

# Moving the Next Generation: Youth Engagement in Transportation Projects

## Abstract 13860

This poster explores strategies for engaging youth in ongoing transportation projects by presenting a high-level overview of how to design and implement a transportation-focused high school summer internship program, using the **Red Line High School Internship Program (RLHSIP)** as a case study. The RLHSIP, managed and funded by the Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA), has offered paid internships since 2010 to students from high schools along Baltimore's proposed 14-mile Red Line light rail corridor. In collaboration with three Baltimore schools, Morgan State University, and transportation consulting firms, the program immerses students in the transportation industry through field visits, job shadowing, mentorship, and project-based work.

With over 100 participants to date, the RLHSIP has helped build career awareness and professional skills, with many alumni now working in transportation and related fields. Some former interns have returned as mentors or joined Red Line community engagement efforts, sustaining their involvement and supporting new cohorts. This poster highlights the program's structure, student experiences, long-term impacts, and key takeaways for cultivating a future-ready transportation workforce.

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