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Residents question trolley service study

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Residents of Charles Village questioned the city's plans to study the feasibility of adding trolley car service between the neighborhood and the Inner Harbor.

Yesterday, Joan Floyd, a Charles Village resident and community activist, asked members of the city's Board of Estimates to hold off voting to release \$114,500 to the Charles Street Development Corp. to pay for the study until after the attorney general's office had reviewed some aspects of the transportation proposal.

Floyd said she and others have questions about the legality of creating a tax district to support trolley service. She said it would be wise to test the legality of the funding idea before the study. "Let's get the legal questions answered now," Floyd said.

M.J. "Jay" Brodie, head of the Baltimore Development Corp., which is working with the Charles Street development group to explore the trolley proposal, said that a legal review would be part of the study, which will cost \$1.6 million.

In June 2007, the city signed an agreement with the Charles Street Development Corp. to share the expense of the study, which is expected to take two years. The Charles Street group has raised \$114,500 toward the cost of the study.

Members of the board voted to release money to match the group's fundraising total.

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