

**Statement of Support  
for the  
Completion of the Baltimore Red Line Light Rail Project**

**Mt. Royal Improvement Association** actively seeks the completion of the Baltimore Red Line light rail project. We will assist in the coordinated growth of an informed, resolute regional coalition that will demand and pursue this goal. We envision Baltimore among the leading cities of the nation offering an equitable, multi-modal transportation system for everyone in the region.

Our participation in the formation of a vocal, visible, and fact-driven support base, will help to energize the political and popular will needed throughout Maryland and among elected officials at every level to implement policy and allocate funds for the Red Line project. Governor Larry Hogan cancelled the project although the disproportionately adverse impact of his decision on communities of color and low income and transit-dependent households could have been easily anticipated. The \$2.9 billion Red Line project had been approved and funded after thirteen (13) years of hard work. Hundreds of volunteers, consultants, elected and agency officials traveled the country, attended hundreds of community meetings, and succeeded in the competition for scarce funds. The Governor also returned \$900 million in federal funds and spent over \$1.0 billion in state funds intended for the Red Line on roads and highway projects in rural areas of the state.

With the completion of the Red Line, central Maryland will gain 10,000 jobs, dramatically reduced commute times, access to an additional 250,000 jobs in the region within 45 minutes, and transit-oriented-development generating another 3,000 jobs and \$2.5 billion in new investments. We all concur that jobs, reduced commute times, and new investments in equitable economic development are the keys to family and community stability. Moreover, when employment rates rise, crime rates fall.

We urge our members to actively engage transit riders, community residents, policy-makers, and elected officials in this urgent mission. A light rail transit network anchored by the Red Line that will expand throughout central Maryland is the key to the city's and state's economic future. We must build the Red Line! A modern, multi-modal transportation system is required to mobilize the successful city and region that we need and deserve.