

News Release

Maryland Board of Public Works Approves More Than \$1 billion for Projects Across Maryland

Contracts include funds for University of Maryland NextGen Energy Program, approval of law firms for Key Bridge litigation

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (May 15, 2024) — On Wednesday, the Board of Public Works approved more than \$1.3 billion for 89 initiatives and projects throughout Maryland.

Comptroller Brooke Lierman briefly joined Gov. Wes Moore, Treasurer Dereck Davis, and Chief Deputy Comptroller Andrew Schaufele virtually during Wednesday's Board of Public Works meeting before speaking to the University of Baltimore School of Law commencement ceremony at the SECU Arena in Towson. Schaufele participated in the remainder of the meeting as the Comptroller's designee.

During her opening remarks, Comptroller Lierman recognized the passing of former House of Delegate Carolyn Krysiak, who served Baltimore's 46th Legislative District and chaired the House Facilities Committee. The Comptroller noted that Delegate Krysiak was the first woman to serve in that district and applauded her commitment to the betterment of Southeast Baltimore. Comptroller Lierman also valued Delegate Krysiak's support during her own career in public service.

Additionally, Comptroller Lierman highlighted the University of Maryland, College Park's NextGen Energy Program agreement with Maryland Energy Impact Partner to design, build, operate, maintain, and renew the campus' primary heating, power, and cooling system. The project is expected to reduce the facility's annual carbon emissions by 23% and its annual water usage by 50%.

"The NextGen Energy Program will improve the campus's central energy plant making it a highly energy-efficient cogeneration facility," Comptroller Lierman shared. "This project will decrease energy disruptions, decrease wasted energy, increase efficiency, and reduce climate-polluting greenhouse gas emissions to meet the University's

sustainability goals to be carbon neutral by 2025 and a fossil fuel-free energy system by 2035.”

The University of Maryland, College Park qualifies for a direct payment from the federal government between \$69 million and \$79 million under the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 to reimburse construction costs for the facility.

“I really want to highlight this because it’s such an important example of how we can support reaching the state’s ambitious climate goals and how energy projects can be designed in finance to improve infrastructure, reduce carbon and water usage, provide local MBE jobs and share financial risk between agencies and the private sector.”

On May 21, 2024, the Office of the Comptroller will host a free webinar with the U.S. Treasury discussing the IRA Direct Pay Program for tax-exempt entities to support the transition to clean and renewable energy and transportation. Registration and more information can be found [here](#).

The Board of Public Works also approved a request from the Attorney General’s Office to approve contracts from five law firms to act as litigation counsel, as the state continues to recover from the Key Bridge Collapse and the economic impact for the Port of Baltimore.

To date, the Comptroller’s Office has processed 6,624 payments providing more than \$22 million in relief to more than 2,000 different businesses and workers. The agency has worked closely with the Department of Labor through its Worker Retention and Worker Support Programs and the Business Assistance Program in the Department of Commerce.

The agency’s Compliance Division has waived late payment penalties and interest for business taxes, as well as International Fuel Tax Agreement licensing and decal requirements for motor carriers hauling freight to or from seaports through May 31, 2024. The Comptroller’s Office also granted a waiver of penalties for this filing period.

Other items approved by the board include:

- Grant agreements for 11 recipients for 13 projects located in 5 counties and Baltimore City with a total value of \$9,754,098.
- 9 items awarding \$26,286,548.96 to prime certified small business primes.
- 4 items awarding \$17,153,801.56 to certified minority business enterprise primes.
- 1 item awarding \$2,978,505.05 to Employment Works Program providers.

- 13 items awarded with established participation goals for minority business enterprises.
- 1 item awarded with established participation goals for veteran-owned small business enterprises.

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