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HIGHWAY TO HEALING | The Transformation of the West Baltimore I-40 Corridor

THE CHALLENGE

The I-40 corridor, infamously known as 'The Highway to Nowhere', is a physical scar of the historic injustices that have been endured by the West Baltimore community since the creation and expansion of the U.S. interstate highway system in the midtwentieth century. Families, homes, and entire neighborhoods were removed for an incomplete stretch of highway that was intended to connect downtown Baltimore to the suburbs in the adjacent counties in reaction to 'white flight'. There have been numerous attempts made to remove the highway and restore the connections that were lost nearly 70 years ago, however, these attempts often resulted in unresolved conditions and unmet promises.

In 2023, two pivotal moments in local and national legislation made the vision of necessary restoration and reconciliation in West Baltimore a reality. First, the city of Baltimore was awarded a \$2 million grant through the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to address the Highway to Nowhere and 'undo the wrongs of the past'. Studies are currently underway through West Baltimore United, a division of the Baltimore City Department of Transportation.

Second, with the election of Governor Wes Moore, the vision of a new east-west transit line was reintroduced, and the hope of reconnecting Baltimore's communities was restored. The Red Line will be "a high-frequency, high-capacity transit line for the Baltimore Region, and will be an investment in residents' access to jobs, education, services, and opportunities" (redlinemaryland.com). A transit stop is currently proposed near the existing West Baltimore MARC station and serves as the location of the project site (see Appendix 5). Together, these two projects will provide the dynamic change needed to restore the neighborhoods in the West Baltimore community.

The "Highway to Healing" is a transit-oriented development (TOD) master plan that will be the epicenter of transportation, development, and engagement in Harlem Park, Midtown-Edmonson, and the surrounding neighborhoods. Project teams must propose a design for a new transit hub that addresses the needs and desires of the immediate community, provides an efficient and effective solution to the addition of the Red Line through the I-40 corridor, and supports future inclusive and responsive development. Now is the time to exchange ideas as designers; to rebuild and heal the scars that have been left from decades of neglect and economic inequity. A successful proposal will approach this project holistically, acknowledging the past and celebrating a bright and inclusive future.



FOLLOW THESE STEPS

1. From the pull down menu Category, select the award category you would like to enter or nominate.
2. From the second pull down menu, select the specific award, competition or conference seminar theme, nomination you would like to submit.
3. You may then fill in the Name of the Presenter, School, Firm, or Awards Applicant.
4. Hit "Save" to start your submission.

Name of Presenter, School, Firm, or Awards or Committee Applicant

- Use the following form to upload your Round 1 submission. Not following the competition rules or submission requirements will result in penalties given at the discretion of University Liaisons. No team member or school names should appear in the video or presentation slides.

Failure to abide by this rule will result in disqualification.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- Round 1 and 2 submissions must be uploaded to submit.noma.net. The submission page will open one week prior to the deadline. All files must be labeled in the following format:

Region_Project Name_2026_File Description

for example:

- Your NOMA chapter name or school name should **NOT** appear on any presentation images or on the physical model. Doing so will result in immediate disqualification.
- Submissions that do not comply with the file naming system will **NOT** be accepted.
- Not following the submission requirements will result in penalties given at the discretion of the University Liaisons.

ROUND 1

1. Powerpoint Presentation (.ppt)
 - Maximum of four (4) landscape orientation 16:9 ratio digital presentation slides.
 - Slides will be presented virtually and screenshared by the University Liaisons. Each presentation may include, but is not limited to, concept diagrams, plans, sections, elevations, 3D renderings and/or video not to exceed 1 minute in length, to convey the team's design. The video can include renderings, still images, animation, audio, etc. and must be embedded into the Powerpoint file.
 - Incorrect presentation slide sizes or orientations will be disqualified.
 - Videos that are not embedded into one of the four presentation slides will be disqualified. Hyperlinks copied into the Powerpoint are not acceptable.
 - Revised slides will not be accepted after the deadline.
 - Maximum file size = 40 MB.
2. PDF of Presentation Boards
 - For NOMA records only. The PDF will not be used during the presentation.
3. Contact information for each team member, including e-mail and telephone. All team members must have an active, paid 2026-2027 NOMAS membership by October 1, 2026. **Note that your 2026 membership expires on September 30, 2025.**
4. Team Photo to be used during the Awards Banquet and/or conference displays

ROUND 2 - FINALISTS ONLY (DIGITAL MATERIALS SUBMITTED THROUGH SUBMIT.NOMA.NET)

1. Powerpoint Presentation (.ppt)
 - Maximum of eight (8) landscape orientation 16:9 ratio digital presentation slides, including the four slides from Round 1.
 - Slides will be presented sequentially on a single projector or TV monitor. Each presentation may include, but is not limited to, concept diagrams, plans, sections, elevations, 3D renderings and/ or video not to exceed 1 minute in length, to convey the team's design. The video can include renderings, still images, animation, audio, etc. and must be embedded into the Powerpoint file.
 - Incorrect presentation slide sizes or orientations will be disqualified.
 - Videos that are not embedded into one of the four presentation slides will be disqualified. Hyperlinks copied into the Powerpoint are not acceptable.
 - Revised slides will not be accepted after the deadline.
 - Physically mounted boards will not be accepted.
 - Maximum file size = 40 MB.
2. One (1) physical model, maximum size 24" W x 36" L is required. Models can be divided into smaller pieces for shipping, but must not exceed a combined base size of 24" x 36". Scale should be determined by the competition team. The model must be brought to the in-person presentation during the conference. A photograph of the model is not required with your Round 1 submission.

- NOMA does not coordinate shipping or provide financial assistance to ship models on behalf of students. Teams should communicate directly with the conference hotel if they choose to ship their model.
3. Two (2) 11x17 PDF summary sheets with all presentation boards using the provided template found on NOMA Connect. Summary sheet should not consist of any additional information not already included on the presentation boards. Do **NOT** bring physical copies to the presentation – summary sheets will be reviewed for consistency and printed by NOMA.
 4. Contact information for each team member, including e-mail and telephone. All team members must have an active, paid 2025-2026 NOMAS membership by October 1, 2026. Note that your 2026 membership expires on September 30, 2026.
 5. Team Photo to be used during the Awards Banquet and/or conference displays
- No school names may be on any video or presentation slides.
 - Submissions that do not comply with the file naming system will **NOT** be accepted.
 - Not following the brief competition rules will result in penalties given at the discretion of University Liaisons.
 - The submission deadline is **June 27th, 11:59 PM PT**. Late submissions will be **NOT** accepted.

Please direct any additional questions to your University Liaisons:

Tianna St. James, Assoc. AIA, NOMA, [Midwest Region Liaison](#)

Colby Mitchell, Assoc. AIA., LEED AP, NOMA [South Region Liaison](#)

Jamilla Afandi, AICP, NOMA, Assoc. AIA . [West Region Liaison](#)

Joshua Ssebuwufu , AIA, NOMA, [Northeast Region Liaison](#)

Part I – Team Information

School Name:

Region:

Northeast

South

Midwest

West

Not Sure

Title of Project

NOMAS Chapter:

Presenter #1 Name:

Presenter #1 E-mail:

Presenter #2 Name:

Presenter #2 E-mail

Primary Team Contact Name:

Primary Team Contact E-mail

Primary Team Contact Phone Number

Part II – File Upload

Competition Team Member Photo:



Please upload a competition team photo. This can be photoshopped and fun. We are not encouraging teams to meet in person to take a team photo. Please stay safe and socially distant! This photo will be used in the Awards Banquet Slide show! Photo should be professional and appropriate.

Competition Team Members:

Name	Email:	Graduation Year
1		
2		
3		

Provide a list of all competition team members, including e-mail and graduation year. All Team members must be current NOMA Student member with an active membership from 2024-2025. Please note: 2024 student memberships expired on September 30th, 2024.

Round 1 Video Submission:



Upload a MAXIMUM 1-minute presentation in .mp4 format. File name should be consistent with the following – Region_School Name_2024 Competition

Presentation Slides:



Note: Upload a maximum of four (4) - 16:9 landscape presentation slides for Round 1. Note: 15 MB max, File type: PDF Only

Combined Powerpoint

Video and 4 (Four) Presentation Slides



Combined PowerPoint presentation with the **Video** and **4(Four) Presentation Slides** (described above) to be used during the Round 1 presentations. PowerPoint presentations will be preloaded onto a conference-issued laptop.

Project Summary Sheet



One (1) 11x17 PDF summary sheet with each of the four presentation slides. Do NOT bring physical copies to the presentation – summary sheets will be reviewed for consistency and printed by NOMA. You must use the template provided on NOMA Connect BGL Library.

PART II: **REMINDERS**

- Did your NOMAS chapter submit the chapter report?
- Did you use the Project Summary Template? It's available on NOMA Connect.
- Have all of your Competition team members renewed their membership for 2025?