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**MDTA BOARD APPROVES PROGRESSIVE DESIGN-BUILD CONTRACT
FOR FRANCIS SCOTT KEY BRIDGE REBUILD**

Board also approved to keep I-695 Exit 44 turnaround toll-free temporarily until the Rebuild is completed

BALTIMORE, MD (August 29, 2024) – The Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) Board today approved a \$73 million contract (Phase 1) that awards Kiewit Infrastructure Co. as the Progressive Design-Builder that will undertake the complete design and construction of the I-695 Francis Scott Key Bridge replacement. Proposals were evaluated by the MDTA selection committee, and the contract was awarded to the proposal deemed most advantageous to the State. The rebuild project is slated to begin in 2025 and the replacement bridge is expected to open in Fall 2028.

For this critical project, the MDTA is using a Progressive Design-Build process, which brings on board a project delivery team under one entity and a single contract to provide both design and construction services. The MDTA will work to foster collaboration among the project team, local communities and stakeholders, ensuring open communication and inclusive partnership opportunities, particularly for small and disadvantaged businesses. The project scope of work and accelerated timeline will require a substantial amount of skilled labor to complete the construction expeditiously, safely and reliably.

The two-phase Progressive Design-Build process emphasizes cooperation and flexibility to adapt to emerging needs and changes. The process involves a single contract that unites MDTA with Kiewit, which includes contractor and designer roles. Kiewit was procured as a qualified team for initial services to develop the project scope and requirements in collaboration with MDTA and project stakeholders. Upon successful completion of Phase 1, Kiewit will have exclusive negotiating rights for Phase 2, which includes project final design/engineering and construction. In the event a guaranteed maximum price is not agreed upon, the MDTA will deliver the work under a separate contracting mechanism.

The MDTA Board also approved the temporary suspension of toll collection on I-695/Exit 44 turnaround until the completion of the rebuild project. The MDTA began this pilot program in May to mitigate the effect on local traffic while providing truck and commercial vehicles with direct and easy access to the Port of Baltimore, ensuring minimal disruption to surrounding communities and traffic. The MDTA is dedicated to creating a safer, more efficient transportation environment for all users, and recognizes this initiative will benefit customers. In July, the Federal Highway Administration issued a Categorical Exclusion classification and National Environmental Policy Act approval for the I-695 Francis Scott Key Bridge Rebuild Project. The federal agency determined that because the replacement 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](#).

The MDTA released a Request for Proposals (RFP) in July for the General Engineering Consultant, who will serve as MDTA's engineering representative for the Rebuild. The MDTA expects to award the \$75 million contract in January 2025.

As design advances, the MDTA will continue to engage with Marylanders on the future of the bridge. The MDTA would like to thank all of the teams who offered their services during the contract proposal process.

Visit KeyBridgeRebuild.com for more information.

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