

South Baltimore Listening Sessions

April 2023

[Recorded Listening Session](#)

The residents of South Baltimore, including Curtis Bay, Cherry Hill, Brooklyn, Lakeland, Mt. Winanas, Westport, and Port Covington, expressed their environmental and health concerns that their communities have endured for a century.

MDE's actions moving forward

- Secretary McIlwain will meet with the Maryland Department of Transportation and the Federal Department of Transportation to discuss how they can address the environmental justice concerns including:
 - Health concerns
 - Environmental concerns
 - Railroads
 - Truck traffic
 - Road maintenance
- MDE will develop better practices to notify communities when a permit is up for renewal in their neighborhood to collect all public comments.
- MDE will account for resident feedback when issuing new and renewed permits.
- MDE will develop new tools and strategies to increase transparency between the Department and the residents of Maryland.
- MDE will conduct a meeting with Baltimore City officials and the fire department to evaluate the emergency response process and develop a strategy to best notify residents if there is an emergency and response procedures.
- MDE will continue to develop, support, and fund more data collection which will be used to make informed decisions.
- MDE will increase the number of facility inspections.
- MDE will work to develop and implement new legislation and tools which will be used to address cumulative impact.

Summary of residents concerns

- Residents are concerned about their overall physical and mental health and quality of life associated with industrial cumulative impact.
- Residents are afraid to open their windows due to coal dust build up on their homes.
- Residents see coal dust in their homes, on their vehicles, on the community playground and are concerned about their health due to daily exposure.
- Residents are concerned that truck traffic and the Bresco incinerator are causing the development of asthma and cancers.
- Residents are concerned about the financial impact industry has on their health, vehicles, and property values.

Summary of residents requests

- Residents want to remove CSX from the community.
- Residents want CSX to cover the exposed coal on the trains, not allow trains to idle, install barriers between the railways and the community and cover the coal piles at the facility.
- Residents want to know what hazardous chemicals are being transported by rail through their community and to be notified when this occurs.
- Residents want CSX to maintain their train tracks because they pose physical harm when driving across unmaintained tracks.
- Residents are frustrated CSX has never spoken to or reached out to the community and would like to have a discussion.
- Residents want to require CSX and other facilities to financially invest in the community.
- Residents want more air monitors in the community.
- Residents want to know if the Department of Transportation can change the timing of the rail schedule so they are not trapped in their neighborhoods if an environmental emergency were to occur.
- Residents want to stop the permitting of three new concrete crushing facilities.
- Residents want the Governor to write an executive order to address cumulative impacts.
- Residents want to see more financial investment in resources to collect data to prove disproportionate impacts.
- Residents want open green spaces where residents can gather safely.
- Residents want to know why the air monitor in Curtis Bay was removed under the Governor O'Malley Administration.

Residents vision for the future of Curtis Bay [per video](#)

- Stronger legislation to protect community health, worker safety, and cumulative impacts.
- Development funds for toxic waste mitigation, direct reparations for residents, and zero waste transition in green development projects (community-owned composting and recycling facilities, green infrastructure, and housing).
- Protection for sanitation, workers, and environment during the transition from outdated technology.
- End subsidies for incinerators, landfills, and other dirty energy sources.
- Build a market to support sustainable industries.