ISSUE #11
FALL 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

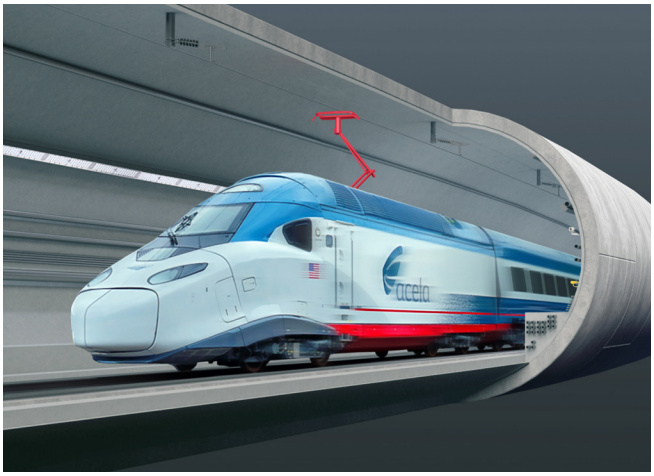
As we continue advancing the B&P Tunnel Replacement Program, I am pleased to share the latest construction progress, community investment updates, and new resources designed to keep our neighbors informed and engaged. Across the Program area, crews are making steady progress on several important activities. Our team remains committed to providing clear detour information, advance notifications, and support to help residents and travelers safely navigate construction areas.

This edition of the newsletter also offers a closer look at the tunnel boring machines that will build the new Frederick Douglass Tunnel. These remarkable machines represent an important step toward the beginning of tunneling, and their manufacturing is almost complete. In addition, construction activity is expanding to a new work location near Flanigan Street and Laurens Street, supporting continued progress at the future south approach.

Our commitment extends beyond construction. We are pleased to announce the latest developments in the Community Investment Program, including the announcement of our first–ever Community Grants awardees and the selection of the Historic Preservation Grant Fund Administrator. These initiatives will support community-led projects and help preserve the architectural and cultural heritage of West Baltimore.

Most importantly, we want to continue hearing from you. If your neighborhood association, faith-based organization, school, business group, or community organization would like to learn more about the Program, please invite us to speak at an upcoming meeting. Our team welcomes the opportunity to provide updates, answer questions, and discuss the issues that matter most to your members. On behalf of the entire Program team, thank you for your continued patience, trust, and partnership. Together, we are advancing a safer and more reliable rail system while working to create lasting benefits for the communities we serve.

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



BPTUNNEL.COM

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

AMTRAK

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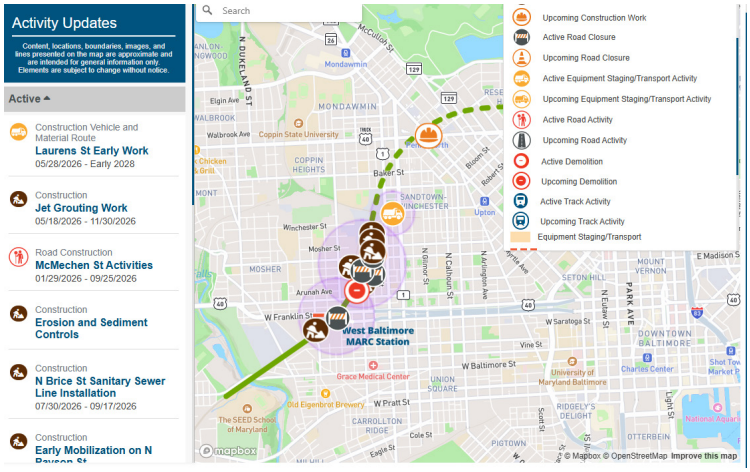
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Progress on the Ground: Construction Highlights

EXPLORE OUR INTERACTIVE CONSTRUCTION MAP

Following Program construction progress has never been easier! Amtrak has developed a new interactive map to show where work is happening along the Program alignment.

Visit the Construction Updates page on bptunnel.com.



WEST MULBERRY STREET BRIDGE WORK CONTINUES

Advancing Construction

Construction crews are making steady progress on rebuilding the railroad bridge over West Mulberry Street. This work is taking shape both above and below ground as crews prepare the site for the next stages of construction. To accommodate the new bridge structure, crews must first relocate and replace the existing 36-inch storm drain system before lowering the roadway. Above ground, crews are building support foundations for the new bridge and installing power poles that will support future Amtrak power lines.

The Program obtained access to a portion of the American Ice Company property at 2100 West Franklin Street for construction staging purposes. Travelers and nearby residents may see increased vehicle traffic as crews move vehicles and equipment in and out of the location.

Preparing for the Future West Baltimore MARC Station

While construction continues along West Mulberry Street, crews are also preparing the West Baltimore MARC Station area for future improvements. Before the new station can be constructed, crews will relocate the bus loop to Lot B and construct a temporary southbound platform. Work on the Lot B bus loop will begin around December 2026. MTA bus service will continue operating out of the current bus loop until the new Lot B bus loop is completed. ADA accessible parking will remain in its current location in Lot A. Commuters will have access to parking in Lots C and D during this construction period. We will also install new wayfinding signage to help travelers navigate the station area during construction.



WEST MULBERRY STREET CONSTRUCTION SITE

WEST LAFAYETTE AVENUE BRIDGE WORK AHEAD

Within the coming month, crews will begin work to install a 30-inch water line at the intersection of West Lafayette Avenue and North Payson Street. This work is in preparation for the upcoming full bridge closure scheduled to begin in early 2027 and continue for approximately 18 months. The bridge closure will change how travelers move through the area. The Program is working with Baltimore City agencies to help keep travelers moving safely during the road closures. We will share details on daily shuttle service with pick-up and drop-off near each end of the bridge and place detour signage to help travelers navigate the area.



LAFAYETTE AVENUE BRIDGE RENDERING AND SOUTHERN TUNNEL ENTRANCE

A Temporary New Location for Lafayette & Payson Park

We are committed to keeping our community safe throughout construction. To help protect residents and park visitors, we will temporarily relocate Lafayette & Payson Park in summer 2027 to the corner of North Brice Street and West Lanvale Street. You will still find the same playground equipment at the temporary location, so families can continue to enjoy a local park while construction is underway. Stay tuned for more information about the relocation as we get closer to summer 2027.





Community Investment Program: Supporting West Baltimore

INVESTING IN WEST BALTIMORE COMMUNITIES

Amtrak is excited to turn community ideas into meaningful investments! We would like to thank every organization that applied for funding during this first Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) application cycle. Your ideas and commitment to strengthening the community made this process possible and successful.

After a thorough application review and selection process, we are pleased to announce that 11 organizations or government agencies have been awarded community grants to support community projects. We look forward to seeing these projects take shape in the community over the next few years.

No worries if you missed the first NOFO application cycle! Organizations will have another opportunity to apply for community grant funds when the next NOFO application cycle opens in 2027. We encourage interested organizations to join the CIP email list to receive updates and be among the first to know when the NOFO application period opens.

PRESERVING WEST BALTIMORE'S HISTORY

We have also reached another important CIP milestone by selecting an administrator for the Historic Preservation Grant Fund (Administrator). As required in the Programmatic Agreement, the $2.75 million Historic Preservation Grant Fund (Fund) will provide direct financial assistance for historic preservation projects in the Midtown Edmondson and Edmondson Avenue Historic Districts. The Fund will specifically support projects involving the exterior stabilization, repair, restoration, and rehabilitation of individual historic properties. The Administrator will oversee the Fund, manage the Fund's application and award processes, and help ensure that the Fund supports eligible historic preservation projects. Stay tuned for more details!

Scan the QR code to join the CIP email list

Strengthening Stormwater Infrastructure

Construction crews are in the process of installing and relocating a 126-inch storm drain system along North Payson Street between West Lafayette Avenue and Mosher Street. Crews must move the existing drainage system to make way for the Program's South Portal, the southern entrance to the future Frederick Douglass Tunnel.

The new storm drain system replaces century-old infrastructure, increases stormwater drainage capacity, and will help manage heavy rainfall and snowmelt events. This work is part of the broader utility improvements crews are making to prepare for future Program construction.



NORTH PAYSON STREET STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE WORK

New Construction Work Areas

As construction activities ramp up, crews require access to additional work areas to support upcoming phases of work. We have secured space at the south end of the P. Flanigan & Sons Monroe Plant, to support tunnel construction. The Flanigan Yard will serve as a main access point, allowing crews to move materials, equipment, and excavated material in and out of the Flanigan shaft. Along Laurens Street, crews are also preparing a new laydown area to support construction operations.

Optimizing the Program Design

Amtrak and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) identified an opportunity to streamline the future Frederick Douglass Tunnel by removing the Intermediate Ventilation Facility (IVF) and its connection to the Frederick Douglass Tunnel.

This change will maintain the safety of the tunnel while reducing construction impacts on the surrounding community.

Meet the Machines Behind the Tunnel



Amtrak and its contractors have ordered two state-of-the-art tunnel boring machines (TBMs) to take on one of the biggest jobs for the Program – excavating the two tunnel tubes that will become the new Frederick Douglass Tunnel. The TBMs are being built in Italy and Germany by one of the world's leading TBM manufacturers. Before the TBMs can work underground in Baltimore, crews must relocate utilities and prepare the 60-foot-deep launch pit that will serve as the starting point for the TBMs. Once preparations are complete and the TBM components have arrived in Baltimore, crews will assemble the TBMs in place before lowering them into the launch pit. The start of tunneling is expected to begin in 2028.

Who will they be? What will you name them? Stay tuned for details on how you can help bring the TBMs to life!

In keeping with a tradition seen across major infrastructure projects throughout the world, we are inviting YOU to help give each TBM a name and identity. Community members will have the opportunity to help name the TBMs and shape their personas, creating two characters the community can follow as the TBMs make their way underground and dig the tunnel.

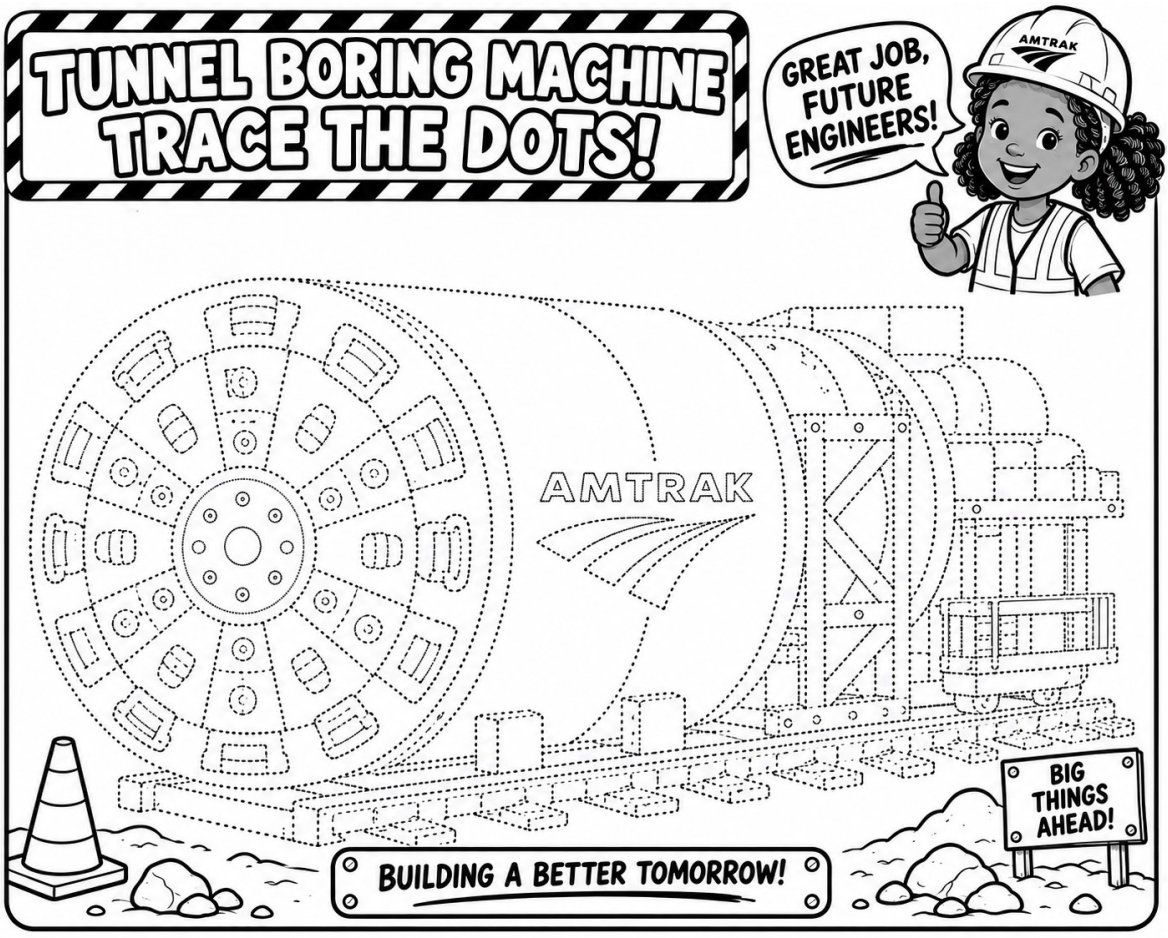
Amtrak in the Community

As students across the Program area headed back to school, the Program team came together to help them start the year ready to learn. Amtrak staff, consultants, contractors, and partners donated school supplies, volunteered at community events, and delivered supplies directly to families and schools. Together, we showed up for students, families, schools, and neighborhoods—and we look forward to continuing that spirit of service through upcoming community clean-ups and holiday food and clothing collections.



Bon Secours Annual Back to School Event

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.

