

## Paul Gentner

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**From:** Paul Gentner <pgentarch@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 5:41 PM  
**To:** 'Schiszik, Lauren (DOP)'  
**Cc:** 'Bolden, Tarek (DOP)'; residentsagainstthetunnels@gmail.com  
**Subject:** RE: UPDATED Notice: Amtrak Intermediate Ventilation Facility building at 920 W. North Avenue on the CHAP Hearing Agenda for Tuesday, March 12, 2024  
**Attachments:** 2016Nov RATT Newsletter.pdf

Hi Lauren,

No, there is no AMTRAK or CSX approval of the route. The Record of Decision was signed by Federal Railroad Commission (FRC) – not all parties – it's not final. I've had a copy of this document for a long time including early correspondence.

The FRC agreed on a proposed route out of three, but it is not agreed to by the neighborhoods - reason for the RATT organization. Nothing is final and my proposed route is a much better solution – it requires further study.

The issue of freight rail transit could be resolved by another study, which I proposed to RATT. Looking at an area rail map for Baltimore, CSX has rail lines extending south of Fort McHenry toward the outer harbor. On the opposite shore is a complex of CSX freight lines. Seemed logical to me to connect freight rails through a two-way tunnel or tunnels and keep the other AMTRAK and MARC lines for passengers only – no freight through the new tunnels. This idea would reduce the safety issues experienced with the Howard rail (old B&O) tunnel, which allows freight.

Take care,

Paul

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**From:** Schiszik, Lauren (DOP) <Lauren.Schiszik@baltimorecity.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 1:29 PM  
**To:** Paul Gentner <pgentarch@comcast.net>  
**Cc:** Bolden, Tarek (DOP) <tarek.bolden@baltimorecity.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: UPDATED Notice: Amtrak Intermediate Ventilation Facility building at 920 W. North Avenue on the CHAP Hearing Agenda for Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Hi Paul,

No, I wasn't aware of the diagram that you created. Unfortunately, the timeframe in which Amtrak considered various options for the tunnel alternatives closed in 2017 following several years of study. This is documented in the [Record of Decision](#), available on the [project website](#). Additionally, I understand that federal safety laws require ventilation facilities at each end of the tunnel and the middle of the tunnel regardless of what types of properties the tunnel runs under - it has to do with emergency personnel access in case of catastrophe.

I do hope that you will review the proposal for the intermediate ventilation facility and provide comments based on the CHAP design guidelines for CHAP's advisory hearing.

Also, as Mount Royal Terrace Association is a consulting party in the [Section 106 Programmatic Agreement](#) (as is CHAP), I strongly encourage that Mount Royal Terrace Association's leadership provide their advisory comments on this proposal through the Section 106 consultative process when it is shared for comment.

Please let me know if I can answer any questions about the CHAP hearing.

Best,  
Lauren

Lauren Schiszik (she, her)

*Historic Preservation Planner Supervisor*

City of Baltimore | Department of Planning

417 E. Fayette St., 8<sup>th</sup> Floor | Baltimore, MD 21202

410-396-5796

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**OUR MISSION:** To build Baltimore as a diverse, sustainable and thriving city of neighborhoods and as the economic and cultural driver for the region.

**OUR EQUITY STATEMENT:** An equitable Baltimore addresses the needs and aspirations of its diverse population and meaningfully engages residents through inclusive and collaborative processes to expand access to power and resources.

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**From:** Paul Gentner <pgentarch@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 12:37 AM  
**To:** Schiszik, Lauren (DOP) <Lauren.Schiszik@baltimorecity.gov>  
**Cc:** Bolden, Tarek (DOP) <tarek.bolden@baltimorecity.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: UPDATED Notice: Amtrak Intermediate Ventilation Facility building at 920 W. North Avenue on the CHAP Hearing Agenda for Tuesday, March 12, 2024

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Hi Lauren,

Assume you do not know this, but a year ago and again last fall, I submitted the attached diagram to RATT and RHA to show a desired alternate route for the proposed rail tunnels; note the yellow line. This route, following North Avenue, reduces the chances to interfere with many historic sites, the Reservoir Hill neighborhood, several homes, private and commercial properties. By locating the tunnels here, eliminates the necessity to build a vent tunnel and locates the tunnel outlets just north of the existing BP tunnel. I never knew if this was ever presented to AMTRAK or City authorities, but it makes much better sense to me and maybe CHAP can support this idea too.

Best regards,

Paul Gentner  
2028 Park Ave  
Reservoir Hill 21217  
410-383-8535  
443-676-2201 c  
pgentarch@comcast.net

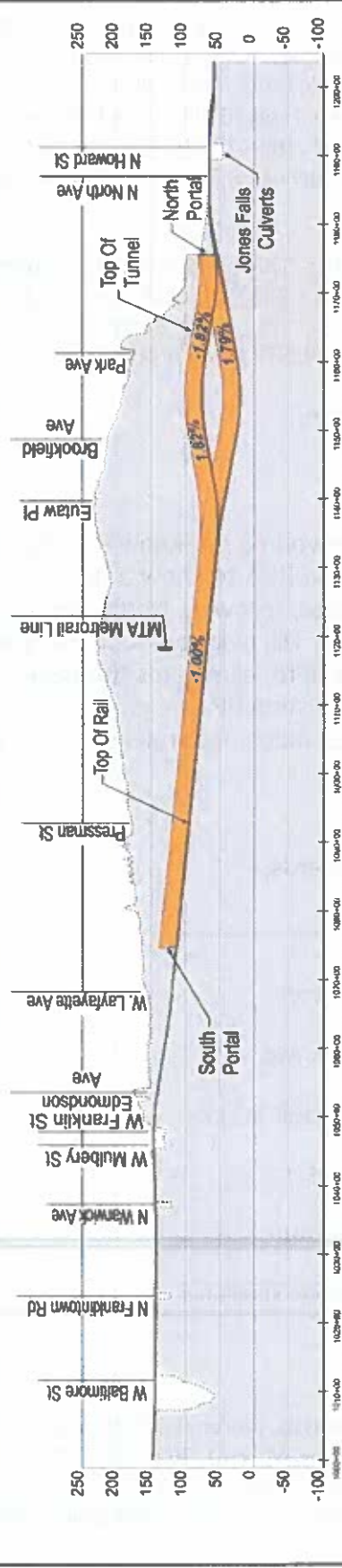
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**From:** Schiszik, Lauren (DOP) <Lauren.Schiszik@baltimorecity.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 1, 2024 12:05 PM  
**To:** Schiszik, Lauren (DOP) <Lauren.Schiszik@baltimorecity.gov>  
**Cc:** Bolden, Tarek (DOP) <tarek.bolden@baltimorecity.gov>





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



**B&P Tunnel Selected Alternative Plan and Profile**

0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet

North

- Selected Metro Line
- Surface Limits of Discontinuity
- Railroad
- Existing B&P Tunnel
- Existing Light Rail

U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Railroad Administration

Maryland Department of Transportation

**Subject: UPDATED Notice: Amtrak Intermediate Ventilation Facility building at 920 W. North Avenue on the CHAP Hearing Agenda for Tuesday, March 12, 2024**

Good morning,

This is an updated notice to correct the typo in the address of 920 W. North Ave. that was in the original notice.

While I have your attention, I want to let you know that Amtrak's submission materials for this project are available on CHAP's [March agenda webpage](#).

Here is the supplemental information about this hearing item from my original notification email:

*Below, please find the notification regarding the Advisory Concept review of the four-story intermediate ventilation facility, which will be considered on CHAP's March hearing agenda. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, March 12 at the Department of Planning main boardroom in the Benton Building at 417 E. Fayette St, 8<sup>th</sup> floor. This will be heard at 1:05 p.m. During the briefing session, which begins at 12 pm, there will be an overview for the Commission about the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, which is the federal historic preservation review process for this project.*

*Please note that this hearing is in-person only. In order to gain entrance to the Benton Building, you must bring a photo ID and go through a security screening. Please be sure to give yourself sufficient time to go through this screening.*

*In this hearing, the CHAP Commission has a narrow focus: the design of the proposed new building and site, and how the project complies with the [CHAP design guidelines](#). We welcome the submission on written testimony via email ahead of time to me at [lauren.schizik@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:lauren.schizik@baltimorecity.gov) by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 11. Written testimony will be shared with the Commission ahead of the hearing. There will also be an opportunity for verbal testimony at the hearing. Do note that in order to testify in person at the hearing, you must sign up at the front desk of the Planning Department, and there will be time limits on the verbal testimony.*

Again, my apologies for the original typo.

Best,

Lauren

**Lauren Schizik (she, her)**

Historic Preservation Planner Supervisor

City of Baltimore | Department of Planning

417 E. Fayette St., 8<sup>th</sup> Floor | Baltimore, MD 21202

410-396-5796

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**From:** City of Baltimore <[baltimorecity@alerts.baltimorecity.gov](mailto:baltimorecity@alerts.baltimorecity.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 1, 2024 11:47 AM  
**To:** Schiszik, Lauren (DOP) <[Lauren.Schiszik@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Lauren.Schiszik@baltimorecity.gov)>  
**Subject:** UPDATED CHAP Hearing Agenda for Tuesday, March 12, 2024

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## The Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation Hearing Agenda



## Tuesday, March 12, 2024

The March 12, 2024 CHAP Hearing will be held in the Phoebe Stanton Boardroom at 417 East Fayette Street, 8th Floor.

CHAP encourages the submission of written testimony before the hearing; testimony should be sent to [lauren.schizik@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:lauren.schizik@baltimorecity.gov) by 5 p.m. on March 11th so it can be incorporated into the staff report and distributed to the Commission before the hearing. There will also be an opportunity to provide testimony in person during the hearing.

If you require special accommodations to participate in the public hearing, please contact Eric Holcomb at [eric.holcomb@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:eric.holcomb@baltimorecity.gov) at least five business days before the hearing.

### 12:00 PM Briefing Session\*

- General Updates
- Overview of March Agenda Items
- Overview of Section 106 Process

### 1:00 PM Public Hearing

- Approval of February Meeting Minutes
- Approval of Final Agenda – March 12, 2024

### REGULAR AGENDA 1:05 PM\*\*

#### 920 W. North Avenue (Eutaw Place Madison Avenue Historic District)

Request: Advisory Concept Review: Construct a four-story ventilation facility

Applicant: National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak)

Staff: Lauren Schizik

#### 102, 104, and 106 Liberty Street, 111 Park Avenue, 142 and 144 W. Fayette Street (Five & Dime Historic District)

Request: Concept Review: Four-story addition and Façade rehabilitation

Owner: Mayor and City Council (under contract with Episcopal Housing Corporation)

Applicant: Dan McCarthy, Episcopal Housing Corporation

Staff: Caitlin Audette

### 2:00 PM\*\*

#### 1307, 1309, 1311 W. Baltimore Street (Union Square Historic District)

Request: Concept Review: Construct six-story building

Owner: Eleven WBAL, LLC

Applicant: Winfield Willis

Staff: Tyriq Charleus

#### 921-923 E. Baltimore Street (Jonestown Historic District)

Request: Revise façade of previously-approved five-story structure

Owner: Tradewinds Realty Partners, LLC





## Paul Gentner

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**From:** MRTHistoric District <mrthistoricdistrict@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 7, 2023 9:12 AM  
**To:** Lars A. Peterson; Paul Gentner; Patrick Redmond  
**Subject:** Fwd: Solidarity Letter to Amtrak

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Keondra Prier <[president@reservoirhillassociation.org](mailto:president@reservoirhillassociation.org)>  
**Date:** Thu, Oct 5, 2023, 3:57 PM  
**Subject:** Solidarity Letter to Amtrak  
**To:** Kate Jennings | Reservoir Hill Improvement Council <[kate.jennings@reservoirhillbaltimore.org](mailto:kate.jennings@reservoirhillbaltimore.org)>, MRTHistoric District <[mrthistoricdistrict@gmail.com](mailto:mrthistoricdistrict@gmail.com)>, Barbara Bourland <[babsbourland@gmail.com](mailto:babsbourland@gmail.com)>, Laura Amlie <[laura.amlie@gmail.com](mailto:laura.amlie@gmail.com)>, Upper Eutaw Madison Neighborhood Association <[uemna.21217@gmail.com](mailto:uemna.21217@gmail.com)>  
**Cc:** B&P Tunnel Working Group <[bpwg@reservoirhillassociation.org](mailto:bpwg@reservoirhillassociation.org)>, Board Of Directors <[board@reservoirhillassociation.org](mailto:board@reservoirhillassociation.org)>

Hi Kate, Laura, Kim, Arlen, and Barbara,

As we are all aware our neighborhood will be greatly impacted by the upcoming B&P Tunnel project. We have all in our separate corners advocated for more information from Amtrak with various levels of success. I have communicated individually with each of you about the importance of solidarity around this topic.

In the link below you will find some of the demands that reflect concerns I and each of you have articulated about the project. I hope that we can work together and sign the letter and send it to Amtrak as a show of solidarity in the community. Many of you have had the ability to review and add comments to this letter.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BefvkJLcV0ZJz5QXXV8GtVERD2UPXFRbqho82S0Xi0U/edit>

Let me know by Monday, October 9 if there is anything that you would like to alter in the letter. I need your response by Thursday, October 12 if you would like to sign on to the letter. I have added your names to the bottom so you understand who has been asked. If you recommend any other signers I am happy to extend an invite to them as well.

Thank you for your consideration. I truly think we are more powerful together.

Keondra

--

Keondra A. Prier  
President  
Reservoir Hill Association

[www.reservoirhillassociation.org](http://www.reservoirhillassociation.org)  
[president@reservoirhillassociation.org](mailto:president@reservoirhillassociation.org)  
Cell: (904) 860-0859

"Nothing about us without us."



# **RATT Newsletter**

**November 2016**

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## **RATT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Everyone is invited to attend a General meeting of Residents Against the Tunnels (RATT) at 7 PM on Thursday, 10 November, at the Beth Am Synagogue Social Hall (side entrance) at 2501 Eutaw Place.

RATT has been working for close to a year to oppose the current B&P Tunnel project plan, which calls for construction of 4 train tunnels under our neighborhoods. In addition, 3 huge vent buildings are proposed to exhaust unfiltered diesel fumes into our communities. One is proposed for a North Avenue site near the new John Eager Howard Elementary school. Many

homes will be in the vibration and danger zones, and 17 homes in West Baltimore will be torn down. While we agree that it's important to improve passenger travel and make Baltimore a successful port, this should not be done at the expense and risk of Baltimore's citizens.

Please join us to learn more and to hear about the work RATT has done so far. The B&P Tunnel Study Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) will be released in mid-November. We need your help to take further steps to prevent the construction of these tunnels under our neighborhoods. We believe that, together, we can stop this.

This meeting will also serve as the RATT Annual Meeting. There will be a brief session at the end to nominate and elect RATT Board members for the coming year. Members can send nominations (self-nominations are permitted) in advance to [residentsagainstthetunnels@gmail.com](mailto:residentsagainstthetunnels@gmail.com). Nominations will also be accepted during the meeting.

Kathy Epple, President, RATT, Inc.

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## **RESIDENTS AGAINST THE TUNNELS UPDATE**

by Russ Moss

It was last year, August 2015, when an uncomfortable and frightening realization that the original proposal for two tunnels for passenger trains,



presented by the B & P Tunnel Project, had changed to four tunnels to accommodate double stacked freight. This major change could bring up to 388 trains PER DAY to run under our residential neighborhoods, under our HOMES! Cargo on these trains is not restricted. It could be anything from nuclear material, fracking oil, explosive chemicals, flammables and hazardous inhalables. Numerous conversations, phone calls and emails resulted in meetings, more meetings, seeking answers from every possible source to stop this serious threat to where we LIVE! Out of that despair and resentment, Residents Against the Tunnels, Inc. (RATT) was born. This article is an update on our struggle.

After several meetings, incorporation of RATT was initiated. Kathy Epple was voted President of RATT's nine member board. Then the tedious work of writing bylaws, applying for incorporation, creating committees, designing logos and letter heads, creating flyers, developing a website, networking with other groups, communicating with neighbors and developing an effective plan of action to stop this devastating threat to our families and homes. We were well on our way to becoming a force to reckon with.

During last winter, despite bitter cold weather, residents from Reservoir Hill, Penn North, Sandtown-Winchester, Easterwood, Bridgeview, Greenlawn, and Mondawmin along with some local politicians and others testified on record against these proposed tunnels. In the Spring, RATT attended Candidate Forums for Mayor and City Council races. We made sure concerns about railroad tunnels under our homes were discussed and awareness was raised. Yet that was only round one of what will be a lengthy process.

We are now leveraging additional resources to assist our efforts to stop these tunnels. Kathy, RATT's President, best sums up some recent activities, "We have consulted with various experts, formed some important partnerships, participated in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement hearing process and the mitigation process, met with some of our elected officials and held question and answer sessions with the B & P Tunnel Project Team. We have recently enlisted social work consultants to help spread the word and gain support from some of the neighborhoods to the west of Reservoir Hill."

Megan Belich and Ann Sherrill are the consultants. In future meeting you will hear from Megan, RATT's

**Community Organizer. We look forward to having you meeting Kelly Pfeifer, who will represent RATT on behalf of the Community Law Center (CLC).**

**It has been a long hard year of organizing and forming a team to serve our communities' best interests. And that team effort includes YOU! Here are some immediate ways you can help.**

- 1) We are printing 100 yard signs to get the word out to STOP THE TUNNELS. Please make a donation to cover the cost of a sign and put it in your yard or front window.**
- 2) Share printed information with your neighborhood group, place of worship, etc.**
- 3) Write, email and phone your Senators, Congressman, Delegates, and Councilmen to support efforts to STOP THE TUNNELS.**
- 4) Take time to learn what is at stake in this battle and share that information with your neighbors.**
- 5) And if you can contribute some time and money to help with printing, postage, phone calls, door knocking and all that is necessary to STOP THE TUNNELS.....please do so!**

**Over the past year we have learned that these tunnels will pose a real risk of DANGERS that could**





