

## Kids' Corner

Amtrak wants to keep you, your family, and your friends safe. With spring right around the corner, more of you will be out playing and enjoying the warm weather. We want to keep you safe near the railroad so here are some tips about railroad safety! Whether you're with your friends or in the car with grownups, be sure to:

- **Never** walk, run, play, or take pictures on railroad tracks. It isn't safe for anyone to be on or near railroad tracks because a train can come from any direction at any time, AND it's trespassing!
- **Never** attempt to outrun an approaching train. Train speeds are hard to guess. Be safe and stay away!
- **Only** cross the tracks at designated public crossings.
- **Never** walk around lowered grade crossing gates.

We have created a Frederick Douglass Activity Sheet for children. Request copies for your school or community center at [fdtunnel@amtrak.com](mailto:fdtunnel@amtrak.com) or call (443) 423-1115.

## Stay Connected

### Interested in staying updated on construction activities?

There are several ways community members can stay informed about upcoming work, visit our website, follow us on social media, or [opt-in to email or text alerts](#). As we transition from design into construction, interested individuals can opt-in to receive the latest information from our team.

#### Join Our Email List

If you would like information, please scan the QR Code shown to sign up for the FDT Program email list. The FDT Program team will periodically share construction updates, a quarterly newsletter, invitations to local meetings, and other updates via email.



#### Opt-in for Texts

Individuals interested in getting updates on construction activity can opt in to receive text messages from our team. Text **FDTCONSTRUCT** to 1-833-917-3749 to receive messages about the start of new work activity. To help focus these messages, an individual can select to receive more targeted messages by texting **FDTSouth** or **FDTNorth** to 1-833-917-3749 to receive messages about traffic or construction near the southern or northern portions of the FDT Program, respectively.

#### Follow Us on Social Media

The FDT Program is on social media! You can find us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) where we share general updates on the FDT Program and links to surveys, meeting registrations, and more. If you're looking for a snapshot into our ongoing work, this is the place to get the latest information!

## ISSUE #1 FEBRUARY 2024

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

# ON TRACK

## Frederick Douglass Tunnel Program

## Greetings from the Frederick Douglass Tunnel Program Team!

2023 was a busy year for the Frederick Douglass Tunnel Program, which we often refer to as the "FDT Program." Over the past year, we:

- Began track upgrades along an approximately five-mile section of railroad in the Halethorpe and West Baltimore areas
- Awarded multiple construction contracts that will advance the FDT Program
- Hosted multiple community public meetings
- Heard President Biden announce a \$4.7 billion grant to fund the FDT Program with additional support from the State of Maryland
- Continued important discussions regarding workforce development commitments and support of the Baltimore Workforce Hub

2024 will be even busier, with major construction set to kick off. The FDT Program team will host a new series of bimonthly community meetings to keep everyone informed about the latest project updates.

Read through our first newsletter to learn more about the FDT Program, other recent highlights and what we have planned for the coming year.



Please forward this newsletter to your friends and encourage them to sign up to receive it too.

[AMTRAK.COM/FDTUNNEL](https://AMTRAK.COM/FDTUNNEL)

## IN THE NEWS

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## Program Overview

Amtrak, with federal funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), will begin construction of the new FDT Program. The FDT Program will modernize and transform a 10-mile section of the Northeast Corridor, America's busiest passenger railroad, replacing the existing B&P Tunnel in Baltimore which dates back to the Civil War era.

These investments will unlock the biggest rail bottleneck between Washington, D.C. and New York, improving reliability and delivering faster travel times for millions of people. The centerpiece of the FDT Program is a new tunnel named in honor of Maryland native, abolitionist, and civil rights leader Frederick Douglass.

The FDT Program will include construction of:

- 10 miles of rail improvements
- Two new high-capacity tunnel tubes (approximately two miles in length each)
- New and improved railroad infrastructure
- New ADA-accessible West Baltimore MARC Station
- State-of-the-art modern fire/life safety systems
- Five bridge replacements in Baltimore City (two roadway, three railroad bridges)
- 11 Baltimore City roadway modifications
- Noise barriers in the Midtown Edmondson and Greater Rosemont communities

Amtrak has also committed to investing \$50 million specifically through the Community Investment Program (CIP), which is slated to launch later this year. These funds will be spent for projects within ¼ mile of the FDT Program alignment in six target categories:

- Community Development
- Workforce Development
- Parks & Recreation
- Community Garden/Vacant Lots/Open Space
- Transportation (1/2 mile from the corridor)
- Historic Preservation\*



Frederick Douglass Tunnel Program Alignment

\* \$2.75 million allocated for work in Midtown Edmondson and Edmondson Avenue Historic Districts.

## Procurement News

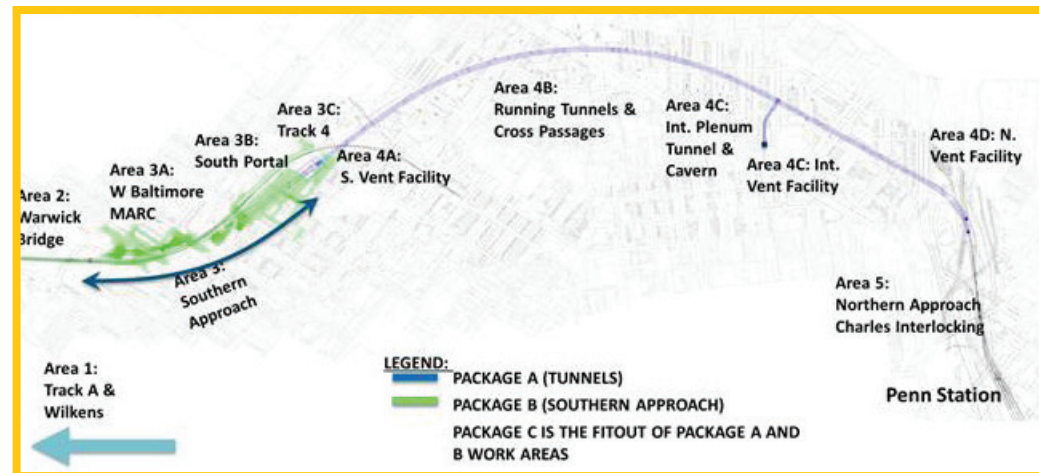
Over the past few months, Amtrak has selected two of three major construction contractors who will help build the new tunnel and associated rail upgrades as part of the FDT Program:

**Southern Approach (Joint Venture of Clark Construction & Stacy and Witbeck):** This team will primarily focus on construction of the southern approach of the FDT Program, which includes new tracks and rail systems, the new ADA-accessible West Baltimore MARC Station and multiple bridge replacements.

**Tunnel Construction (Joint Venture of Kiewit and J.F. Shea):**

This team will primarily focus on construction of the new state-of-the-art passenger rail tunnel (two tubes).

The third and final major construction contract to “fit out” the new tunnel with tracks, rail systems and more will be announced at a future date. The contract award is expected in 2025 or 2026.



## Community Engagement

Amtrak is committed to keeping the community updated about construction activity as it ramps up. To keep the community proactively informed, the FDT Program outreach team will host bimonthly meetings starting this spring. Making this information accessible for the community is critical, so we will host both virtual (1st Monday of the month) and in-person (2nd Wednesday of the month) meetings in 2024.

### 2024 Bi-monthly Community Meeting Schedule

- Wednesday, March 13
- Monday, May 6 (Virtual)
- Wednesday, May 8 (In-Person)
- Monday, July 1 (Virtual)
- Wednesday, July 10 (In-Person)
- Monday, September 9 (Virtual)\*
- Wednesday, September 11 (In-Person)
- Monday, November 4 (Virtual)
- Wednesday, November 13 (In-Person)

Interested in having the FD Tunnel team attend your upcoming community meeting? Send an email to [fdtunnel@amtrak.com](mailto:fdtunnel@amtrak.com) and we will coordinate team members to attend to answer questions from your community.

\* Adjusted to avoid Labor Day Holiday



## Preliminary Activities

In 2022, the Amtrak real estate team started working with local property owners to acquire the real estate needed for the FDT Program. To date, 49 properties have been purchased and early work includes securing the properties and demolition. Teams work to secure the sites by installing security fencing and screening, removing any materials that can be salvaged, and then demolishing the buildings following all safety protocols. These early work activities began in late 2023 and are expected to continue throughout 2024.



## Amtrak in the Community



Amtrak works hard to be an active, consistent, supportive community partner and neighbor. Participation in community events and activities provides connection and education opportunities for residents, schools, neighborhood associations, and the faith community. Look for us at:

### Spring Cleanup at Mary Ann Winterling Elementary School

It's spring cleanup time and on Saturday, March 23, we will once again join our friends at Mary Ann Winterling Elementary School as they spruce up the school's interior and exterior. From decluttering, to organizing cabinets, and painting, the FDT Program team will do their part to clean and beautify the learning environment for students and staff.

We are also watching the calendar for Mayor Brandon Scott's announcement regarding his annual Cleanup and Day of Service. Each spring, residents, neighbors, community associations, block leaders and organizations take charge, roll up their sleeves and clean up, clear out and declutter. As a community partner, Amtrak consistently participates in West Baltimore area cleanups, and is readying team members to join 2024 clean-up efforts. We look forward to meeting you in the community.

Have a community event or activity that Amtrak should consider supporting? Send information to [fdtunnel@amtrak.com](mailto:fdtunnel@amtrak.com) or call (443) 423-1115.