HISTORY OF AREAS AROUND BALTIMORE’S “ROAD TO NOWHERE”

As seen through Population Changes in the Areas of Franklin and Mulberry Streets (or the “FM Gash”): 1940 - 2000

[Principal Sources: US Census, Baltimore City Planning Dept. - other sources include road history documents, etc. - this is to acknowledge research assistance by the librarians of the Baltimore Metropolitan Council and Enoch Pratt]

© Art Cohen, October 2007 - b’more mobile
-Completed as documentation for a case study, as part of the Baltimore Region Environmental Justice Transportation Project

Comparing 60 Years of Popul. Changes by Race in Baltimore City

Baltimore City Total (in green): 1940–2000
Census tracts applicable to the FM Gash

KEY:  
- **red** = Central FM Gash  
- **light blue** = Western FM Gash  
- **green** = Eastern FM Gash  
- **dark blue** = north-south divider through the areas
Census tracts applicable to the FM Gash

KEY:
- Central FM Gash
- Western FM Gash
- Eastern FM Gash
- north-south divider through the areas
Boundaries for the Central FM Gash area

West: Pulaski
North: Laurens
East: Fremont, Lafayette, Pennsylvania, MLK
South: B&O RR, Pratt

North-South Divider: Franklin
1950–2000: 67% drop in population

--- From 90,225 to 29,803 ---
1950–2000: 67% drop in population

**RED** is total population

**TURQUOISE** is the black population

**DARK BLUE** is the white population
1950–2000: 67% drop in population

**RED** is total population

**TURQUOISE** is the black population

**DARK BLUE** is the white population
1950–2000: 64% drop in population

1950–2000: 69% drop in population
Census tracts applicable to the FM Gash

KEY:
- Red = Central FM Gash
- Cyan = Western FM Gash
- Green = Eastern FM Gash
- Blue = north-south divider through the areas
Boundaries for the Eastern FM Gash area

West: Pennsylvania, MLK
North: Lafayette, Eutaw
East: Howard, Paca
South: Pratt

North-South Divider: Franklin
1950–2000: 80% drop in population

--- From 29,676 to 5,832 ---
1950–2000: 80% drop in population

*RED* is total population

*TURQUOISE* is the black population

*DARK BLUE* is the white population
1950–2000: 80% drop in population

**RED** is total population

**TURQUOISE** is the black population

**DARK BLUE** is the white population
1950–2000: 78% drop in population

1950–2000: 86% drop in population
Census tracts applicable to the FM Gash

KEY:  
- Red = Central FM Gash  
- Blue = Western FM Gash  
- Green = Eastern FM Gash  
- Blue line = north-south divider through the areas
Boundaries for the Western FM Gash area

West:  Gwynns Falls, Hilton Pkwy, Ellicott Drwy
North: Winterbourne, Presbury, Bloomingdale, Baker
East:  Pulaski
South: Frederick

North-South Divider:  Edmondson, Franklin
1960–2000: 39% drop in population

-- From 33,819 to 20,592 --
1960–2000: 39% drop in population

**RED** is total population

**TURQUOISE** is the black population

**DARK BLUE** is the white population
1960–2000: 39% drop in population

**RED** is total population

**TURQUOISE** is the black population

**DARK BLUE** is the white population
1960–2000: 26% drop in population

1960–2000: 59% drop in population
Total Population and Race
in the 3 FM Gash areas: 1940-2000

**RED** is total population  [1940: 143,200 / 2000: 54,823]

**TURQUOISE** is the black population  [1940: 66,732 / 2000: 49,854]

**DARK BLUE** is the white population  [1940: 76,469 / 2000: 4,969]
The Six Trends and Their Effects

- Prosperity
- Racial Discrimination in Housing
- The Automobile Culture
- Different School Systems
- Urban Jobs
- Drugs and Crime
Two Cataclysmic Events and Their Effects

- The Assassination of Martin Luther King (1968)

- An East-West Expressway for Baltimore City
  - Environmental Justice Imperiled (1942-1989)
Early Expressway Route – 1957
NOTE: Franklin-Mulberry is already included - had been ever since 1942
The 10-D Expressway Route approved in 1962
Final Route 3-A for the East-West Expressway [1969]
% Vacant Lots - 2005

Source: Baltimore City Department of Planning
% Vacant Homes - 2005

Source: Baltimore City Department of Planning
Residential Housing Clusters - 2005

Source: Baltimore City Department of Planning
The Highway to Nowhere - Today
Another Vision for the FM Gash?
This is the End of this Presentation
But only the Beginning of
Proper Restitution to the Communities
of the Franklin-Mulberry Gash

*    *    *

*    *    *