott's Addition



Advantages of Red Line BRT + BMORE Bus Together

- **BMORE Bus Plan = Fifth Bus Division + Additional Bus Purchases**
- Fifth Bus Division also enables Red Line BRT to operate most effectively



Connecting Communities. Growing Opportunities.

MTA's 2025 Regional Transit Plan + BMORE Bus Plan amplifies over \$12 billion of planned economic development.



2025 Regional Transit Plan



Security Square Mall



Edmondson Village



West Baltimore MARC



West Baltimore United



UM - Baltimore



Harbor Place



Greektown Industrial



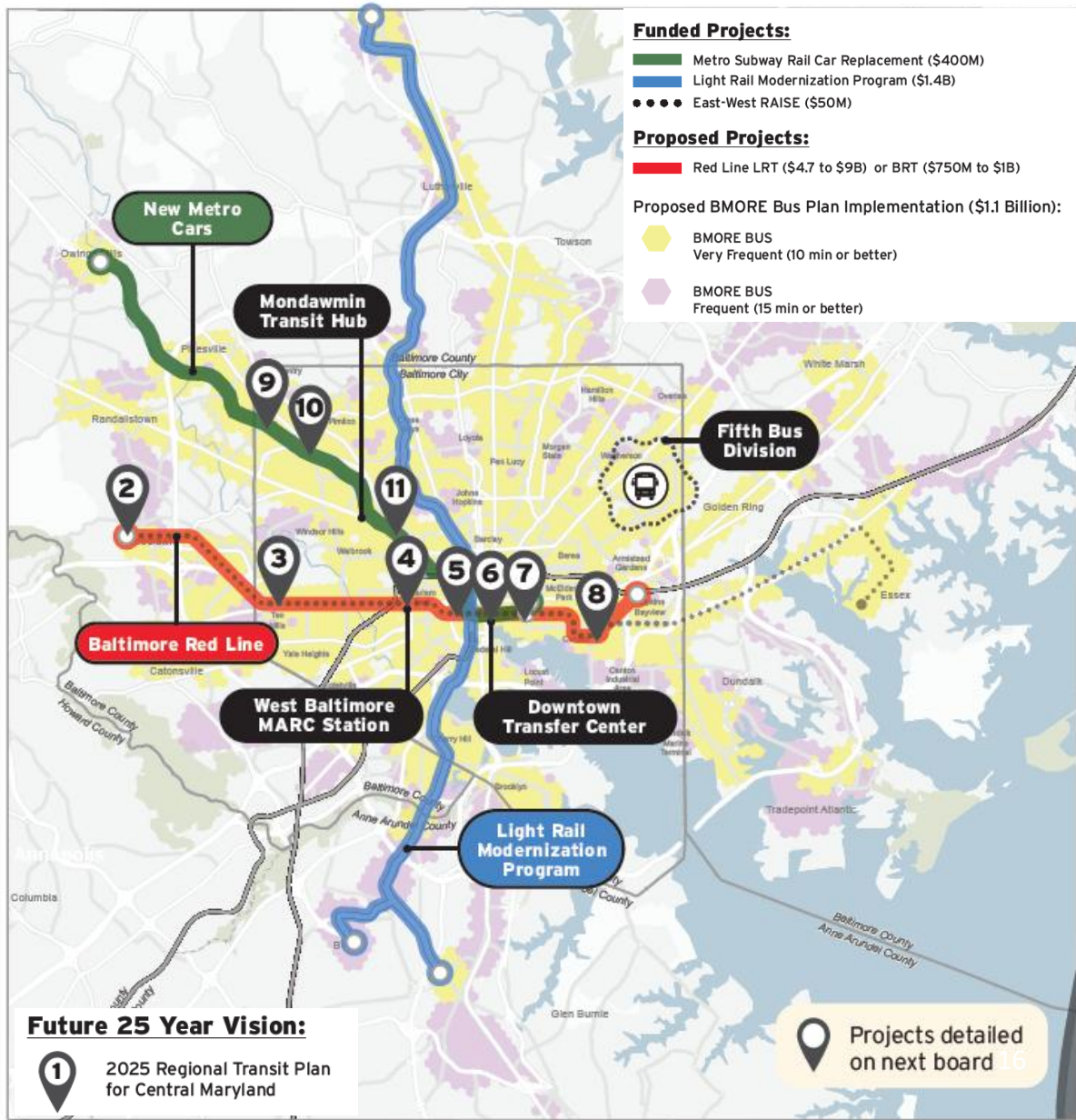
Reisterstown Plaza TOD



Rogers Ave TOD



State Center



Thank you!

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Line and our educational videos!

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