Overview

The B&P Tunnel in Baltimore dates back to the Civil War era. At 150 years old, it is the oldest tunnel on the Northeast Corridor (NEC). Trains are frequently delayed traveling through the tunnel, where speeds are limited to just 30 mph due to the tunnel’s tight curves and steep incline.

Amtrak’s Frederick Douglass Tunnel Program will modernize and transform a ten mile section of the NEC, unlocking the biggest rail bottleneck between Washington, D.C. and New Jersey.

Program Features

The centerpiece of the program is a new tunnel named in honor of Frederick Douglass, a Maryland native and early leader in the fight for the rights of women and minorities. He was also a frequent railroad passenger after escaping to his freedom by boarding a train in Baltimore. The overall program consists of:

- Two new high-capacity tunnel tubes, approximately two miles in length, that will primarily serve electrified Amtrak and MARC passenger trains
- New roadway and railroad bridges
- New rail systems, track and railroad infrastructure
- A new ADA-accessible West Baltimore MARC station
- Modern fire and life safety systems, including three emergency evacuation facilities

Program Activities

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<th>West Baltimore MARC Station Construction Begins</th>
<th>New West Baltimore MARC Station Opens</th>
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New Frederick Douglass Tunnel alignment which will replace the current B&P Tunnel.
Program Funding
The program will be funded in part by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Amtrak and the State of Maryland. This includes funding from the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).

Community Engagement and Outreach
Amtrak is committed to working with the surrounding communities throughout the duration of the Frederick Douglass Tunnel Program. Our goal is to be a good neighbor and we will be looking for opportunities to partner with local communities. If you have events where our team could be involved, please reach out!

Sign Up for Program Updates
We’re looking forward to sharing information about the project as construction ramps up. Scan the QR code here to sign up for our newsletter and other program communications.