# ISSUE #6

## **SUMMER 2025**

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

# **ON TRACK**

Frederick Douglass Tunnel Program

# A Letter from Program Leadership



Summer is here, and with it comes exciting progress on the Frederick Douglass Tunnel Program. We've completed demolition activities and are now focused on major utility relocations to prepare the future footprint for tunnel excavation. One of the largest tasks— the utility siphon tunnel construction — is moving smoothly and remains

on track for completion in early fall. Meanwhile, two tunnel boring machines that will dig beneath Baltimore beginning in 2027 are being manufactured.

As temperatures rise, safety remains our top priority as we advance this critical infrastructure project for Baltimore, Maryland, and the Northeast Corridor. We encourage all workers to stay safe and cool on the job.

Personally, it's been a privilege to learn more about Baltimore and its vibrant communities. A highlight for me was last month's launch of the Historic Salvage Program. Seeing strong community participation reminded me that our work is about more than construction—it's about honoring history while building the future.

Salvaging historic materials isn't just technical—it's a meaningful tribute to the past. These items hold cultural and emotional value, reminding us that the people and stories behind them matter. At Amtrak, this belief drives our commitment to transparency and community engagement.

We're proud of our progress and remain dedicated to keeping residents informed about upcoming work, road closures, and other potential impacts. This is a once-in-ageneration opportunity—and we're committed to getting it right.

Luigi Rosa, Amtrak Assistant Vice President Frederick Douglass Tunnel Program



## **FDTUNNEL.COM**





## **IN THE NEWS**

**PAGE** 

- Launching the Historic Salvage Program
- A Glimpse into the Tunneling Process
- Construction Progress
  Amtrak in the Community
- **S** Kids' Corner
- **6** Stay Connected

# Launching the Historic Salvage Program

In May, the Program team invited leaders from the Greater Rosemont and Midtown Edmondson communities to the historic Atlas building for the launch of the Historic Salvage Program. This building has been repurposed to store materials salvaged from historic buildings acquired by Amtrak as part of the Program. The Salvage program collected, catalogued and then made available household items and building materials for members of the Greater Rosemont and Midtown Edmondson communities. This work allows us to keep items like marble stoops, stone windowsills, doors, bathtubs, and washing machines out of landfills.



Community and team members celebrate the Historic Salvage Program launch



Councilman Bullock, West Baltimore community members, and other partners join the Frederick Douglass Tunnel Program team to cut the ceremonial ribbon

## Address: 2150 Harlem Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21223

(entrance is at the rear of the Atlas Building)

Call our team at (443) 423-1115 or scan the QR Code for more information on the Historic Salvage Program

### **Hours of Operation:**

Monday – Wednesday between 9 AM – 3 PM; Saturdays by appointment only. Calls to make appointments must be received by 3 PM on Friday.



## A Glimpse into the Tunneling Process

Earlier this year, the Program team started sharing more details on the physical construction of the two new tunnel tubes that will become the new Frederick Douglass Tunnel. We remain committed to completing this work with public safety as our top priority, which is why we have carefully considered the best approach to carry out the tunneling work. To dig and build the new two-mile-long tunnel tubes as safely and efficiently as possible, Amtrak has ordered two open-faced tunnel

boring machines (TBMs). Tunneling is scheduled to begin in 2027.

Using a TBM is widely regarded as the most appropriate method for tunneling in urban environments. The ability for a TBM to dig underground with minimal disruption to surface structures is one of its biggest benefits. This approach was selected during the Program's environmental review process.



## **Tunneling Operations Sequence**

#### SECURE TBM

Transport and assemble the TBM

#### CONSTRUCT REMOVAL SYSTEM

Build slurry plant and conveyor belt

#### BEGIN TUNNELING

Excavate and remove muck from the tunnel

#### ADVANCE TBM

Complete tunneling operations

# FINISH TUNNELING

Dissassemble and remove TBM from site

## **Construction Progress**

The Program outreach team is increasing our onsite presence as construction advances. We continue to coordinate with our partners within Baltimore City government and local utility companies so that we complete necessary utility relocations. Preconstruction inspections and site surveys are still available for eligible property owners, to inspect current conditions at individual properties.



Utility siphon tunnel site



Stormwater Pipes

## **Amtrak in the Community**

We're halfway through the year and our team has been hard at work connecting with West Baltimore residents! This May, we harvested fresh carrots with Strength to Love II Farm, celebrated creativity at the SOWEBO Arts and Music Festival, and shared Program updates with neighbors at local community association meetings.

We're excited to connect with even more community members as the weather continues to warm up. If you're a member of an organization located in West Baltimore, we'd love to attend your next event or meeting. Please contact us at (443) 423-1115 or email <a href="mailto:fdtunnel@amtrak.com">fdtunnel@amtrak.com</a> to let us know how we can be a good neighbor to you!



Mary Ann Winterling Elementary School Art in the Park

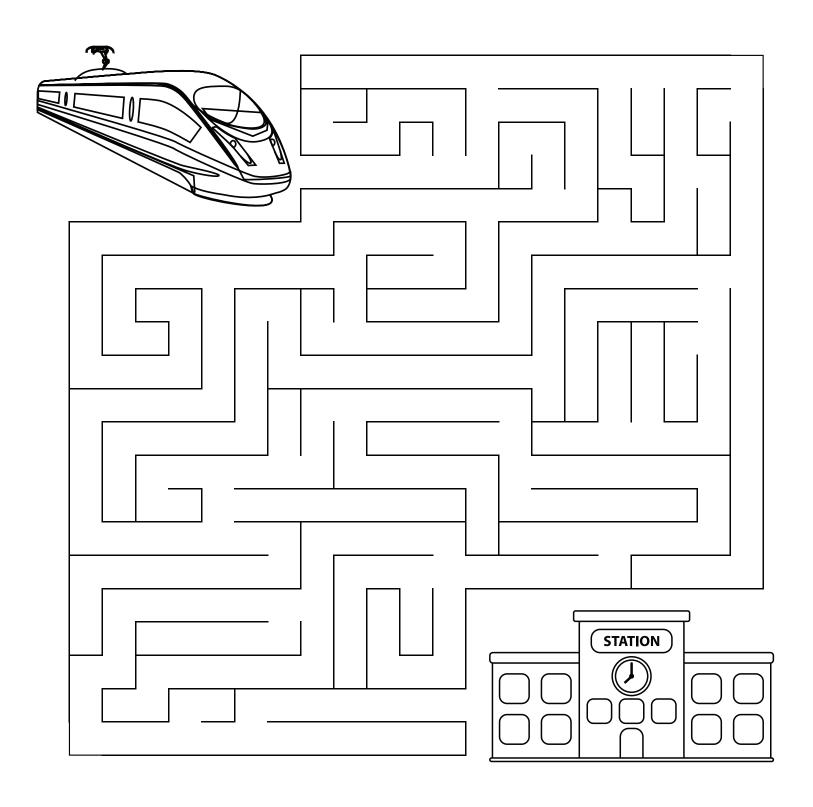


Requity Foundation Inc. Community Cleanup

We look forward to collaborating with you! Contact us at (443) 423-1115 or email <a href="mailto:fdtunnel@amtrak.com">fdtunnel@amtrak.com</a> to let us know how we can offer our support.

## **Kids' Corner**

Can you help us guide the train through the tunnel? Watch out for blocked pathways!



# **Stay Connected**

#### **Quarterly Program Public Meetings**

This year, our team shifted to a quarterly meeting schedule for our virtual and in-person meetings, hosting four meetings per year. This adjustment to our meeting schedule allows our team to join you at the regular community meetings and provide more focused information related to your neighborhoods. If you missed our June quarterly public meetings, you can find the meeting materials and virtual recording on fdtunnel.com.

# Get Emails and Construction Updates

The Program team is working closely with our contractors to keep you updated on planned construction activities. You can view a list of



construction activities on our website or scan the QR code to join our contact list and receive regular updates directly to your email.

#### **Opt-in for Texts**

Stay updated by signing up for text message notifications. We will use this tool to send updates on traffic detours or adjustments related to our construction. Opt-in by texting one of the following keywords to (833) 917-3749.

- Text FDTNorth for updates about work occurring north of North Avenue
- Text FDTSouth for updates about work occurring south of North Avenue
- Text FDTConstruct for all construction updates on the Program