



Building a Better Future for West Baltimore



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Baltimore's "Highway to Nowhere" Story Highlighted in New National Documentary

WHAT:

While not on the screening schedule at the [2025 Baltimore International Black Film Festival \(BIBFF\)](#), the new documentary *Interstate* (2025) is drawing national attention for its unflinching look at the devastation caused by the U.S. Interstate Highway System on Black communities across America. Among the cities featured is **West Baltimore**, where the construction of the infamous "Highway to Nowhere" displaced hundreds of families and severed a once-thriving Black community.

The film includes insights from **Minister Glen Smith**, Board Member of the West North Avenue Development Authority (WNADA), and **Chad Williams**, WNADA Executive Director, who reflect on both the painful legacy of highway construction and current efforts to **build a better future for West Baltimore**.

WHEN:

The 12th Annual **Baltimore International Black Film Festival** runs **October 2–6, 2025** at The Pikes Studio Cinema. While *Interstate* will not be screened, festival programming will include other films addressing Baltimore's history, displacement, and resilience.

ABOUT THE FILM – Interstate (2025):

- **Directors:** Oscar Corral and Haleem Muhsin
- **Premiere:** Miami Film Festival, April 2025
- **Focus:** Examines how highway construction in the mid-20th century displaced Black communities in cities nationwide, including Baltimore, Miami, and Los Angeles.
- **West Baltimore Connection:** Explores the story of the "Highway to Nowhere," one of the nation's most notorious examples of a canceled interstate project that left lasting scars on neighborhoods.



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continued – **“Baltimore’s “Highway to Nowhere” Story Highlighted in New National Documentary”**

QUOTE:

“The story of the ‘Highway to Nowhere’ is more than a history lesson—it is a living reminder of the damage caused when progress is pursued without justice,” said **Chad Williams, Executive Director of WNADA**. “At WNADA, we are committed to repairing that harm by reconnecting neighborhoods, restoring opportunity, and building a stronger, more inclusive future for West Baltimore.”

BACKGROUND:

Baltimore’s “Highway to Nowhere” refers to a 1.4-mile stretch of U.S. Route 40, part of the planned East-West Expressway. Its construction demolished hundreds of homes, churches, and businesses in West Baltimore, creating lasting economic and social damage. Previous films and audio documentaries, including *Rooted/Unrooted: West Baltimore and the Highway to Nowhere* (2010) and *Disruption: Baltimore’s Highway to Nowhere* (2022), have also examined this history.

WHY IT MATTERS:

Old West Baltimore was once among America’s most vibrant Black communities. The story of the “Highway to Nowhere” is a reminder of how infrastructure projects fueled inequity—and why ongoing community development efforts, like those led by WNADA, are vital to reconnect and rebuild.

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About the West North Avenue Development Authority (WNADA)

The West North Avenue Development Authority (WNADA) is dedicated to promoting economic sustainability, housing development, arts and culture, public safety, greenspace, and transportation improvements along the West North Avenue corridor in Baltimore. WNADA works with residents, businesses, and community partners to strengthen neighborhoods and create opportunities for long-term revitalization.