

MR. MESSAMAN: Okay. My name is Gary Messaman, Jr. here to represent members of the MTA Citizens Advisory Committee for Accessible Transportation and we are opposed to the building of the tunnel. We respectfully request consideration of new alternatives for the replacement of the B&P Tunnel that do not pass through Penn Station.

In addition, these requests and consideration of the tunnel recommendations listed in our 2015 report, there are also environmental impacts to be considered. Numerous row homes would have to be demolished causing unnecessary residential displacement. Constructing a tunnel will reduce the incentive to build a new freight tunnel should anything happen to the Howard Street Tunnel, it could become necessary for freight trains to use the same tunnels as

passenger trains.

This would result in the transport of hazardous and explosive materials dangerously close to the city water supply and it would also pose a threat to residents in dense row home communities. Finally, the current proposal continues to err frequently repeated over the past 150 years. It is focused on a single project and does not take into consideration impact with relative importance with respect to other projects.

From our report earlier mentioned in my testimony, as indicated by the FRA report, Baltimore's rail problems are a tangled mess. Project by project, each compromising performance to fit the then achievable project constraints. It is necessary to take a full system approach to this problem and alleviate conflicts by doing things in the correct order.

The total construction cost would be reduced by several billion dollars and the final system would be significantly enhanced with reduced operating

costs over what can be achieved. Any solution to Baltimore's rail tunnel replacement must take into consideration the ever changing, ever increasing demand for rail travel. The lack of capacity in the current system, opportunities for expansion, and overall cost, short term and longterm. The great circle tunnel does not to this. Thank you.