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FRANCIS SCOTT KEY BRIDGE REBUILD MOVES AHEAD WITH FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVAL, NEW RFP FOR ENGINEERING CONSULTANT

Key Bridge Rebuild NEPA process concludes with approval of a Categorical Exclusion

BALTIMORE, MD (July 23, 2024) – The Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) and the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (SHA) today received key federal environmental approvals for the reconstruction of the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has issued a Categorical Exclusion (CE) classification and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) approval for the I-695 Francis Scott Key Bridge Rebuild Project.

The federal agency determined that because the replacement Key Bridge will be within the former bridge’s right-of-way and have the same capacity of four travel lanes, it is not anticipated to significantly impact community, natural or cultural resources. The approval document can be viewed [here](#).

“Securing this approval marks a major milestone in rebuilding the Key Bridge and reconnecting communities following the March 26 catastrophic collapse,” said Maryland Transportation Secretary and MDTA Chairman Paul J. Wiedefeld. “This approval from the federal government formally gives MDTA the go ahead to move forward with plans to rebuild the Key Bridge. Through Governor Wes Moore’s leadership and with close, continual coordination, the MDTA, SHA and FHWA secured input from other state and federal partners to reach this critical step.”

The project will have substantial positive transportation and socioeconomic impacts by restoring a critical link in the interstate system. Specifically, the Rebuild Project:

- will not induce significant impacts to planned growth or land use for the area;
- will not cause any relocations of people or businesses;
- will have no effect on travel patterns from pre-collapse conditions; and
- will not impact historic or park and recreational resources.

As MDTA continues to work to implement this project as quickly as possible, the authority released a Request for Proposals (RFP) on Friday, July 19, inviting consultant teams to submit proposals for the \$75 million General Engineering Consultant contract as part of the Francis Scott Key Bridge Rebuild. Interested bidders can access the Request for Proposals at eMaryland [Marketplace Advantage](#), commonly known as eMMA. The General Engineering Consultant proposals are due Monday, August 19. MDTA expects to award the contract in February 2025. This contract will have a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise goal of 31.5%.

The consultant will serve as MDTA's engineering representative and provide a range of support services such as risk management/analyses; establishing, reviewing, tracking and monitoring cost and schedules; managing project documentation; liaising with environmental regulators; and overseeing Disadvantage Business Enterprise compliance, among other services. The chosen General Engineering Consultant will also manage the Progressive Design-Builder, which will be selected by the MDTA later this summer, by auditing the Progressive Design-Builder's processes, reviewing submittals and confirming the design criteria is met.

The MDTA will host a pre-proposal conference Friday, July 26, at 2 p.m. via Microsoft Teams. The link is provided in the solicitation posted on eMMA.

As planning and design advances, MDTA will further engage the community on the future of the bridge. For more details on the rebuild efforts and where to find our team at upcoming community events, visit KeyBridgeRebuild.com.

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