

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

# ON TRACK

## Frederick Douglass Tunnel Program



### A Letter from Program Leadership

Even in the midst of a hot summer, our team remains dedicated to advancing the Amtrak Frederick Douglass Tunnel (FDT) Program, and we continue to make steady progress. After initiating demolition activities around the start of the year, we are set to begin major utility relocation work in various project areas in the coming months. We are proud to be part of this significant investment, contributing to Amtrak's vision of ushering in a new era of rail travel with the ambitious goal of doubling annual ridership to 66 million by 2040.

With the safety of the public and our construction team always being Amtrak's top priority, our progress is driven by strong partnerships with our key partners, including the Federal Railroad Administration, Maryland Department of Transportation, the City of Baltimore, Baltimore Gas and Electric Company, Verizon, and, most importantly, the Baltimore communities that have been supporting and engaging with us in learning more about the FDT Program. Community outreach is one of my top priorities, and we strive to involve communities in a meaningful way. During our July bi-monthly meeting



at Mary Ann Winterling Elementary School, the FDT team presented new renderings of the future West Baltimore MARC Station. Developed in close coordination with MDOT MTA, the designs incorporate feedback from the community and other stakeholders. The response from community members has been encouraging, and we will continue refining the station's design to deliver a critical infrastructure asset to West Baltimore.

On a separate but just as important topic, I understand that many community members are eager to learn more about the Community Investment Program (CIP) and apply for participation. I want to assure everyone that we are working diligently to advance the CIP framework and are committed to investing \$50 million in West Baltimore. We are excited to issue a formal notice of funding opportunity in the near future, allowing eligible organizations to apply for community grant awards for projects that meet the Program's requirements.

Lastly, if you haven't already, please check out our newly redesigned Program website at [fdtunnel.com](http://fdtunnel.com), where you can read answers to frequently asked questions, learn about upcoming community meetings and much more. I look forward to seeing many of you at our next community meetings on September 9 (virtual) and 11 (in-person).

Luigi Rosa, Amtrak Assistant Vice President  
Frederick Douglass Tunnel Program



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### IN THE NEWS

PAGE

- 2** Pre-Construction Inspections  
Upcoming Construction
- 3** Meetings & Events Recap  
Amtrak in the Community
- 4** Kids' Corner  
Stay Connected

# Pre-Construction Inspections



The Program team is conducting interior and exterior pre-construction inspections of homes and buildings in neighborhoods adjacent to planned work near the South Approach, Intermediate Ventilation Facility and North Ventilation Facility in West Baltimore. We are inspecting:

- Above ground foundations
- Sidewalks and footways
- Brick, siding, wood, concrete exteriors
- Interior drywall and plaster

Property owners are receiving notifications via FedEx or UPS if their property qualifies for an inspection. In this letter, we provide details about the inspection process and contact information for the contractor team to ask any questions. Property owners will be able to schedule an appointment to get the inspection completed Monday through Friday between 7:00AM-6:00PM. Additionally, the contractor will offer evening and weekend appointments to accommodate property owner schedules. **Please note, inspections must be conducted during daylight hours.** Once the inspection is completed, we will send property owners a copy of the report and associated images.

# Upcoming Construction

Construction is continuing to ramp up and the Program team is committed to sharing frequent construction updates with the community. In the coming months, you can expect to see an increased presence of construction team members as they conduct surveys, capture data on existing soil conditions, relocate utilities, and mobilize construction equipment. Our crews wear safety equipment that will make them visible to you and they will always have photo identification.



## Soil Boring Program



Our team is conducting soil borings to investigate existing soil conditions in communities along the Program alignment. This process involves drilling a hole into the ground to retrieve a soil sample and determine the soil's suitability for construction. This crucial work will aid in assessing risks and avoiding time delays through the duration of construction. Although weather conditions and unforeseen circumstances may impact schedules, this work will generally take 5-10 days before moving to the next location. Please heed the "No Parking" signs in the areas where the drill rig is set up.

2

## Utility Relocation

Utility relocation is a critical early action necessary for completing Program construction activities safely and efficiently. The Program team is working closely with various utility companies to relocate gas, water and electric utilities without disrupting services to nearby communities. We will repair impacted streets, landscaping, and footways once the relocation is complete. Please keep an eye out for signage and doorhangers in your community to learn more about the timing of this critical work and any impacts to streets and/or sidewalks.



## Mobilization



*We are taking regular photos and video to capture changes in the Program area.*

As the Program advances, contractors will begin moving into construction areas near the Southern approach. They will install orange construction fencing to cordon off work areas, erect an 8-foot fence, and construct black silt fabric to reduce muddy runoff entering local waterways. This work is essential to prepare the site for future construction activities. To minimize impacts to local parking, the contractor team working near the Southern Approach has established parking areas for crew members that are off site. All workers who live outside the Program area will be shuttled on site daily.



# Amtrak in the Community

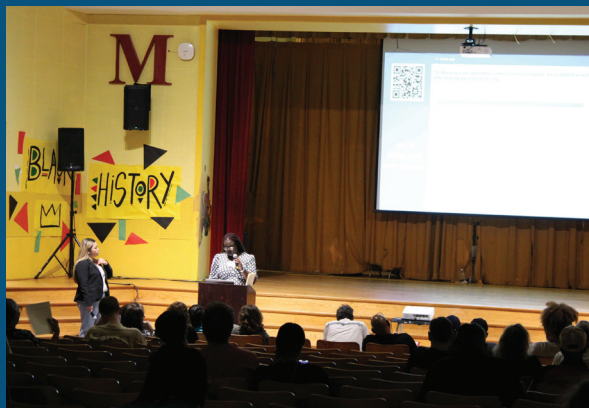
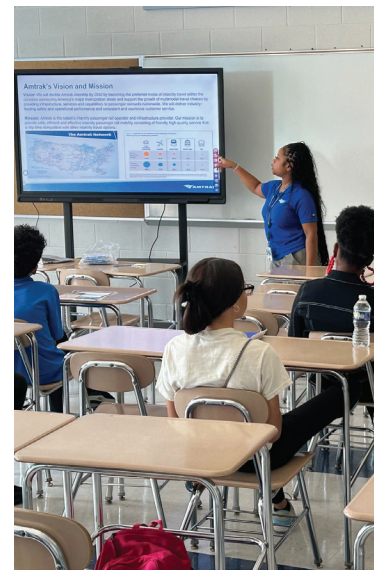


## Meetings & Events Recap

Over the last three months, we've shared key Program updates at community meetings, events, and during our July bi-monthly virtual and in-person meetings. Some key updates we've discussed include:

- Newly released community-informed renderings of the new ADA-accessible West Baltimore MARC station showcasing:
  - Public restrooms
  - Enclosed waiting areas
  - Formal pick-up and drop-off location for passengers
  - Accommodation for future MTA Red line
- Ongoing and upcoming construction activities and schedules including:
  - Soil borings
  - Utility relocation
  - Pre-construction inspections
  - Construction mobilization (preparatory work prior to construction)
- Engagement priorities informed by community feedback by:
  - Extending time for questions and answers at bi-monthly meetings
  - Providing experts to answer questions during bi-monthly in-person meetings
  - Planning for grant writing assistance to help eligible community organizations apply for the Community Investment Program

The Program team has had an eventful year of community engagement so far and we don't plan on slowing our efforts! We've had insightful conversations with community members, and attended stewardship events that support our goals of uplifting and enhancing West Baltimore. Our team has attended community association meetings, connected with students at school programs, educated stakeholders at events like National Night Out, Artscape, and the Greater Baltimore Committee's Baltimore Region Investment Summit all in our effort to stay true to our desire to be a good neighbor to communities in West Baltimore.

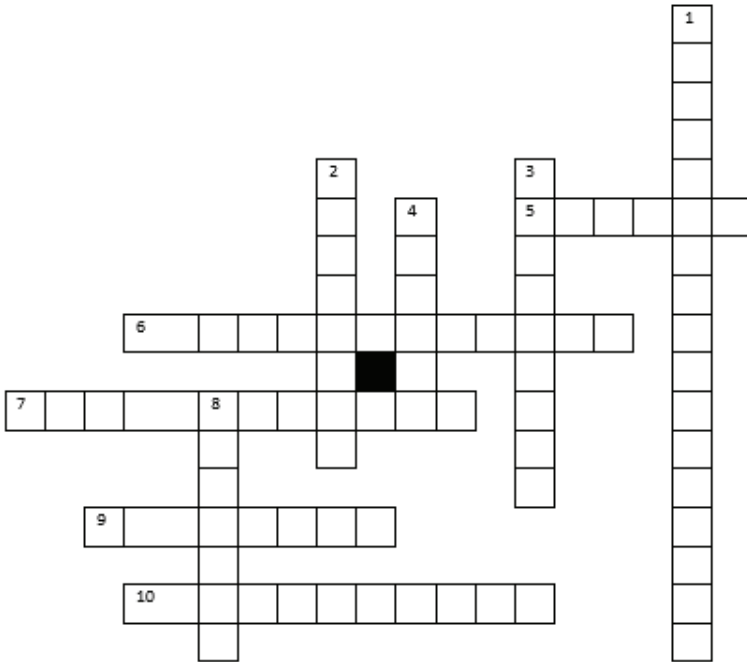


Are you interested in inviting The Program Team to a community or stewardship event in your community?

Send an email with information to [fdtunnel@amtrak.com](mailto:fdtunnel@amtrak.com) or call (443) 423-1115.

# Kids' Corner

Test your knowledge about Amtrak and the Frederick Douglass Tunnel Program by completing this fun crossword puzzle!



Down

1. The FDT Program was named after this Maryland native and abolitionist
2. The new tunnel will primarily serve \_\_\_\_\_ passenger trains
3. This place is known as "Charm City"
4. The FDT Program includes the construction of a new state-of-the-art \_\_\_\_\_
8. Where do you go to board a train?

Across

5. The conductor says "All \_\_\_\_\_!"
6. The place you are going is called a \_\_\_\_\_
7. The new WBAL MARC Station will be ADA-\_\_\_\_\_
9. The largest passenger railroad company in the United States is \_\_\_\_\_
10. The person in charge of the train is called a \_\_\_\_\_

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

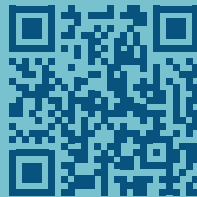
Down 1. Frederick Douglass 2. Electric 3. Baltimore 4. Tunnel 8. Station 9. Accessible 10. Conductor

## Stay Connected

Our website is now more user-friendly and easier to navigate. Visit [fdtunnel.com](http://fdtunnel.com) for answers to your frequently asked questions, meeting notifications, Program news, and more!

### Join Our Email List

If you would like to join our email list, please scan the QR Code to sign up. 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

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](https://www.instagram.com/fdtunnel)
- LinkedIn: Frederick Douglass Tunnel Program