



## Trolley Line May Run Through North Baltimore

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Plans are underway to bring a trolley to North Baltimore. But the transportation may mean property owners will see a larger tax bill.

Baltimore may join the ranks of Portland, Dallas, and Philadelphia - U.S. cities that have implemented a trolley line. So far, some residents like the idea.

"Buses are doing terrible damage to these buildings because of the weight and in my own house there are a lot of structural issues because of the vibration constantly," said Mt. Vernon Resident Larry Peterson.

The proposal calls for a single track, running primarily along Charles and St. Paul Streets between Johns Hopkins University and the Inner Harbor. It would run about 7.5 miles through North Baltimore. But it may come with an increase in the tax bill for area residents.

The Charles Street Development Corporation is planning the project. One proposal would add about \$50 for every \$100,000 of assessed property value.

"We really want this to be something the community is involved with and supportive of and involved in. That's why we're getting them involved now so they have a say in this," said Kristin Speaker, Executive Director, Charles Street Development Corporation.

Some property owners are considering the plan with a critical eye.

"In my particular case, I think that will be pretty high in the long run," said Peterson.

"The idea is that the trolley is going to increase your property value. And if something is going to increase your property value, you should be willing to pay for that," said Charles Duffy, Executive Director, Midtown Development Corporation.

The trolley would cost about \$150 million to construct and about \$4.5 million to maintain annually. The cost for riders would be similar to the light rail and bus fares. The City Council will have the final say on the Trolley Line.

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