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Proposed Amtrak Rail Line to Replace Existing BP Line

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Paul Gentner

12:41 AM (7
hours ago)

to Eric.Costello, Kristerfer.Burnett, Ryan.Dorsey, Danielle.McCray, Sharon.Middleton, Isaac.Schleifer, Robert.Stokes, I

Dear Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

As a resident of the Reservoir Hill community, I am writing in strong opposition to Bills 24-0562, 24-0563, 24-0564, 24-0565 and 24-0566.

Attached is a 15-page two-sided pdf doc, which includes my proposed tunnel route following most of North Ave vs. the "accepted" Amtrak rail tunnel alignment. My route would require further study if the tunnel is better suited either north or south of North Ave or directly below. Responding to my proposal, Amtrak said the North Ave route was investigated and they could not accommodate the grades toward the rail station! Obviously, my proposal would parallel with the existing BP rail line tunnel exit / entry toward the rail station. Amtrak's objection makes no sense regarding this alternate route. Most of the route would parallel North Avenue eliminating the undesirable conflicts with private and commercial properties above the tunnel. Also, my proposal eliminates a major vent tunnel connecting to the intermediate vent facility proposed on North Ave near Linden Ave intersection.

Further, Amtrak has not fulfilled their obligations to Section 106 and Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Thus, selling land to Amtrak before they have fulfilled their obligations is not only waving the rights of citizens and the city to preserve the historic character of our communities, but also failing to protect one of the oldest buildings along the alignment, which is also city owned, 2001 Park Avenue.

Additionally, Amtrak has had a dismal record of community engagement, which has been publicly noted in the press, to our representatives and in official complaints. It's Amtrak's legal obligation to clearly share with impacted community members why these purchases should be allowed by our city government, while disregarding the concerns of its citizens.

Finally, Amtrak does not value Baltimore City. Amtrak has sent numerous letters to community members offering the purchase of their subterranean rights well below the fair market value for land as evaluated by the State of Maryland. As members of the Ways and Means Committee, we beg that you oppose any effort by Amtrak to dispossess and undervalue the land of citizens of this city.

Our communities advocate for equitable and inclusive public transportation infrastructure. Please protect the citizens of Baltimore and ensure the least amount of harm to our communities now and in the future.

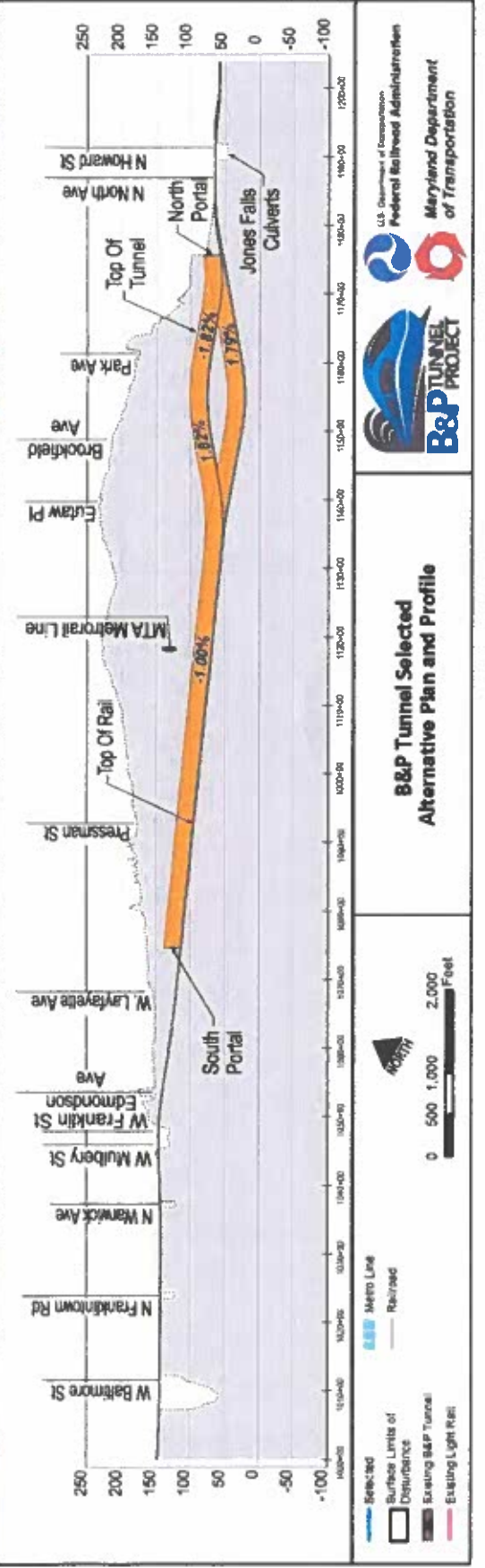
Thank you,

Paul

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B&P Tunnel Project - a Proposed Alternate Route - Shown in Yellow



B&P Tunnel Selected Alternative Plan and Profile