



BROOKE'S BPW BRIEF



Breaking down the Board of Public Works

Meeting Date

April 17, 2024

Summary Figures

The BPW approved 71 items, representing a total State expenditure of \$697.5 million including:

- 3 items awarding \$2.8 million to prime certified small businesses.
- 1 item awarding \$844,399 to prime Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs).
- 10 items awarded with established participation goals for MBEs.
- 3 items awarding \$1.08 million to Employment Works Program providers.
- 3 items awarded with established participation goals for Veteran-owned Small Business Enterprises (VSBE).

STATE PROPERTY TAX RATE

The BPW approved a request from the Commission on State Debt that the Board of Public Works levy the property tax required for Fiscal Year 2025 as follows: 11.2 cents (\$0.112) per \$100 of the full assessed value of real property other than that of public utilities; and 28 cents (\$0.280) per \$100 of the full assessed value of real property of public utilities. The Commission on State Debt recommended, and the BPW approved, maintaining the state property tax rate at the same level as the previous 18 years.

The Commission on State Debt, chaired by Treasurer Dereck Davis, is required to convene annually to recommend to the BPW a tax rate on real and personal property to provide sufficient funds to meet debt service requirements on outstanding general obligation bonds during the next ensuing fiscal year. The bonds are used to finance capital improvements, such as schools and transportation infrastructure, throughout Maryland.

NORTH EAST CORRIDOR ACCESS AGREEMENT FOR MARC PENN LINE SERVICE

The BPW approved a request from the MD Transit Administration (MTA) to award Amtrak a \$284 million sole source contract to provide access to approximately 76 miles of railroad on the Northeast Corridor (NEC) between Perryville, MD and Washington, D.C., and use of Amtrak's Washington Terminal facility for MARC Penn Line commuter rail services. MTA is required to negotiate with Amtrak for services associated with MARC trains operating on the NEC. This relationship is sole source in nature, as Amtrak owns the NEC right-of-way.

COMPTROLLER'S WEBSITE CONTENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The BPW approved a request from the Comptroller of Maryland for a three-year contract at a cost of \$396,853 for J.R. Reingold & Associates to provide a Content Management System (CMS) platform to manage the external Agency website. Once the new CMS platform is acquired, the Agency will undertake a complete redesign of the website, which will also include the integration of a customer relationship management system.