



**S T R A U G H A N**  
**E N V I R O N M E N T A L**  
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# **EIS-Red Line Transit Study Environmental Justice and Cultural Resources**

**Location:** Baltimore, Maryland

**Client:** Maryland Department of Transportation, Maryland Transit Administration

**Description:** Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) is conducting a planning study to identify a feasible alignment for transit connections between downtown Baltimore and its western suburbs. The Red Line corridor, a 10.5 mile east-west corridor linking a number of Baltimore County, West Baltimore, and Inner Harbor communities, will connect to the existing transit system-Metro Subway, Light Rail, MARC line, and Bus service, and will serve major employers such as the Social Security Administration and the downtown Baltimore central business district.

Straughan Environmental Services, Inc. (SES) is providing socioeconomic and environmental justice analysis and coordination, environmental baseline conditions text, analyses of neighborhood, city, and regional planning documents for consistency with current and future land uses, identification of project impacts and benefits, and mitigation measures. SES also coordinated and attended targeted outreach events in neighborhoods along the proposed corridor.

SES performed a socioeconomic analysis of the communities along the corridor to pinpoint areas that would be negatively affected by the project. In future studies, these areas will be analyzed further to determine if any neighborhood or section of the study area would receive disproportionate impacts. Additionally, SES identified environmental justice communities along the corridor through analysis of 2000 Census Data to determine if these communities would be adversely affected by development of the corridor. These analyses were documented in an environmental baseline conditions report to help MTA choose an alternative that would be most beneficial to the surrounding communities.

Additionally, SES developed a Cultural Resources Reconnaissance Survey report in order to provide a preliminary assessment of previously recorded historic properties and newly identified architectural resources. SES compiled data regarding these resources from a variety of sources. Geographic Information System (GIS) data on historic sites was obtained from the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT), Baltimore's Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation (CHAP), and the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). This information was cross-referenced and compiled into a master map and a comprehensive table.

In the next steps of this study, SES will assist in preparing both the draft and final Environmental Impact Statement for the project.