ISSUE #10
SUMMER 2026

Welcome to our newsletter which will provide updates and important news during construction.

ON TRACK

B&P Tunnel Replacement Program

Letter from Program Leadership

As summer begins and our momentum grows, I'm inspired by the transformation underway across the B&P Tunnel Replacement Program (Program). A major milestone is now in motion: construction has begun on the tunnel launch pit at the south approach. Our contractor mobilized quickly, and the steady progress on site is energizing. Safety remains central to every milestone, community event, training, and site visit. Protecting workers, residents, visitors, and the traveling public is our shared responsibility, and we remain committed to delivering this Program safely and in partnership with the communities we serve.

The months ahead will be busy, with key milestones approaching: construction of the bus loop in Lot B at West Baltimore MARC Station, work on the Lafayette Avenue Bridge, and creation of the temporary Lafayette and Payson Park. Each reflects our commitment to infrastructure that strengthens communities, improves mobility, and expands opportunity.

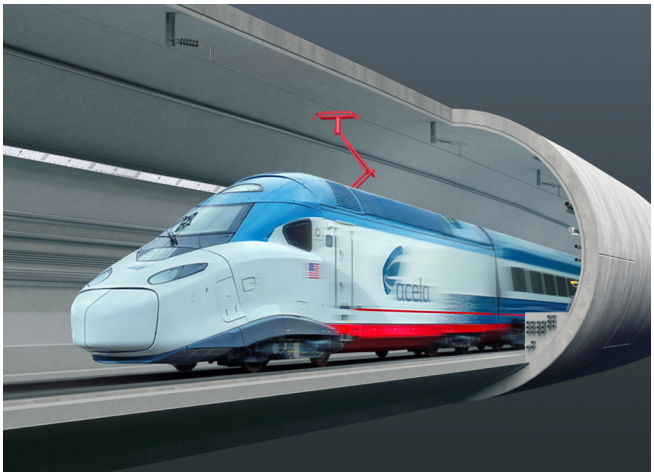
Thank you to everyone who responded to our first Community Investment Program Notice of Funding Opportunity. Your ideas and enthusiasm show a deep dedication to uplifting West Baltimore and ensuring investment reaches the neighborhoods most affected by construction.

We are also proud to advance initiatives that honor our past while shaping our future. The Railroad Histories Initiative invites residents to help preserve the stories that define our rail corridors, while the expanded Historic Salvage Program—open through August 1st—promotes sustainability and creativity by giving new life to recovered materials.

Our Workforce Hub, together with Governor Moore's Raising the Bar initiative, continues to create pathways to good jobs and build a more inclusive and resilient economy for generations to come.

On behalf of the entire Program team, thank you for your trust, patience, and partnership. We look forward to sharing more progress throughout the summer.

Warm regards,
Luigi Rosa, *Amtrak Assistant Vice President*
B&P Tunnel Replacement Program



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B&P Tunnel Replacement
FREDERICK DOUGLASS TUNNEL
WEST BALTIMORE MARC STATION

AMTRAK

IN THE NEWS

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Construction in Action: Recent Program Highlights

Progress across the Program area continues to gain momentum, with activities underway in several key areas. From relocating underground utilities to installing safety measures, crews are steadily completing each phase needed to keep the Program moving forward.

We appreciate the community's continued engagement, as well as the care residents take in sharing construction-related concerns. The Program Outreach Team is available Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 443-423-1115, and we aim to respond to all inquiries and voicemails within one business day.

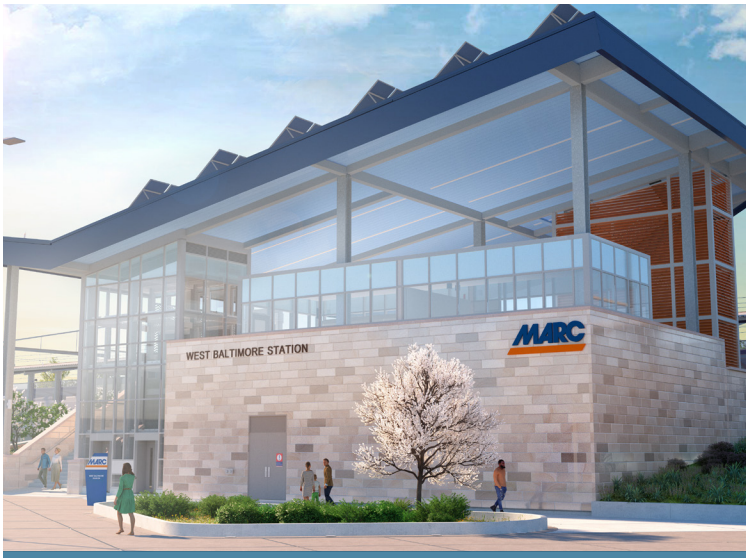
CONSTRUCTION OF THE SOUTH PORTAL

Work is progressing at the South Portal, where the team has begun preparing the tunnel boring machines (TBMs) launch pit. This 60-foot-deep trenched area will be excavated starting this summer. This launch pit will serve as the starting point for the TBMs that will actually dig the twin tubes of the new Frederick Douglass Tunnel. Once excavation is complete, crews will use the launch pit to lower the TBMs into position before major tunneling begins.

SOUTH PORTAL CONSTRUCTION SITE

WEST BALTIMORE MARC STATION: BUS LOOP RELOCATION

As part of ongoing construction for the new West Baltimore MARC station, crews will begin constructing the new location of the Lot B bus loop in October 2026. During this period of construction, parking lots A, C, and D will remain open. The relocated Lot B bus loop, adjacent ADA parking, and West Mulberry Street railroad bridge are all anticipated to open in October 2027.



THE FUTURE WEST BALTIMORE MARC STATION

BRIDGE REPLACEMENT WORK

Bridge replacements are a critical part of the Program as we prepare for the Northeast Corridor's new track alignment.

West Mulberry Street Railroad Bridge

Work is continuing on the reconstruction of the railroad bridge over West Mulberry Street. In the coming months, crews will begin key activities on this bridge, including concrete placement and other bridge stabilization work. Once the railroad bridge is rebuilt, we will close West Franklin Street and begin similar construction activities on the railroad bridge over West Franklin Street. West Mulberry Street is expected to reopen in October 2027.

WEST MULBERRY STREET CONSTRUCTION SITE

Lafayette Avenue Bridge Replacement

The Lafayette Avenue Bridge will be replaced in two phases, beginning with work on the east side of the bridge before shifting to the west side of the bridge.

During bridge construction, we will close Lafayette Avenue to traffic and temporarily relocate Lafayette and Payson Park. We will share more details on the relocation of the park as plans are finalized.

To help reduce disruptions for the surrounding community, we will be taking several steps in advance of the bridge closing. These steps include collecting traffic data to support street closures, providing shuttle bus service around the street and bridge closures for pedestrians, and installing directional signage to help guide travelers safely through the area impacted by this work. We are working with the Baltimore City Department of Transportation to help ensure safe and timely travel during construction.

North Portal Ventilation Facility

Work continues along McMechen Street near the MTA Light Rail Station where crews can be seen relocating utilities in preparation for the future North Ventilation Facility (NVF). Much of this work is happening underground, but road users traveling through the area may still see flaggers guiding traffic along the roadway. Once complete, the NVF will play a critical role in tunnel safety by providing emergency ventilation and evacuation egress (exit routes) for the tunnel tubes.

UTILITY RELOCATIONS ALONG MCMECHEN STREET

Community Investment Program: Advancing the Process

Thank you to all the organizations that participated in the inaugural Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) application round for the Amtrak Community Investment Program (CIP). We were encouraged by the strong interest and engagement from organizations serving West Baltimore.

More than 200 attendees joined four information sessions designed to help applicants prepare complete submissions. With the NOFO application period now closed, we look forward to reviewing received proposals and awarding community grants.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Awardees for both Community Grants and the Historic Preservation Grant Fund Administrator role will be announced in Fall 2026. The next opportunity to apply for a Community Grant will be in spring 2027 during the next annual NOFO cycle. To stay informed about future NOFO opportunities and CIP updates, subscribe to the CIP email list and visit BPTunnel.com for more information.

Scan the QR code to join the CIP email list

Pennsylvania Ave Station, built in 1873

Pennsylvania Ave Station, tunnel approach

Help Us Honor Baltimore's Railroad History

We want to hear from you! As part of the Amtrak Railroad Histories Initiative, we're gathering stories about the people and legacy of the Baltimore and Potomac (B&P) Railroad. Whether your connection comes from family history, community ties, or historical knowledge, we'd love to learn more. Our goal is to bring meaningful history displays to the new West Baltimore MARC Station to share this rich history for generations to come.

If you have a story to share, please contact us at 443-423-1115 or BPTunnel@amtrak.com.

History Finds a New Home: Salvaged Materials Now Available to the General Public

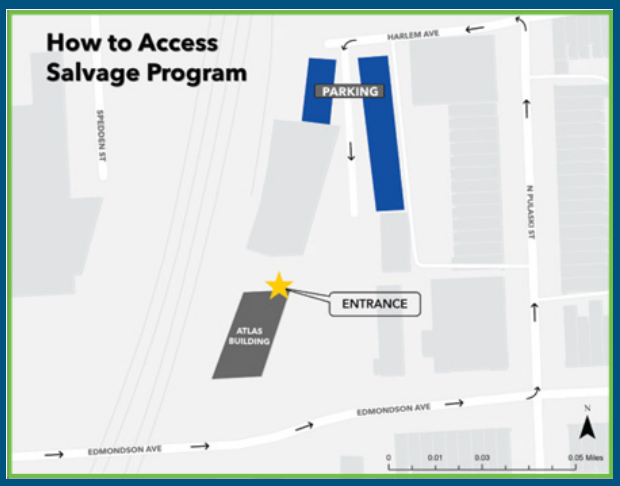
Amtrak has secured materials from historic properties that were acquired in connection with the Program and made them available to impacted communities free of charge. As of June 1, 2026, we have expanded eligibility to anyone interested in picking up materials, regardless of where you reside.

Be sure to stop by the Atlas Building to browse through the remaining salvaged materials we have available before the end of the day on August 1, 2026. For more information, visit the Historic Salvage Program page on BPTunnel.com.

Pickup Location:
Atlas Building
2150 Harlem Ave (rear entrance)
Baltimore, MD 21223

Hours:
Tues, Wed, & Sat: 10AM – 3 PM, through close of business on August 1, 2026

Eligibility:
Open to the general public



Strengthening Workforce Development Initiatives

Creating opportunities for West Baltimore residents remains an important part of the Program. With the launch of the Baltimore Workforce Hub in 2023, Amtrak committed to supporting this Baltimore Workforce Hub by adopting a local hiring preference for the Program.

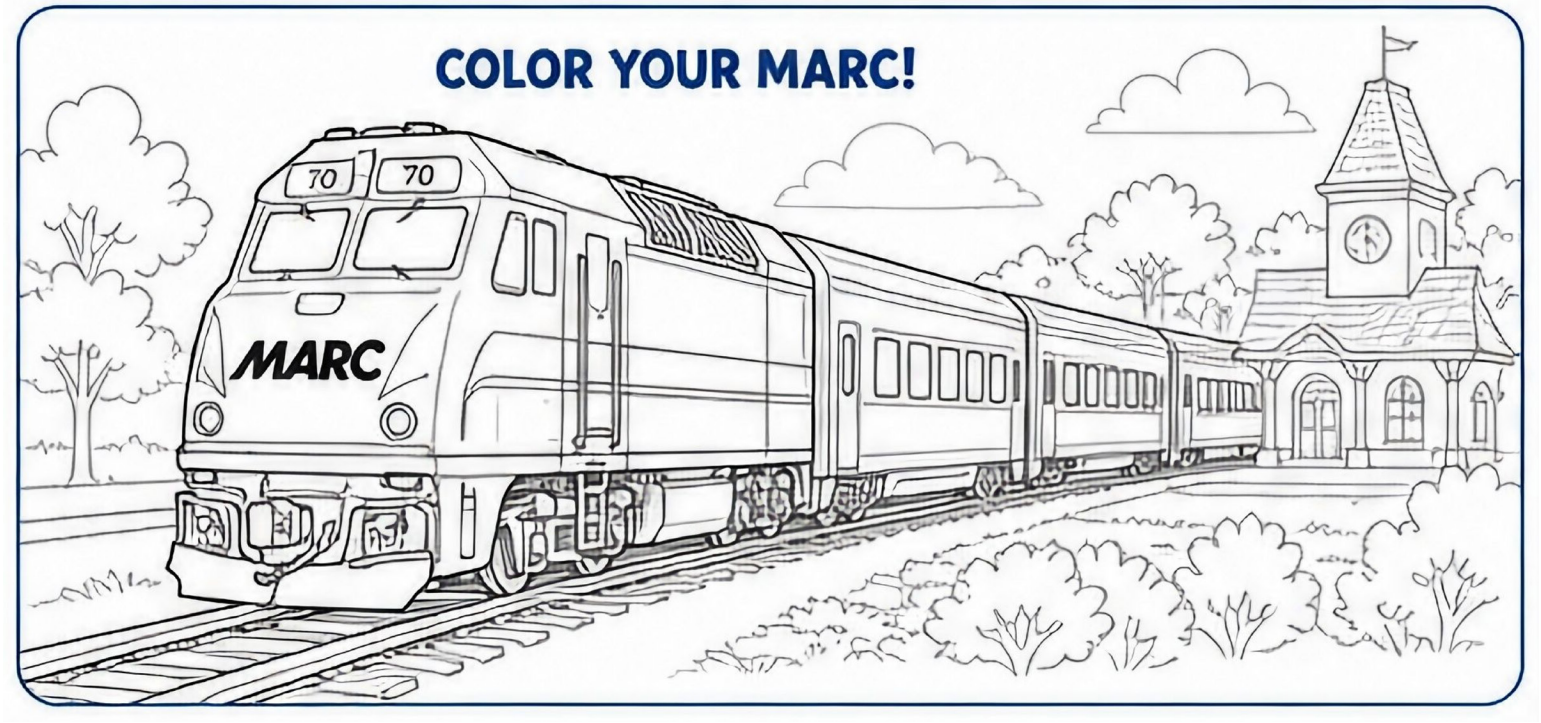
As part of its commitment to workforce development, Amtrak has partnered with the Baltimore Mayor's Office of Employment Development and the Baltimore Workforce Funders Collaborative (part of the Maryland Philanthropy Network) to prepare interested residents for construction jobs and support career pathways in the rail and construction industries, aligning these efforts with Maryland's Raising the Bar initiative.

We look forward to working with our partners to continue expanding workforce development opportunities and access to union jobs for Baltimore residents.

Members of the CSW contractor team share workforce opportunities at the Frederick Douglass High School career fair

A member of the KSTC contractor team shares workforce development information at a Program community meeting

KIDS' CORNER



Stay Connected

We want it to be easy for you to stay aware of Program activities and events. Scan the QR code to see a list of ways to stay connected to useful Program resources.

Opt-in for Text Messages

Opt-in for construction and/or traffic notifications by texting one of the following keywords to (833) 917-3749.

- Text **BPTNorth** – for updates about work occurring north of North Avenue
- Text **BPTSouth** – for updates about work occurring south of North Avenue
- Text **BPTConstruct** – for all construction updates on the Program
- Text **BPTTraffic** – for all traffic updates on the Program

Add BPTunnel@amtrak.com to your list of trusted senders to ensure you receive important updates.