

## For Immediate Release

Tuesday November 9, 2021

### Residents Against The Tunnels/Baltimore

<https://www.residentsagainstthetunnels.org/>

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#### PRESS RELEASE

### Train And Tunnel Infrastructure Upgrade May Not Be Win, Win, Win: Baltimore Residents Raise Concerns Over Potential Dangers, Lack of Transparency

For years, Baltimore City residents have attempted to raise their concerns about the long-planned freight and rail tunnel upgrades and the impact to neighborhoods and the lives of people in these communities. Now the massive infrastructure legislation will be law and the construction of tunnels will begin as residents remain concerned about the threat to their lives and homes.

#### Baltimore, MD -

Baltimore City residents will protest on the day President Biden visits the Port of Baltimore as his infrastructure legislation becomes law. Residents of neighborhoods that will be affected by the imminent construction of tunnels, expected to last years, will gather outside Dorothy I. Height Elementary School in Reservoir Hill which is along the route of the planned new tunnel construction project. The demonstration will focus on their concerns about the threat to human life, environmental impact, to the school, housing, and community life in Reservoir Hill. West Baltimore's more than century-old architecture is extremely fragile and cannot withstand the vibrations and shocks that modern buildings can. The explosives, boring machines, underground water, and thousands of dump trucks this project will bring into densely populated neighborhoods are major hazards. These houses have already been damaged by earthquakes, roadwork, even large vehicles passing by. There were dangerous collapses and gas-line breaks from the BG&E work in our streets very recently. This project condemns our neighborhoods to being active construction site for a decade.

The plan announced in June was a public-relations statement lacking in both legal standing and clarity. Amtrak disingenuously says the plan will now have two tubes for electrified trains – but Amtrak reserves the right to build the 2 other tubes for double stack freight as specified in the still-valid record of decision from 2017.

“Unfortunately we know we can't just take their word for it - we need written evidence and documentation that their plan is backed by strong science. We also want a passenger centered plan that increases public transportation access. Forty percent of

my neighbors rely on public transportation. No red-line but we get this. So far this is another plan to plow through a black neighborhood with little benefit to the neighbors who will bear the burden of the ten-year construction.” said Keondra Prier a resident of Reservoir Hill.

**Residents will gather outside Dorothy Height Elementary School located at 2011 Linden Ave. Baltimore, 21217 from 3PM to 4PM (Exact location of demonstration is the corner of Brookfield Ave. and Ducatel Street), Wednesday, November 10, 2021**