



BROOKE'S BPW BRIEF



Breaking down the Board of Public Works

Meeting Date

February 12, 2025

BWI THURGOOD MARSHALL AIRPORT CONCESSIONS

The BPW approved a request from the Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA) to award Fraport Baltimore Partnership, LLC (Baltimore, MD) a contract to **develop, renovate, lease and manage the retail, restaurant, and commercial services** at BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport.

The 23-year, revenue-generating contract is projected to yield nearly \$39 million to MAA during the first year of the operation and maintenance period. The vendor's development plan provides a \$10 million loan fund exclusively to Airport Concessions Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (ACDBE) operators to ensure access to available capital. The project is anticipated to achieve nearly 50% participation by ACDBE operators, exceeding the 30% goal. It also requires a labor peace agreement.

During the meeting, Comptroller Lierman underscored that the Board's role should be to ensure fairness throughout the procurement process and that the State achieve best value, not evaluate and select awardees.

Summary Figures

The BPW approved 70 items, representing a total State expenditure of \$396.6 million, including:

- 6 items awarding \$16.4 million to prime certified small businesses.
- 6 items awarding \$17.5 million to certified Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) primes.
- 10 items awarded with established participation goals for MBEs.
- 2 items awarded with a goal for Veteran-owned Small Businesses.

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

The Board approved \$200,000 in capital grant funding to the Board of Directors of the African American Resources Cultural and Heritage Society, Inc. to support the development of the African American Heritage Center in Frederick, including **permanent exhibit space, a multi-purpose area, research, and archival facilities.**

The Center intends to provide a dynamic space for educational enrichment that tells compelling stories and history of African Americans in Frederick County.

NEW STATE PARK IN WICOMICO COUNTY

The Board approved a request from the Department of Natural Resources to commit \$3.6 million in Program Open Space funding to acquire nearly 446 acres of property in Wicomico County containing a mix of forested, agricultural fields, and tidal wetlands.

The property will be managed by the Maryland Park Service, **as the first state park in the county.** The acquisition will provide a buffer for Forester Interior Dwelling Species habitat, expand public recreational opportunities, and preserve historic and culturally significant lands and structures.