

# News Release

## Comptroller Lierman Shares Optimism for New Baltimore Orioles Ownership

*Board of Public Works approves more than \$667 million in funding including \$93 million for transit in Montgomery County*

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (January 31, 2024) — During Wednesday's [Maryland Board of Public Works](#) (BPW) meeting, **Comptroller Brooke E. Lierman** addressed recent [reports](#) that the Angelos family plans to sell their controlling stake in the Baltimore Orioles to a new ownership group led by David Rubenstein. Major League Baseball must formally approve the deal.

Comptroller Lierman expressed optimism regarding the future of the Orioles and the state's investment in Oriole Park at Camden Yard while also agreeing with comments from Treasurer Dereck E. Davis, blasting a lack of transparency around John Angelos' intention to sell the team amid negotiations with the state around a new long-term lease agreement.

"As a lifelong Orioles fan, I am proud to say we have the best stadium in baseball and the best fans," **Comptroller Lierman** remarked. "I have confidence our new ownership team will keep and build the best team in baseball. I'm ready to open the door to them and look forward to working with them in the future. I'm confident that our long-term deal is good for taxpayers."

Also on Wednesday, the BPW approved more than \$667 million for 78 initiatives and projects across Maryland. Four items, reaching almost \$20 million, were awarded to prime certified small businesses, and two items, totaling more than \$19 million, were awarded to certified minority business enterprises.

The BPW awarded Montgomery County \$93.2 Million for a series of transportation projects. Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich provided an overview of the projects, including the county's Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project, which received \$63.4 million. Comptroller Lierman applauded the work of County Executive Elrich's team, calling this work a unique use of bond funding.

“I’m a big believer in BRT. I think especially with electric vehicles in the future, we can talk about not just building a line but a system. I appreciate your view on that. It is certainly not uncommon for us to review grant agreements to counties and municipal governments for initiatives to improve pedestrian safety and streetscapes. I will say, it is very rare to see the magnitude with which a local government has been able to leverage the Capital Grants Program to fund some of major transportation initiatives.”

The BPW also heard from the Maryland Department of Human Services, which presented a contact for new call center services. One of the bidders has filed an appeal with the Maryland State Board of Contract Appeals protesting the award to Automated Health Systems, Inc. (Pittsburgh, PA). The Board has the authority to approve the execution of contracts under protest, provided that doing so is necessary to protect substantial State interests.

Comptroller Lierman requested regular updates on the call center from Maryland Secretary of Human Services Rafael J. Lopez and emphasized that it is the Board’s role to act quickly on behalf of Marylanders who rely on timely responses from state agencies and to protect the State’s interests.

“I want to emphasize that the agencies should not look to the Board of Public Works to resolve award protests unless the circumstances are extenuating,” Comptroller Lierman said. “The Maryland State Board of Contract Appeals exists to resolve these issues, and I hope to count the number of these requests to the Board of Public Works on one hand by the end of my tenure.”

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