ISSUE #5 SPRING 2025

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

ONTRACK Frederick Douglass Tunnel Program

A Letter from Program Leadership



As we end the first quarter of the new year, I am happy to share that we have made tremendous progress on the Amtrak Frederick Douglass Tunnel Program (Program). We are excited to share a video in which our partners explain how vital the Program is to the City of Baltimore, the Baltimore-Washington region, the Northeast Corridor, and

beyond. We invite you to visit the **fdtunnel.com** homepage and watch the video to learn more about the Program and the lasting impact it will have on communities.

We are grateful for the ongoing support from our partners who recognize the immense benefits this Program will bring. As 2024 came to a close, we continued to focus on safety and proactively informing surrounding communities about construction activities. Looking ahead, 2025 promises significant milestones for the Program, including:

- Manufacturing Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs) that will begin tunneling within the next two years
- Completing demolition activities this summer and reopening the repurposed Atlas building for distributing salvage materials
- Continuing major utility relocation work throughout key areas of the Program
- Launching the Community Investment Program

We are committed to advancing this crucial initiative that will modernize the Northeast Corridor, enhance rail safety, improve reliability, and increase capacity, all while creating thousands of new jobs in the Baltimore region. Thank you for your continued support as we work to bring this transformative Program to life!

Luigi Rosa, Amtrak Assistant Vice President Frederick Douglass Tunnel Program



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Construction is Underway!

This spring, you may notice an increase in construction activity as our contractors ready their equipment and fence off construction areas for upcoming work. Our crews are actively installing temporary waterlines, removing Amtrak-acquired structures, and conducting utility investigations throughout the Program area to prepare for future construction activities. Thanks to these efforts, we've made significant progress on the utility relocations needed to move forward on other elements of the Program.

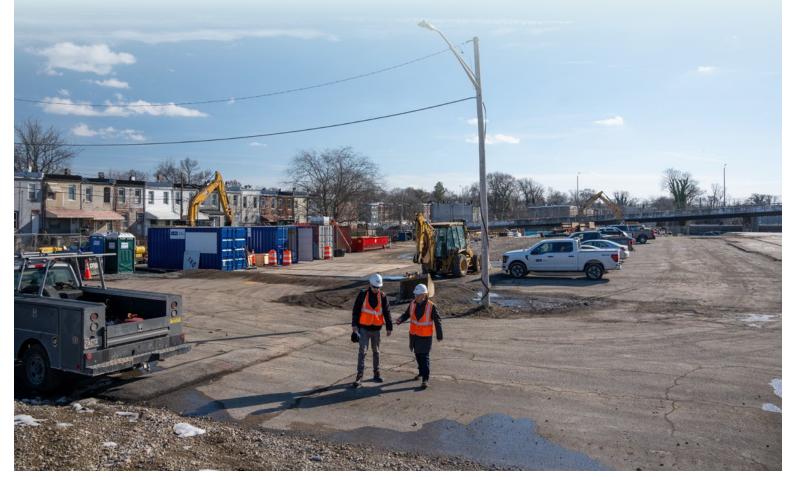
We've begun securing construction areas by installing black steel fences with screening fabric along several local streets including N Pulaski, N Payson, N Brice, Riggs, and W Lanvale. These are areas where utility relocations will occur this spring. Our local utility partners, including Verizon, Baltimore Gas & Electric, and Comcast, are coordinating with our team and City partners to relocate utilities in the least disruptive manner possible.

We are committed to delivering this Program with safety as our top priority.

Maintaining safe pedestrian and vehicular access in the community is one of our core commitments to you. We are working diligently with our contractors to ensure sidewalks and ADA ramps remain available for safe passage and using flagging crews to safely direct vehicles near and around construction areas.

For your safety, we also ask that you speak with children about the dangers of construction zones. We recommend that families seek alternative walking paths for children and pets, monitoring them closely while out in the community. Additionally, for your safety and that of the crews working, please reduce your travel speeds and follow all posted signs when driving through work zones.

We are offering construction updates in many ways to ensure all residents can access this information easily. You can stay updated by signing up for text message notifications and our Program email list, visiting our website, following us on social media, and keeping an eye out for door hangers we will place in your neighborhood.



Ongoing Activities

- Major Utility Relocations Relocate utilities out of the path of the future tunnel.
- Property Demolition Remove Amtrak-owned buildings and debris.
- Deep Well Installation Drill into the ground to install deep wells, lowering the water level and making it easier to dig two tunnel shafts.
- Soil Borings Collect ground samples to investigate and confirm existing soil conditions.
- Site Surveys Use tripod-mounted equipment to mark the location of structures and utilities in preparation for construction.



Crews use an excavator to prepare the ground for the installation of temporary waterlines

- Preconstruction Condition Inspections Document existing property conditions (with permission from property owners).
- Instrumentation and Monitoring Devices Install vibration and deflection monitoring equipment on the exterior of buildings (with permission from property owners).
- Utility Investigations Mark the location of existing utilities and install temporary water lines to facilitate their future relocation.



Soil boring investigations at the future South Portal site or southern entrance of the tunnel (near North Payson Street)

Upcoming Activities

Utility Siphon Tunnel (Spring 2025)

 Construct a new utility siphon tunnel that will carry utilities (water, sewer, storm, fiber) beneath the existing railroad tracks.

Rebuild Amtrak Bridges Over US 40 - Franklin Street and Mulberry Street (Spring 2025 - Fall 2028)

- Relocate utilities, lower roadways, and construct supporting structures as part of the bridge reconstructions.
- Reconstruct the Mulberry Street and Franklin Street bridges consecutively to realign the tracks with the new tunnel.
- Collaborate with the Baltimore City Department of Transportation, Maryland Transit Administration, and State Highway Administration to develop traffic detours around the closures of local roadways.

Workforce Development



The Program will provide benefits to Baltimore residents by creating construction jobs and other rail and constructionrelated workforce development opportunities. Workforce development includes a diverse range of strategies, initiatives, community engagement efforts, and educational and training activities designed to enhance the skills, knowledge, and competencies of individuals seeking employment or looking to advance their careers.

Amtrak is advancing a partnership with the Baltimore Mayor's Office of Employment Development and the Baltimore Workforce Funders Collaborative (part of the Maryland Philanthropy Network) to maximize workforce recruitment and training. These opportunities will provide support services, such as transportation and subsidies, to assist individuals with personal needs in order to work.

Amtrak has committed \$50 million to the Frederick Douglass Tunnel Program Community Investment Program (CIP). As part of this commitment, workforce development initiatives will offer significant opportunities to residents in the following focus areas:

- Training and apprenticeship programs
- Job readiness and professional development
- Local hiring and employment opportunities
- Direct community investments for ongoing and future workforce development initiatives

Stay tuned for more details about the exciting workforce development opportunities coming with the Program. For additional information, please refer to the Community Investment Program guide on <u>fdtunnel.com</u> or email <u>fdtunnel.cip@amtrak.com</u>.



Amtrak in the Community

Our team continues engaging with West Baltimore residents by participating in local events. We've unlocked our inner child at school events, participated in community cleanup efforts, and attended local community meetings to share information about the Program. Although the year has only just begun, we are working hard to fill our 2025 calendar with even more community events.



Supporting Mary Ann Winterling Elementary School with their interactive history presentation



Speaking with community members at the Red Line Transit/Transportation Day event

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

Coming Soon: Access to Salvage from Historic Buildings

We're excited to announce that the re-opening of the re-purposed Atlas Building at 2126 Edmondson Avenue (rear entrance), will happen this spring! Property owners (or those working on projects) in the Midtown Edmondson and Greater Rosemont Historic Districts are eligible to obtain historic and nonhistoric materials collected prior to the demolition of Amtrak acquired properties. We are making these items available, free of charge, on a first-come, first-served basis. These materials will be available for one year from opening: Monday – Wednesday between 9am – 5pm and Saturdays by appointment only. We hope these materials will serve as a valuable resource for you and your neighbors. For updates on the timing of the re-opening, opt in to receive emails from our Program team.



Examples of historic salvage materials collected include, but are not limited to:

Fireplace surrounds

Doors

- Cornices
- Exterior principal façade brick
- Marble stoops
- Stone windowsills and lintels
- Window sashes
- Examples of non-historic salvage materials collected include, but are not limited to:

Stair railings and newel posts

Interior window and door trim

- HVAC units
- Washing machines
- Kitchen appliances, cabinets, and sinks
- Furniture

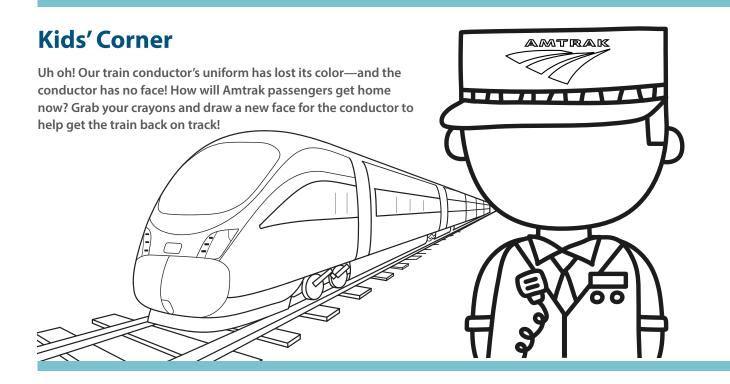
HVAC grills

- nd sinks Ceiling lights
- **Eligibility:** All interested parties must present adequate proof of eligible residency or involvement in the rehabilitation or renovation of properties within the Midtown Edmondson or Greater Rosemont Historic Districts.

Stay updated on the opening of the Atlas building by visiting our website, signing up for our email list, or following our social media pages. An online sample of available materials will be posted on <u>fdtunnel.com</u> closer to the opening date. For additional information, scan the QR code or visit the Cultural Resources Mitigation web page.







Stay Connected

Quarterly Program Public Meetings

Our team is shifting to a quarterly meeting schedule for our in-person and virtual meetings, hosting four meetings per year. This adjustment allows our team to join you at your regular community meetings and provide more focused information related to your neighborhood. If you miss any of our public meetings, you can always visit fdtunnel.com to access the meeting presentation and virtual recording.

Get Emails and Construction Updates

The Program Outreach Team is working closely with our construction 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 email list and receive regular updates directly to your email. We understand the importance of staying informed, so we offer multiple ways for you to receive the information you need.

Opt-in for Texts

We've made it even easier to gain quick construction notifications about the Frederick Douglass Tunnel Program. 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

Follow Us on Social Media

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn to get the latest information on Program updates, meeting reminders, important news, and more.

- Facebook: Frederick Douglass Tunnel Program
- Instagram: fdtunnel
- LinkedIn: Frederick Douglass Tunnel Program

Visit our Website

Visit fdtunnel.com for answers to your frequently asked questions, meeting notifications, Program news, and more. As you browse our website, we invite you to watch our recent video on the home page to learn more about the Program and the many partners who support us in moving this project forward.