

TRANSPORTATION

3 tunnels for Red Line urged

For Cooks Lane, downtown, Fells Point

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A group of influential business and community organizations has endorsed a proposal for the city's Red Line rail project that would include tunnels under three key areas of the city, a layout that is emerging as the most popular with some important players.

The **Central Maryland Transportation Alliance** said Friday it would like to see the Red Line, a proposed link between Woodlawn and Southeast Baltimore, travel through tunnels under Cooks Lane in West Baltimore, downtown Baltimore and Fells Point as a light rail train.

Baltimore City plans to describe its favored alignment for the rail line this month, but transportation officials have said they think the project would work best and be affordable with tunnels in those locations. The **Greater Baltimore Committee** also announced last month that it prefers the three-tunnel

system.

Otis Rolley III, president and CEO of the alliance, said ideas for the Red Line that involved no building or relied on buses were "non-starters," but a line that

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went completely underground would not be cost-effective. There are 11 options for the line.

Cooks Lane and Fells Point have been trouble spots because some residents are concerned about the effect the system would have on their neighborhoods if it traveled at ground level.

Rolley said a system that did not avoid the streets in those neighborhoods would draw too much opposition.

"From the community perspective, we think it would not be able to pass," he said.

The option endorsed by the alliance is known as alternative 4C, and would run for 14 miles at a cost of \$1.6 billion.

"Alternative 4C provides 41-minute commutes from Woodlawn in Western Baltimore County to the Hopkins Bayview medical campus in East Baltimore on sleek, futuristic transit cars, cutting in half current public transit time," CMTA Chairman James Shea said in a statement.

