# MTA Updates

**Baltimore Regional Transit Commission** 

Holly Arnold, Administrator & CEO September 6, 2024



MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

### **MARC/VRE Cross-Honoring**









- New collaborative agreement between MARC and VRE
- MARC passengers with a weekly, monthly, and 10-trip ticket can now transfer to VRE at no additional cost, and vice versa
- Held announcement event at Union Station in DC on August 8
- Significant step for regional connectivity

# **Transit Royale**

- Providing all riders free • access to Transit Royale, the premium service available in Transit app
  - Access to upcoming departures, route maps, and real-time vehicle tracking for all transit lines, not just the closest ones
- Customized themes and in-• app personalization
  - "Gamification" of transit experience through route leaderboards etc.
- Positive response from riders •





App icon Accent color



<mark>មា មា មា មា មា</mark> មេ មេ មេ មេ

VANCOUVER TRANSLINK



#### **Bus Maintenance Apprenticeship**

- Partnership with Community College of Baltimore County and ATU Local 1300
- Curriculum will span three years with a graduation for the inaugural class in 2027
- Applications accepted through August 30
  - 10 candidates will be selected



#### **Youth Transit Council**

#### You Take Charge!

Share your voice, experience and knowledge with the Youth Transit Council – a unique opportunity to learn more about public transportation and have an impact on your future transit experience.





\*Eligibility limited to those 14-18 years old who live in a neighborhood served by MTA Local Bus, Light Rail or Metro Subway, and who complete a short, online application.

- Forum for 14-18-year-olds in the Baltimore region to offer suggestions and explore career opportunities in the public transit industry
- Applications for next cohort open through September 20
- Input and feedback on development of Rider Code of Conduct this Fall

# **Red Line Internship Program**

- Six-week paid opportunity for high school students along east-west corridor
  - Relaunched this year
  - Specialized mentoring, community outreach activities, and field visits
- Graduation ceremony on August 1
- Program expansion in 2025
- Thank you to BRTC for Red Line TOD Grant letter of support!



#### **Core Bus Updates**



Photo credit: Baltimore Banner

- Fall Service Change went into effect on August 25
  - QuickLink 40 now permanent
  - LocalLink 73 service to Wagner's Point
  - Improved Light rail connections via LocalLink 85
- Annual bus purchase approved by the Board of Public Works on July 17
- Notable decreases in cut service
  - July 2024 was multi-year low of 2.4%, down from
    8.5% in July 2023 and over 12% in early 2024

# **Light Rail Updates**

- CBD trackwork completed in August
  - Track condition improvements
  - Shuttle service provided between six Downtown stations
- Reduced speed restrictions systemwide
- Prioritizing vehicle availability
  - Supplementing with express shuttles for Orioles/Ravens



#### Thanks to the MTA

I know the MTA is in the doghouse for the condition of the light rail, but I would like to give them a big shout out for how they handled this Saturday with the Orioles and Ravens games. They had multiple express bus shuttles at the North Linthicum and Cromwell stations to help. After the games they also had the busses running to help lighten the ligh rail load. Much appreciated by the riders. Thanks!.





...





#### **Metro Updates**



- Railcar replacement
  - Upcoming weekend shutdowns for testing
    - First weekend scheduled for Oct 4-7
- Rehabilitation of Aerial Pier 2720 at West Cold Spring station
  - Platform repairs began in early August
  - 8 weeks of single tracking between West
     Cold Spring and Rogers Avenue
  - Construction accelerated to avoid conflicts with train control and signal system testing in October

## **Commissioner Facility Tours**





The @mtamaryland team was happy to host a portion of the Baltimore Regional Transit Commission for a tour of our Kirk Bus Facility and Operations Control Center. Seeing the interconnectedness of the system is critical to understanding our operations!





**Baltimore Metropolitan Council** @BaltoMetroCo

Our BRTC Commissioners toured the Kirk Bus Division and Operations Control Center this Wednesday with @mtamaryland. #BRTCNews is excited to keep advancing regional transit improvements!



# MTA Budget Update

**Baltimore Regional Transit Commission** 



MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

# FY25-30 Draft CTP Highlights

- Maintains all existing MTA operating service levels
- Retains commitment to project development process for Red Line
  - Over \$150 million investment
  - Funding increase of \$52.6 million
- Full funding for Purple Line
  - Construction more than 68% complete and first light rail vehicles have arrived
  - Revenue service in late 2027
- Continued work to advance Frederick Douglass Tunnel
  - Significant safety and reliability improvements
  - New, ADA-accessible West Baltimore MARC Station
- Continued replacement of Metro vehicles and train control system
  - Major State of Good Repair investment
- Light Rail vehicle grant matching funds added
  - Moving from Design & Engineering to Construction



## **MTA Capital Budget Overview**

#### **Total 6-Year Funds (\$ Millions)**

	FY24-29 Final	FY25-30 Draft	Change	Share of Total (FY24-29)	Share of Total (FY25-30)
Purple Line	\$985.8	\$1,225.8	\$240.0	22%	26%
Red Line	\$98.2	\$150.9	\$52.6	2%	3%
Frederick Douglass Tunnel*	\$226.8	\$302.9	\$76.1	5%	6%
Locally Operated Transit Systems	\$287.9	\$306.2	\$18.4	6%	6%
State of Good Repair/Enhancement	\$2,914.8	\$2,900.8	(\$14.0)	65%	59%
Total	\$4,513.4	\$4,886.5	\$373.1		

\*includes associated projects along the Northeast Corridor

### **MTA Capital Budget by Mode**

	FY24-29 Final	FY25-30 Draft	Change	Share of Total (FY24-29)	Share of Total (FY25-30)
Core Bus	\$965.6	\$626.7	(\$338.9)	21%	13%
Light Rail	\$284.1	\$579.5	\$295.4	6%	12%
Metro	\$568.9	\$488.2	(\$80.7)	13%	10%
MARC*	\$811.1	\$896.0	\$84.6	18%	18%
Mobility	\$65.9	\$77.6	\$11.7	1%	2%
LOTS	\$286.5	\$304.9	\$18.5	6%	6%
New Starts (RL & PL)	\$1,084.0	\$1,376.6	\$292.6	24%	28%
Agencywide	\$447.1	\$537.0	\$89.9	10%	11%

\*includes Frederick Douglass Tunnel

# **Capital Budget Performance**

- Improved budget performance in FY24:
  - ~20% increase in spending over FY23
  - Projected total year-end expenditure is over \$570M (94% of Q3 submission)
- Excluding Purple Line and LOTS, MTA spent ~\$340M in FY24
  - ~80% of non-Purple Line allocation
  - ~\$40M above previous years' average expenditures



#### MTA Expenditures by Year

**Excluding Purple Line & LOTS** 

FY21	\$283.0
FY22	\$285.9
FY23	\$300.6
FY24	\$339.3
FY25 (Draft CTP)*	\$356.6

<sup>\*</sup>SGR/Enhancement Budget

### **Hard Choices**

- MTA will be unable to meet funding levels required by the Transit Safety and Investment Act in FY25 & FY26
- Zero-Emission Bus program deferred
- Light Rail Modernization Program not fully funded
- Draft CTP defers all corridor expansion planning efforts except Red Line (including East Side Access) and Southern Maryland Rapid Transit project

### **Unfunded Needs**





<sup>17</sup> 

# **FY25 Operating Budget**

#### **MTA FY25 Appropriation by Program**

- FY25 total = \$1,188M
- Includes additional funding for Commuter Bus service and Mobility Union contract



# **Going Forward**

Build on momentum in capacity to spend
 Continued improvements on budget performance

• Advance safety-critical work

• Leverage SGR funds