



BROOKE'S BPW BRIEF



Breaking down the Board of Public Works

Meeting Date

December 18, 2024

EASTERN SHORE FREIGHT RAIL LINES P3

The BPW approved a request from the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) to (1) designate MTA-owned freight rail lines on the Eastern Shore as a public infrastructure asset delivered through a Public-Private Partnership (P3) and (2) use a competitive solicitation to select a private sector partner to **design, build, and finance improvements to the rail lines and operate and maintain the facilities** for a term of 40 years. Prior to submitting a P3 agreement to the BPW for approval, MDOT will provide an opportunity for review and comment by the Comptroller, Treasurer, legislature, and the public.

The MTA-owned lines provide critical rail connections for agriculture, manufacturing, and related industries. The P3 is intended to optimize the operational performance and long term viability of the rail lines, while supporting existing and expanded service.

Summary Figures

The BPW approved 93 items, representing a total State expenditure of \$1.45 billion, including:

- 9 items awarding \$79.4 million to prime certified small businesses.
- 4 items awarding \$70.6 million to certified Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) primes.
- 11 items awarded with established participation goals for MBEs.
- 4 items awarded with a goal for Veteran-owned Small Businesses.
- 2 items awarding \$1.2 million to Employment Works Program providers.

NEW HEALTH CENTER IN FEDERALSBURG

The Board approved \$825,000 in capital grant funding to Choptank Community Health System, Inc. for a new **Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in Federalsburg**. The state-of-the-art facility will provide medical, dental, and expanded behavioral health services to the community starting Jan. 6, 2025.

BRNI, MFIP, NED & SEED (ALPHABET SOUP!)

The Board approved a request from the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to award \$31.7 million in general obligation bond proceeds for 141 projects planned for Fiscal Year 2025 through several state-run programs: the Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative (BRNI); the Business Facade Improvement Program (MFIP); the National Capital Strategic Economic Development Fund (NED); and the Seed Community Development Anchor Institution Fund. Notable projects include:

- \$500k to Washington College for the construction of "The Innovation Hub" in Kent County
- \$100k to Action Baybrook, Inc. to purchase and renovate vacant homes for affordable homeownership in Brooklyn and Brooklyn Park (Baltimore)
- \$75k to the Town of Thurmont for the Thurmont Main Street Commercial Facade Improvement Program

The Comptroller remarked: "these programs are a great demonstration of the partnership between the General Assembly, the Executive agencies, the BPW, and our private partners -- our nonprofit partners, and then the private financing that often follows this public investment, resulting in a great ROI."