

## Testimonial Letter to the State of Maryland Ways and Means Committee

To the Honorable Chair Vanessa E. Atterbeary

Thank you, Chair Atterbeary, and members the Ways and Means Committee, for your continued commitment to fostering economic and neighborhood development across Maryland. I am writing to express my strong support for **House Bill-0258**, which sustains and expands the critical work of the West North Avenue Development Authority (WNADA). By prioritizing resources and partnerships for West Baltimore, this legislation addresses longstanding inequities and helps WNADA fulfill its mission to **foster equitable redevelopment, create economic opportunities, and provide community investment along the West North Avenue Corridor.**

My name is Matt Hugel. Over the past decade, I have worked on infrastructure development, urban planning, and transportation initiatives that prioritize equitable outcomes for communities. My experience includes managing financial and development strategies for South Florida's Brightline train system, as well as the transformation of Baltimore Penn Station's. I have helped project teams secure millions of dollars in public funding for transportation and infrastructure improvements, and I am currently leading Midtown's nascent portfolio of catalytic infrastructure projects. Through these efforts, I have seen how targeted investments, when paired with meaningful community collaboration, can create long-lasting positive change.

In my work, I've also witnessed how disinvestment has left neighborhoods like those along the West North Avenue Corridor struggling with aging infrastructure, economic stagnation, and limited access to resources. House Bill-0258 represents a significant step toward reversing these challenges by empowering WNADA to coordinate funding, advocate for equitable development, and ensure that community voices drive revitalization efforts.

I urge the committee to pass this vital legislation and prioritize investments that uplift West Baltimore's residents and neighborhoods. Thank you for your time and consideration of this testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions or provide further insights based on my experience.

Sincerely,  
Matt Hugel

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