

BALTIMORE CITY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
URBAN DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE REVIEW PANEL
MEETING MINUTES

Date: April 25, 2013

Meeting No.: 165

Project: Baltimore RedLine – Edmondson Avenue Corridor

Phase: Discussion

Location: Edmondson Avenue – West Baltimore

PRESENTATION:

Architect Osborne Anthony of AECOM began the presentation primarily organized around three discussion points: overall urban design, the stations themselves and the westward descent portal where the line goes underground. The geographic focus of the presentation includes the surface portion of the line running westward from just after its shift from Franklin Street to its Cooks Lane tunnel entrance (the portal) and contains three stations: Rosemont, Allendale and Edmondson Village. Anthony was assisted by Bill Gallagher and Courtney Tarr of KGP who directed their comments primarily towards urban and landscape design issues and Werner Mueller, also of AECOM, who spoke specifically about the actual station designs.

Generally, this portion of the surface RedLine proceeds along Edmondson Avenue within a proposed central “green” median connecting the Edmondson Village, Allendale and Rosemont stations, all landscaped and covered. The final choice of the green planting material for the median has not been finally determined although it appears that it will either be sedum or grass. The street edges will be lined, as regularly as possible, with trees and special street lighting. Intersections and crosswalks will feature special paving to clearly define pedestrian crossing areas. Station platforms will be elevated about fourteen inches above the normal street level with ramped walkways leading from key intersections. The stations are designed to be predominantly transparent and will utilize a clean, modern design rendered in a combination of metal and glass. Graphic elements will be incorporated to express the individual character of the neighborhood and vertical markers will announce the stations at their major entrances. The portal, with exterior side walls of a stone-like material, will be marked at its nearby intersection with an expanded landscape area, and will have glass railings along a major portion of its edges.

COMMENTS FROM THE PANEL:

The Panel felt, overall, that the design plans were moving in a positive direction and that the specific station designs were well conceived. There were a few items that the panel felt needed continued development. Specifically, the issues brought up by the Panel, in discussion, were as follows:

- a. **Edges** – the importance of clearly defining pedestrian zones, particularly to reinforce the sidewalk edges with consistent and continuous tree canopy, planters and light fixtures;
- b. **Portal Design** – restudy the profiles of the edges and tops of the portal walls to provide places of escape for pedestrians who might potentially get trapped between those walls and passing vehicles; and avoid flat tops on such walls to discourage skateboarders and others from attempting to unsafely mount them.

- c. **Conflicts** - some concerns regarding viable crossing and connectivity from the adjacent thru streets along the diagonal route where the Redline shifts from Franklin to Edmondson Ave;
- d. **Advertising** – concerns that business advertising at these stations be kept at a minimum and/or controlled in ways that do not allow them to be distracting or add to unintended visual clutter.

PANEL ACTION:

Discussion only. No action required.

Attending: Osborne Anthony- RedLine
 Mark Henry- RedLine
 Greg H.- RedLine
 Gil Lemann- RedLine
 Charisse L.- RedLine
 Werner Mueller- AECOM
 Ken Griffin- AECOM
 Steve Deller- RL PMC
 Susan Williams- RL PMC
 Michael Crowley- RL PMC
 Bill Gallagher- KGP Design Studio
 Courtney Tarr – KGP Design Studio
 Michele Rosenberg- CAC
 Moris C.- Right Rail Coalition
 Kathy Epstein- Right Rail Coalition
 Daisy Fields- Rognel Heights Community
 Edward Cohen- Redline CAC
 Neil Murray- AECOM
 Cheryl and Norman Parker- Hunting Ridge Residents
 David McDonald- Hunting Ridge
 Girume Ashonfi
 Kevin Litten- Baltimore Business Journal
 Josh Cooper- Daily Record
 Liam Davis- Council President’s Office
 Danyell Diggs- DOT
 Terrance Hancock- BDC

UDARP Panel- Messrs Bowden*and Burns
 Planning Department- Anthony Cataldo, Christina Gaymon, Wolde Arasa, Laurie
 Feinberg, Ken Hranicky, Stacy Montgomery, Kyle Leggs, Carmen Morosan