



BROOKE'S BPW BRIEF

Breaking down the Board of Public Works

Meeting Date
September 6, 2023

VEHICLE EMISSION INSPECTION PROGRAM

The BPW approved a request from the Motor Vehicle Administration for a \$1.5 million modification to an existing contract with Envirotech Corporation (Baltimore, MD) for management and operations of the State's vehicle emissions inspection program (VEIP). The modification is necessary to accommodate programming changes **necessary to implement new VEIP regulations.** The new regulations exempt new vehicles from testing for six years instead of three.

The Comptroller expressed concerns about the regulation itself because of the reduced revenues to the State's Transportation Trust Fund and because drivers of older vehicles – those who often cannot afford new cars – will now bear the brunt of funding the State's successful Clear Air Act program. The Treasurer commended the fact that the program will relieve drivers of new vehicles of an unnecessary burden, and encouraged the MVA to think about how to make up for the resulting revenue loss.

NEW WETLANDS

The BPW approved two State Tidal Wetlands licenses for projects that will result in the **creation of over 14,000 square feet of wetlands**, which are critical to supporting the health and biodiversity of the Chesapeake Bay.

Summary Figures

The BPW approved 86 items, representing a total State expenditure of \$384 million including:

- 2 items awarding \$4.8 million to prime certified small businesses
- 2 items awarding \$4.5 million to prime minority business enterprises
- 5 items awarded with established participation goals for minority business enterprises
- 1 item awarded with established participation goals for veteran-owned small business enterprises
- 15 grant agreements awarding \$4.8 million for projects in 8 counties and Baltimore City

AMERICAN LEGION BRIDGE, I-495, AND I-270

The BPW approved a request from the State Highway Administration (SHA) to award two contracts to provide planning, engineering, architectural, construction management, and other services in support of **multimodal improvements for the American Legion Bridge, I-495, and I-270.** These contracts will primarily support planning to replace the American Legion Bridge, and environmental and multi-modal planning studies for I-270. The two five-year contracts are valued at a "not-to-exceed" amount of \$75 million each.

In discussion about this agenda item, the Comptroller expressed concern over the **efficacy of highway expansion as a means to alleviate traffic**, and her concern about any future P3 model. She commended the Governor for **making multimodal options central to the project, including bus rapid transit and transit-oriented development.**