

## Government

### City, county back new Red Line plan

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The area's proposed Red Line transit project could extend from Woodlawn past Canton and up to the Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, Baltimore Mayor Sheila Dixon and Baltimore County Executive James T. Smith Jr. announced Friday.

Though some long-range plans show the line extending as far east as Turners Station in Baltimore County, most plans shows it ending in the Canton section of Baltimore City. But the system now being studied could go as far as Bayview, Dixon's office said in a release.

Dixon was scheduled to make the announcement at 2:30 p.m. Friday, also calling for the General Assembly to add money for the project during a special session that begins next week.

"It's time for action on the Red Line, the entire Red Line corridor has tremendous opportunities for community and economic development — but we need this transit project to minimize congestion and act as a catalyst for growth," Dixon said in a statement.

The Red Line project has been in the pipeline for several years, and is seen as an important east-to-west transit link — and one that would connect existing infrastructure including the Light Rail and the Metro subway line.

Many civic and business groups are calling for increased transportation funding during the special session. Gov. Martin O'Malley has proposed a plan that would raise \$392 million per year for transportation — largely by indexing the gasoline tax to the cost of construction, raising the tax for titling vehicles and using some corporate tax revenue.

But transportation advocates, including the **Greater Baltimore Committee** have called for more money, to the tune of \$600 million, and said they support a straight increase in the gasoline tax.

"We think the Red Line is one of the most significant transportation projects," said GBC President and CEO Donald C. Fry, "and one that is the furthest-advanced in the state."