

News Release

Comptroller Lierman issues statements following Wednesday's Board of Public Works Meeting

Urges state to make greater progress toward MBE goals and supports net-zero goals

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (August 2, 2023) - Today, the Maryland Board of Public Works (BPW) considered 66 items as part of its routine agenda, authorizing over \$204 million in state expenditures. During this meeting, Comptroller Brooke Lierman provided comments on the following agenda items:

Maryland Aviation Administration- Modification for Equipment Contract-The Maryland Aviation Administration sought to modify their contract to purchase eight battery-electric transit buses, to increase the funding for training related to these purchases.

The Comptroller praised the Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA) for its continuing commitment to green infrastructure investments, emphasizing the power of the procurement process to move the state to its net-zero goals.

“The MAA investing in the tools and training to support those battery electric bus purchases is really key to transitioning their entire fleet,” Comptroller Lierman said. “So good luck to MAA and its staff; we’ll be able to learn in our other modes as well. When the Maryland Transit Administration moves to its EV bus fleet, they can learn from MAA and the training that they did.”

Maryland Port Administration- Architectural and Engineering Contract-The Maryland Port Administration (MPA) requested from the BPW contracts to maintain, repair and construct waterfront structures throughout MPA’s four marine terminals, as well as provide dredging and coastal engineering consulting services.

Comptroller Lierman commented on the state’s goal of reaching 29 percent participation by Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) entities. Acknowledging that the MPA requests were solicited under the previous administration, Comptroller Lierman

recognized the MPA’s justifications for the goals and that they received sign-off from both the MPA Office of Fair Practices and Procurement Review Group. The Comptroller noted that the BPW relies on the knowledge and expertise of procurement officers to ensure that the goals being set are achievable on each contract.

She said she wants to make sure not agencies are just settling because they are scared to miss a higher target or that a higher goal would be a stretch.

“Most primes (contractors) aren’t going to go above and beyond the stated contract goals, so we have to find the right balance,” Comptroller Lierman said. “We have to set that balance; we can’t rely on our primes to do it. We have to set that balance between determining what is achievable and aspirational, to keep pushing the envelope.”

Additionally, the Comptroller expressed support for the **demolition of the Baltimore City Community College’s Bard Building**, noting that it was long overdue. She said she passes by the building every day and applauded the inter-agency cooperation to get to this point with the demolition and thanked BCCC President Debra L. McCurdy for engaging and getting input from partners and the community.

The Comptroller also highlighted a **\$3.5 million grant to Tradepoint Atlantic**, which will support dredging activities to accommodate the demand for larger ships to make Baltimore a world-class destination port. She acknowledged the Tradepoint Atlantic team for transforming Sparrow’s Point and boosting Baltimore’s job growth and opportunities.

More information can be found at <https://bpw.maryland.gov/>

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