



Maryland

Department of the Environment

Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor

Serena McIlwain, Secretary
Suzanne E. Dorsey, Deputy Secretary

August 30, 2024

Re: **Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) Francis Scott Key Bridge Rebuild**
Tidal Authorization Number: 24-WL-0757
Water Quality Certification Number: 24-WQC-0028
Tracking Number: 202461017

Public Notice Period: August 30, 2024 – October 1, 2024
Public Hearing Scheduled for: September 17, 2024
Comments will be accepted until: October 1, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (“MDE” or “the Department”) received an application from the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) to perform work associated with the Francis Scott Key Bridge rebuild within Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Anne Arundel County. In addition, a Water Quality Certification (WQC) request was submitted to the Department. A public informational hearing will be held on both.

Project Details:

The applicant has applied to construct a new bridge to replace the Francis Scott Key Bridge. The Rebuild Project will include the construction of a new bridge, which will incorporate reinforced pier foundations, pier protection islands, and dolphins in the Patapsco River to protect the piers and will tie the new bridge into the existing roadway on both sides of the river. The project location will be the same as the original bridge, following the existing centerline across the Patapsco River. The new bridge will remain within MDTA’s existing right-of-way. The bridge will consist of four 12-foot-wide lanes with two 10-foot wide outside shoulders and two 4-foot side inside shoulders. The entire bridge will be approximately 2.4 miles including approximately 1 mile over the Patapsco River. The proposed bridge will have an air draft of 230 feet over the 800-foot-wide authorized Fort McHenry Navigation Channel. The bridge towers will have a maximum height of 550 feet. The tidal impacts will be both temporary and permanent impacts resulting in approximately 554,527 square feet (12.73 acres) of impacts to tidal waters. Mitigation for impacts to the Patapsco resulting in loss of open water will be assessed.

The WQC request includes the impacts of tidal wetlands and the temporary impacts on nontidal wetlands and their buffers due to construction access and permanent impacts due to grading the modified roadway approaches to the replacement bridge. The total combined temporary and permanent impacts are 10,964 square feet of nontidal wetlands, 46,601 square feet of 25-foot nontidal wetlands buffer, and 272 linear feet of stream impacts totaling 845 square feet.

Construction impacts will occur in Dundalk, Baltimore County, MD and Hawkins Point, Baltimore City, MD.

Additional information on this project and to review the entire plans for the project can be found at the following links:

- <https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/water/WetlandsandWaterways/Pages/FrancisScottKeyBridge.aspx>
- <http://www.keybridgerebuild.com/>

In addition, a copy of the plans and supporting project information will also be housed in the following locations and will be made available upon request:

- Sollers Point Branch of the Baltimore County Public Library, 323 Sollers Point Rd. Dundalk MD 21222
- Enoch Pratt Free Library – Cherry Hill Branch, 606 Cherry Hill Rd, Baltimore, MD 21225

Hearing Details:

A public information hearing for the proposed work listed above will be held to gather information and hear testimony to assist the Department in determining a decision on an application for a Tidal Wetlands License and a request for Water Quality Certification. The scheduled hearing will include a court reporter to transcribe the comments made at the hearing and a sign language interpreter, and a Spanish interpreter will be present. Statements for or against this project may be presented orally at the hearing or in writing at the following address:

Maryland Department of the Environment
Tidal Wetlands Division – Suite 430
1800 Washington Boulevard
Baltimore Maryland, 21230
Attn: Matt Wallach.

Comments may also be provided electronically to matthew.wallach@maryland.gov.

Hearing Schedule:

Date: Tuesday, September 17, 2024
Location: Community College of Baltimore County, Dundalk Campus
Dundalk Theatre in the Lloyd College Center
Address: 7200 Sollers Point Rd, Baltimore, MD 21222
Poster Session: 4:30 PM to 5:30 PM
Hearing: 5:30 PM and end no later than 7:30 PM
Public Comment
Closing Date: October 1, 2024

Please contact Matt Wallach, matthew.wallach@maryland.gov or 410-207-0893 if you have any questions. Any correspondence should include the project number with written comments accepted until October 1, 2024. Your comments and those of other interested parties and resource agencies will be considered to determine whether to issue, modify, or deny a permit for this application but need to be submitted prior to the Oct. 1st deadline. Any further notices concerning actions on the following applications will be provided by mail or email to those persons on the interested persons list.

Sincerely,

Matthew Wallach

Matt Wallach
Tidal Wetlands Division
Maryland Department of the Environment

Enclosure: Project Location Map and Project Impact Map