

Why we need to improve mass transit now.

by Richard Klein

On Wednesday, May 21st, the Greater Baltimore Sierra Club will host a talk by University of Colorado Professor Howard Wachtel. Dr. Wachtel will speak on the relationship between traffic-caused air pollution and health. The presentation will begin at 7:00 pm at the Rosedale library, 6105 Kenwood Avenue. For further information, contact Sierra Club Chair Richard Klein at 410-654-3021.

In a study of those living near high-traffic-volume highways in Denver, Dr. Wachtel found that leukemia rates among children were greater than normal, especially when high-current-carrying-capacity powerlines were present. Could those living near the Baltimore beltway, I-95, I-795, and other area highways face a similar health risk? During his talk, Dr. Wachtel will describe the conditions under which such a threat may exist.

The findings of Dr. Wachtel and other researchers provide yet another reason why our heavy reliance on single-occupancy vehicles must change. It reinforces the need to expand transportation alternatives, such as improving bus service and implementing the Baltimore Rail Plan.

Dr. Wachtel is a professor in the University of Colorado Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. He is also a member of the Center for Neuroscience. Professor Wachtel received his doctoral degree in Physiology and Biophysics.

PREPARING THE WAY FOR TRANSIT

BY PATRICK McMAHON & RICHARD KLEIN

In last December's issue of the Baltimore Sierran, we discussed some of the health risks of continued dependence on single-occupant vehicles and continued roadway expansion, noting the opportunities that the Baltimore Regional Rail Plan offers to create a viable alternative to driving everywhere. Now that the Rail Plan has been completed, it is time for the Sierra Club and its members to push for its implementation, regionally and in our own backyards. This is the opportunity we have been waiting for.

UPCOMING SIERRA CLUB TRANSPORTATION EVENTS

The Baltimore Rail Plan's Proposed Red Line & Green Line Expansion
Tues., April 8th – 7:00 pm
Woodlawn Library (1811 Woodlawn Dr.)

Dr. Howard Wachtel, Epidemiologist
University of Colorado Denver
Wed., May 21st – 7:00 p.m.
Rosedale Library (6105 Kenwood Avenue)

It is not enough to bemoan the problems of automobiles and continued roadway building. We must take steps to create alternatives and to push for another solution to the issues of mobility and accessibility. To begin this task, the Greater Baltimore Group of the Sierra Club will be holding a meeting at 7:00 pm on Tuesday April 8th at the Woodlawn library, at 1811 Woodlawn Drive. This meeting will kick off our efforts to