

News Release

Comptroller Lierman Calls for Continued Outreach to MBEs, Applauds Environmental Efforts at BPW Meeting

Comptroller praises minimal impact of removal of deep water piers, calls for continued effort to meet MBE goals

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (November 8, 2023) - Today, the Maryland Board of Public Works (BPW) approved more than \$232 million for 75 initiatives and projects across Maryland. During the meeting, Comptroller Brooke Lierman praised current plans to remove five deep water piers from the old Nice-Middleton Bridge, which crosses the Potomac River in Charles County, crediting environmental groups for their advocacy and the response of state agencies to minimize the environmental impact of the project.

"I appreciate the Chesapeake Bay Foundation for reaching out to ensure that the state pursued all options to minimize the impact on the local fish population, specifically the endangered Atlantic Sturgeon, and I am grateful to the departments for their answers," Comptroller Lierman said.

"I am pleased to know that there was consideration given to leaving the piers in place and foregoing the use of subaqueous blasting, but I also understand the need to ensure the structural safety of the new construction.

"I believe that the techniques to be used by MDTA and DNR, including adhering to time of year restrictions, patrolling the area beforehand with fish deterrent noises, and having an onsite Independent Environmental Monitor will minimize impacts and protect our wildlife."

Comptroller Lierman also spoke about the continued efforts of the Maryland Department of Transportation and State Highway Administration (SHA) to increase [Minority Business Enterprise](#) program participation. Since joining the BPW, Comptroller Lierman and her BPW team have met repeatedly with MDOT and SHA about MBE participation and subcontracting opportunities on roadside maintenance contracts. She questioned SHA administrator William Pines about SHA's procurement review group and its process of reviewing and awarding contracts to small and minority-owned businesses. Comptroller Lierman encouraged the agency to continue its outreach to increase participation from minority-owned businesses on state contracts and commended their utilization of the Small Business Reserve Program.

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

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