



S T R A U G H A N
E N V I R O N M E N T A L
S E R V I C E S , I N C .

Environmental Feasibility Study Yellow Line

Location: Anne Arundel County, Maryland

Client: Maryland Department of Transportation, Maryland Transit Administration

Description: Creating a viable transit system requires connecting people with activity centers. Since the early 1990s, Anne Arundel and Howard Counties have successfully nurtured the growth of the BWI Business District. With a mix of offices, hotels, and shopping that includes a new mega-mall, and a new community college campus, transit into the area is a critical element for attracting and retaining employees and patrons. Anne Arundel County and Maryland's Transit Administration (MTA) are taking the first steps necessary to extend the current 30-mile Baltimore Central Light Rail system from its current terminus at the Baltimore Commons Business Park by approximately 10 miles west to the MARC Rail Dorsey Station.

Straughan Environmental Services, Inc. (SES) supported the early planning study of the extension, known as the Yellow Line. The study goals were to identify a corridor and station locations that would be technically feasible, have transportation utility, and minimal environmental impacts. Anne Arundel County intends to identify the optimal corridor on its master plan and guide future development to ensure its availability for transit use in the future. SES' role in this pre-NEPA study was to analyze the environmental considerations associated with multiple resources, including:

- People and communities, including environmental justice populations
- Parks and community facilities
- Land use and zoning
- Cultural and historic resources
- Air quality
- Noise
- Hazardous materials
- Soils
- Water resources, including surface water and groundwater, and also wetlands, floodplains, trout streams, and wild and scenic rivers
- Habitats, including forests, wildlife refuges, and rare, threatened and endangered species