



# **Frederick Douglass Tunnel Program Lafayette & Payson Park**

Tuesday, January 9, 2024

VIRTUAL MEETING VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

# Purpose of the Meeting

- To share Amtrak's plans to temporarily relocate Lafayette & Payson Park
- To solicit feedback on the plans for Lafayette & Payson Park



# Agenda

- Introductions
- Program Overview
- Section 4(f) Overview
- Impacted Park
- Lafayette Avenue Bridge Reconstruction
- Potential Mitigation Option
- Section 4(f) *de minimis*
- Next Steps
- Stay Connected

# Program Team

## Program Management:

- Mark Milton
- Zachary Billet

## Environmental Compliance/ NEPA

- Ryan Snyder

## Real Estate

- Leah Gatlin

## Outreach and Engagement

- Danelle Hunter
- Odessa Phillip, PE.



# Program Overview

## The Frederick Douglass Tunnel Program will modernize a key section of the Northeast Corridor (NEC)

- ~2 miles of new tunnel per bore in West Baltimore (two tunnel bores)
- New and improved railroad infrastructure
- New ADA-accessible West Baltimore MARC Station
- 5 Bridge replacements in Baltimore City (2 roadway, 3 railroad bridges)
- 11 Baltimore City roadway modifications
- Noise barriers in Midtown Edmondson and Greater Rosemont communities
- State-of-the-art modern fire/life safety systems
- All electric passenger trains through new tunnel tubes







# Section 4(f) Overview

- Lafayette & Payson Park is subject to protection under Section 4(f) of the US Department of Transportation Act of 1966
- Section 4(f) provides protection to public parks and recreational facilities impacted by transportation improvements
- Section 4(f) requires consideration of avoidance, minimization and mitigation for potential impacts to park properties
- Baltimore City Recreation and Parks is the Section 4(f) Official with Jurisdiction (OWJ) over Lafayette & Payson Park
- The Federal Railroad Administration oversees Section 4(f) compliance for Amtrak projects

# Lafayette Avenue Bridge Reconstruction

- Reconstruction of the W. Lafayette Avenue Bridge required to accommodate the new tunnel alignment
- Lafayette & Payson Park will need to be **temporarily closed for approximately one year** to ensure public safety and provide a safe distance from construction activities
- Lafayette Avenue Bridge reconstruction is anticipated to begin in 2026





# Existing Park Facility

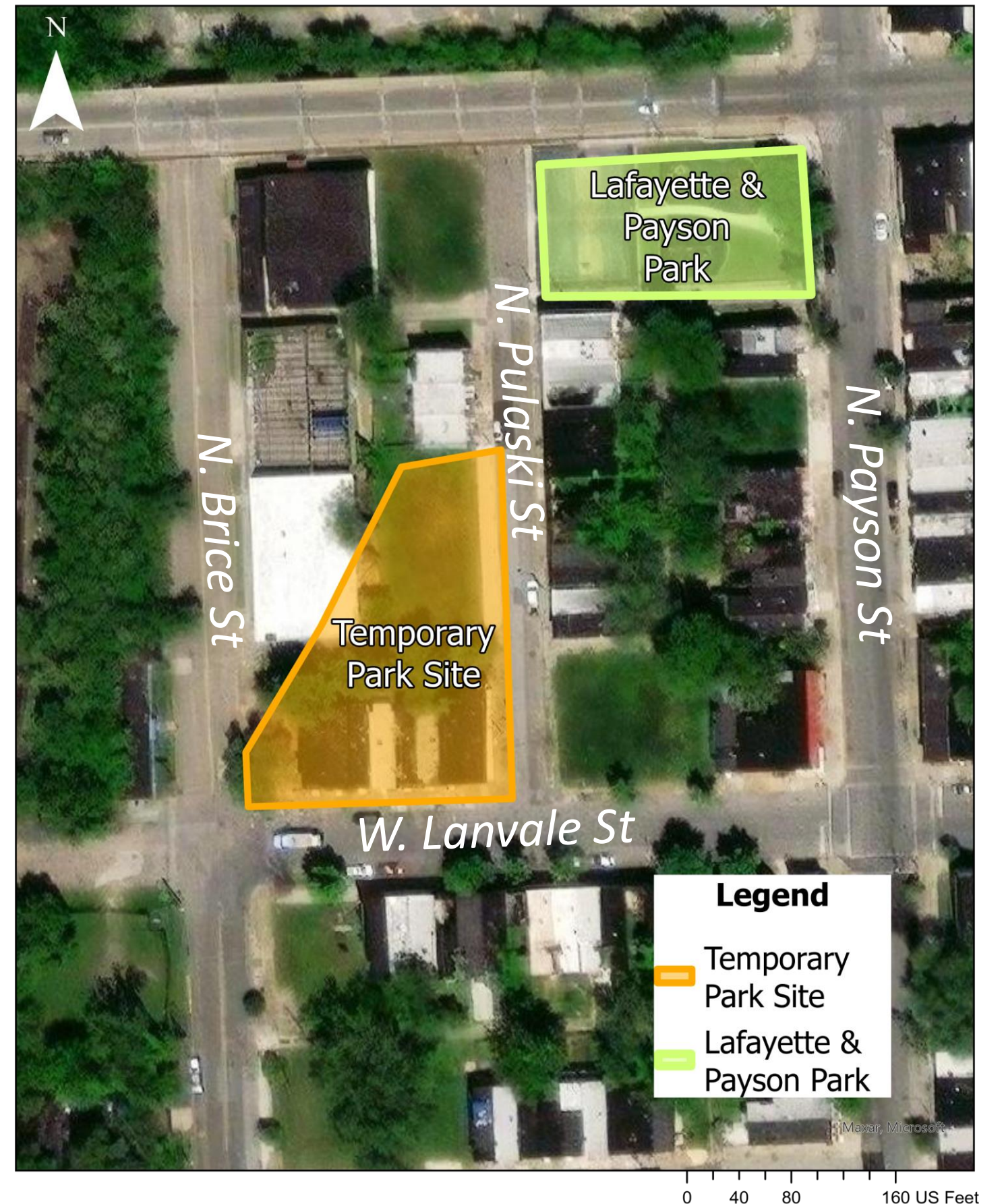
- Approximately 12,700 square foot park
- Amenities include:
  - Basketball court
  - Playground equipment
  - Swing set
  - Benches





# Temporary Park Site

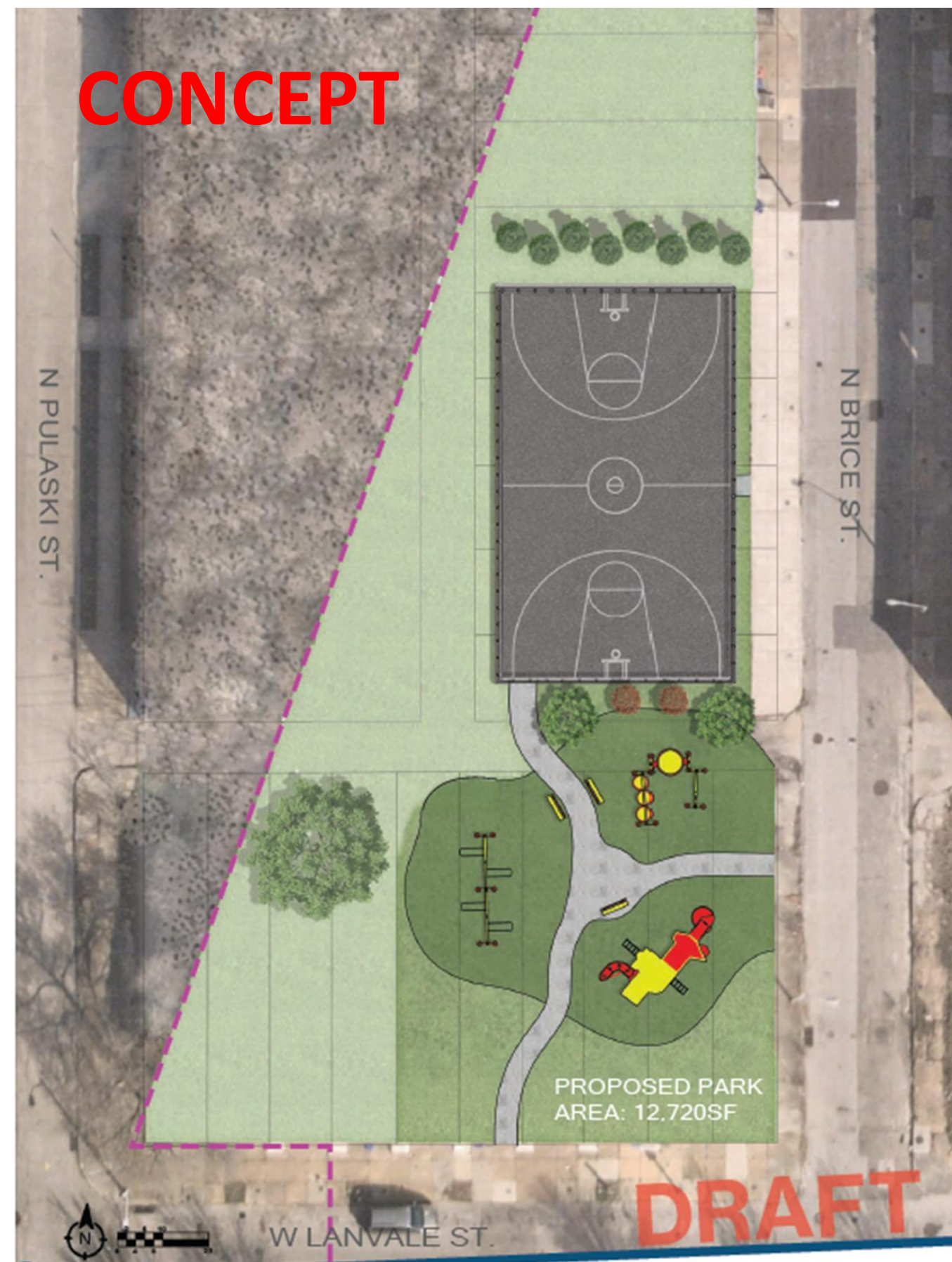
- Amtrak has identified a temporary replacement park facility during closure





# Mitigation

- Amtrak is seeking public feedback on this mitigation plan
- A temporary location will be used to replace recreational facilities affected by the closure of Lafayette & Payson Park during construction. Similar amenities will include:
  - Basketball court
  - Playground
  - Swing set
  - Benches
- **Lafayette & Payson Park facilities and amenities will be restored following construction of Lafayette Avenue Bridge**





# Section 4(f) *de minimis*

- Amtrak will request a de minimis determination from the Federal Railroad Administration
  - *De minimis* impact is one that **will not adversely affect the features, attributes, or activities qualifying the property for protection** under Section 4(f) in accordance with 23 CFR 774.17
  - Requires concurrence from the official with jurisdiction Baltimore City Recreation and Parks
  - Requires opportunity for public input

# We want to hear from you!



# Next Steps

- Amtrak is collecting preliminary comments on the plan and amenities through February 13, 2024 on **fdtunnel.com**
- Amtrak will hold another meeting to discuss specific site design options that will be developed by BCRP and the Program Team with input from the community



# Stay Connected



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Frederick Douglass Tunnel Program



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# Thank You!

