

EDITION 3

# KEYnected

CONNECTING YOU TO  
THE KEY BRIDGE REBUILD



**KEY**  
**BRIDGE REBUILD**  
RECONNECT • REVITALIZE • REIMAGINE

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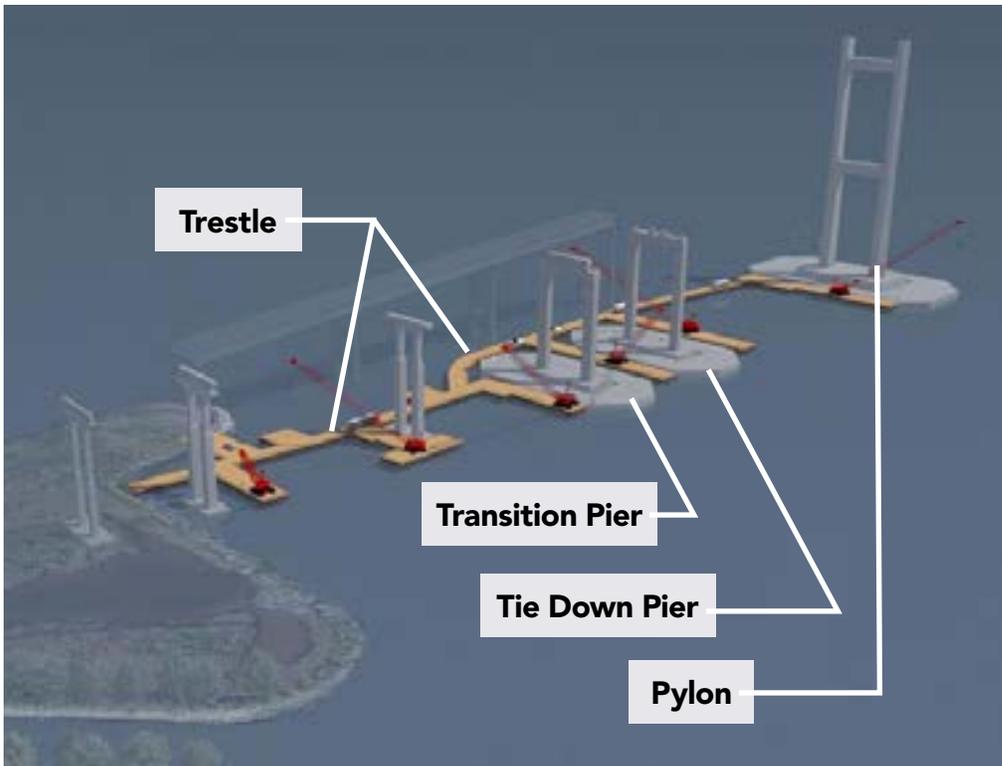
FEBRUARY 5, 2026 // ED. 03

The Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) is rebuilding the Francis Scott Key Bridge to reconnect the I-695 Baltimore Beltway and restore a vital transportation link. The rebuild project is rooted in the needs of local communities—supporting daily life, strengthening connections, supporting the movement of people and goods across the country, and ensuring a modern bridge that will serve Marylanders for generations to come.



## Advancing the Rebuild

- ▲ *The jacking system consists of nine hydraulic jacks, plus one backup, arranged around the test pile in a 9-foot diameter configuration.*



*Rendering of temporary construction trestle and bridge piers.* ▲

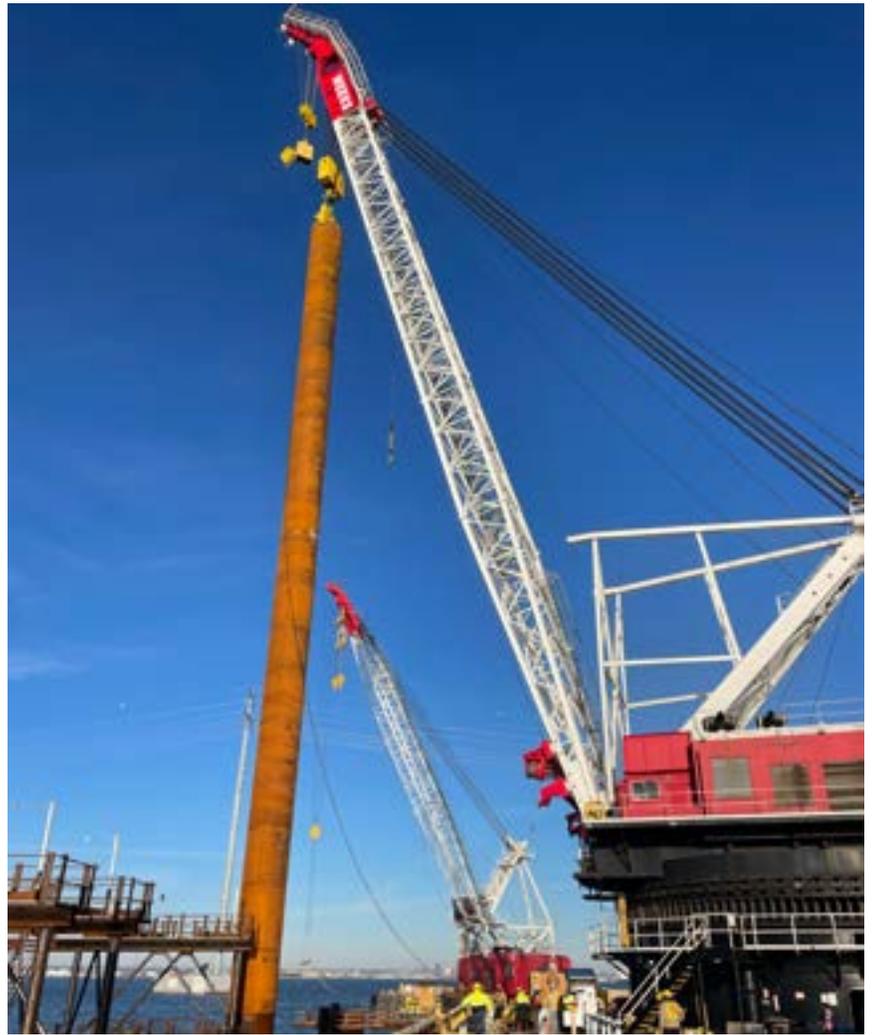
The Key Bridge Rebuild project continues to make significant progress! In December and January the test pile Program marked a huge achievement for being successful at one of the main span piers just south of the navigation channel. The crew placed the load frame and jacking system on the piles to simulate the forces the piles will experience once the bridge is constructed on top of them. The vertical load and the subsequent horizontal load tests were both successful and validated the strength and performance of the foundation and marked an important step forward in construction. Next month the team will perform the same tests on the other main span pier just north of the navigation channel.

Meanwhile, more production piles arrived in Baltimore. The team drove the first official production

pile in December; this milestone marks the beginning of the main span construction.

Concurrently the team is beginning the construction of two temporary trestle structures which will be constructed to provide over-water access and support key activities such as crane operations, pile driving, and material transport. These trestles will allow crews to safely reach work areas without relying solely on marine vessels or disturbing sensitive shoreline environments. Commonly used on large marine and bridge projects, trestles help reduce construction risks and costs while minimizing environmental impacts. One trestle will extend from the south approach at Hawkins Point, and the other from the north at Sollers Point, each extending to the future main span pylon location.

Demolition work on the existing bridge structures continues. On land, the team has removed all steel girder spans on both the north and south sides of the bridge. Crews have demolished all of the land side concrete columns on both the north and south sides of the bridge as well. The demolition teams are using a large excavator equipped with an extended boom and mechanical demolition hammer. ■



▲ Crews placing the first production pile at the future main span.

▼ Large excavator demolishing a concrete column.



# KEYping it Reel

## **2025 Year in Review: A Year of Progress and Milestones**

This past year was packed with incredible progress. Pre-construction activities kicked off in January, laying the groundwork for a strong foundation. In February, Governor Wes Moore unveiled the design for Maryland's first cable-stayed bridge—a historic moment for the state.

By spring, the team began fabricating steel piles for the test pile program, and in July, mechanical demolition of the existing bridge structure commenced. September saw the arrival of large equipment and six steel test piles, followed by the first test pile being driven in October.

November marked two major achievements: all 12 test piles at the future main span piers were successfully driven, and the team reached 70% design completion. By December, demolition crews had removed all steel girders from the existing bridge and started dismantling the concrete columns.

Allison Persing from the MDTA is bringing the Key Bridge Rebuild project to life on the Patapsco River with on-site video updates. Watch her latest video to learn about the progress made in 2025. ■



<https://qrco.de/bgZY1l>



# Faces of the Rebuild

Meet **Matt Lupton**, a dedicated equipment operator with more than twenty years of hands-on experience working with a wide range of heavy equipment. He currently serves as an equipment operator for Sessler Wrecking for the Key Bridge Rebuild project, where his expertise, attention to safety, and deep knowledge of heavy equipment play a critical role in ensuring the efficient and precise demolition of the existing bridge structures.

**Q: What is your previous experience?**

I have over 20 years of experience operating equipment in the field doing everything from dirt work, road work, building, demo, and environmental work. My wife and I are small businesses owners (The Green Parrot Tavern located in Essex, Maryland), and giving back to the community is very important to us.

**Q: What is your role on the Key Bridge Rebuild Project?**

I was hired to help with the demolition, where I run the excavator, dozer, loader, and other equipment needed to safely demolish and process the remaining sections of the bridge.

**Q: What do you like most about your job?**

I like being able to give back to the community where I live and I am honored to be part of this historic project.

**Q: What does it mean to you to work on this project as a local to the community?**

Some of my earliest memories include traveling across the Key Bridge on the way to the ocean with my family. As a local business owner, I pride myself on being able to give back to my community, which is why being on this project means a lot to me.

Thank you, Matt, for your leadership, dedication, and the positive impact you continue to make on Maryland's transportation future! ■



# By the Numbers: Mechanical Demolition

**70,000+**  
Linear Feet



of concrete sawcuts

*That's 13.3 miles — more than half a marathon of precision cutting across 31 deck spans.*

**24,000+**  
Cubic Yards



of bridge concrete removed & processed

*That's enough concrete to fill more than 2,400 concrete trucks. This massive amount of material has been cleared to make room for what comes next*

**10,000+**  
Cubic Yards



of piers demolished

*That's roughly the volume of concrete needed to build five- to six-story parking garage floors.*

**175**



girders removed & processed

# Community Spotlight



## Mindful You Yoga & Wellness Co-op

1705 Poplar Place, Dundalk, MD

(410) 656-9331

[www.mindfullyouyoga.com](http://www.mindfullyouyoga.com)

Visit the website to learn more about the class schedule, workshops, events, and wellness services

Watch Allison Persing's behind the scenes interview with Crystal and Jen to learn more!

Opened in Dundalk in 2018, Mindful You Yoga & Wellness Co-op is dedicated to creating a safe and welcoming space where individuals of all fitness levels can explore a wide range of wellness offerings. From Restorative Yoga to Energy Medicine Yoga, along with workshops and wellness services, Mindful You Yoga & Wellness Co-op focuses on deepening the connection between mind, body, and spirit and promote health and healing.

Co-owned by three women including Crystal Harmoenius and Jen Wallace, the space was created with the goal of serving their local community. They also showcase a local art boutique and even fresh produce during certain months, creating a welcoming environment for their community.

Are you a small business, retail store, or restaurant near the Key Bridge Rebuild and want to be featured in a future spotlight? Contact us through [KeyBridgeRebuild.com](http://KeyBridgeRebuild.com) !

# In the Community

## Virtual Community Update: December 16, 2025

On December 16, the MDTA hosted a Virtual Community Update from 6:30–7:30 PM. Attendees heard from Baltimore County Executive Katherine A. Klausmeier and Anne Arundel County Executive Steuart Pittman, along with the Key Bridge Rebuild Team, who shared updates on the project timeline, cost and schedule, traffic, key milestones, and what to expect next. MDOT Assistant Secretary Joe McAndrew also joined to discuss commuter resources. The session concluded with a Q&A.

To watch the full recording and read the Q&A, visit [KeyBridgeRebuild.com](https://www.mdt.com/KeyBridgeRebuild.com)

<https://qrco.de/bgZY5I>

### Top Questions and Answers

**Question: Why not just fix the parts of the bridge that were damaged and reuse the existing piers?**

**Answer:** The MDTA evaluated the reuse of the former bridge at the onset of the project. It was not possible to reuse the piers in the new bridge construction because the taller, longer, and wider bridge adds weight that could not be accommodated by the existing piers.

**Question: Will there be pier protection for the new bridge?**

**Answer:** Yes, the bridge will have pier protection structures that meet the latest American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) specifications. The bridge will have pier protection around six piers with protection for the two main pylons each larger a football field.

**Question: If demolition of the existing bridge on land is complete, why are there still piers in the water?**

**Answer:** There are still three bridge spans in the water on both the north and south sides of the Patapsco. These remaining piers do not interfere with construction, because the new bridge is being built on a new alignment approximately 260 feet east of the existing structure. Crews will remove the in-water piers once the large construction equipment needed for that work arrives on site. Using that equipment for both new construction and demolition allows the team to handle the remaining spans more efficiently and cost-effectively.

### Want to know where we will pop-up next?

View our [Events Calendar](#) or [Sign up for updates](#) to find out where the Key Bridge Rebuild team will be next and when public meetings will be held. The calendar is continuously updated as more events are added.

### Do you want to hear from the MDTA at your next community event or meeting?

Members from the Key Bridge Rebuild Team are available to attend upon request—fill out the [contact form](#) to learn more information.

# Bridging the Facts

Have questions about how the new Key Bridge is being built? You're not alone! Bridging the Facts is a Facebook series that takes you behind the scenes of the Key Bridge Rebuild Project—answering common public questions and explaining key aspects of bridge design, construction, and safety in a clear, visual format.

Each post highlights an important part of the rebuild, from major design features to innovative construction methods and environmental protection measures. ■



## Bridging the Facts



### What's a Flotilla?

If you've seen the barges on the Patapsco River, you've spotted the flotilla! In marine construction, a flotilla is a group of barges secured together and pushed by a tugboat. This equipment works as a team to help rebuild the Key Bridge.



## Bridging the Facts



### Custom Built for the Key Bridge Rebuild

The Weeks 2220 Tripping Barge works in tandem with the Weeks 533 to allow for the piles to be safely lifted into an upright position before driving.



## Bridging the Facts



### Meet the East Coast Giant

The Weeks 533 Crane Barge is the largest fully rotating crane on the East Coast - about the size of an NFL football field with a lifting capacity of 500 tons!



## Bridging the Facts



### Two-Pile Template

The pile template allows the piles a safe and secure home as they are lofted and moved into position before driving. The dual platforms lock in place to keep the piles in their precise location while driving.



# Working Together

The MDTA and Kiewit Infrastructure Co. continue to work side-by-side in a shared project office, fostering seamless collaboration and real-time decision-making. This close coordination is further strengthened by the project's progressive design-build approach, which allows design and construction efforts to advance simultaneously streamlining the workflow and keeping the project moving efficiently. In addition to this daily partnership, the MDTA is also working closely with federal partners at the Federal Highway Administration, ensuring alignment, transparency, and support throughout every phase of the project. ■

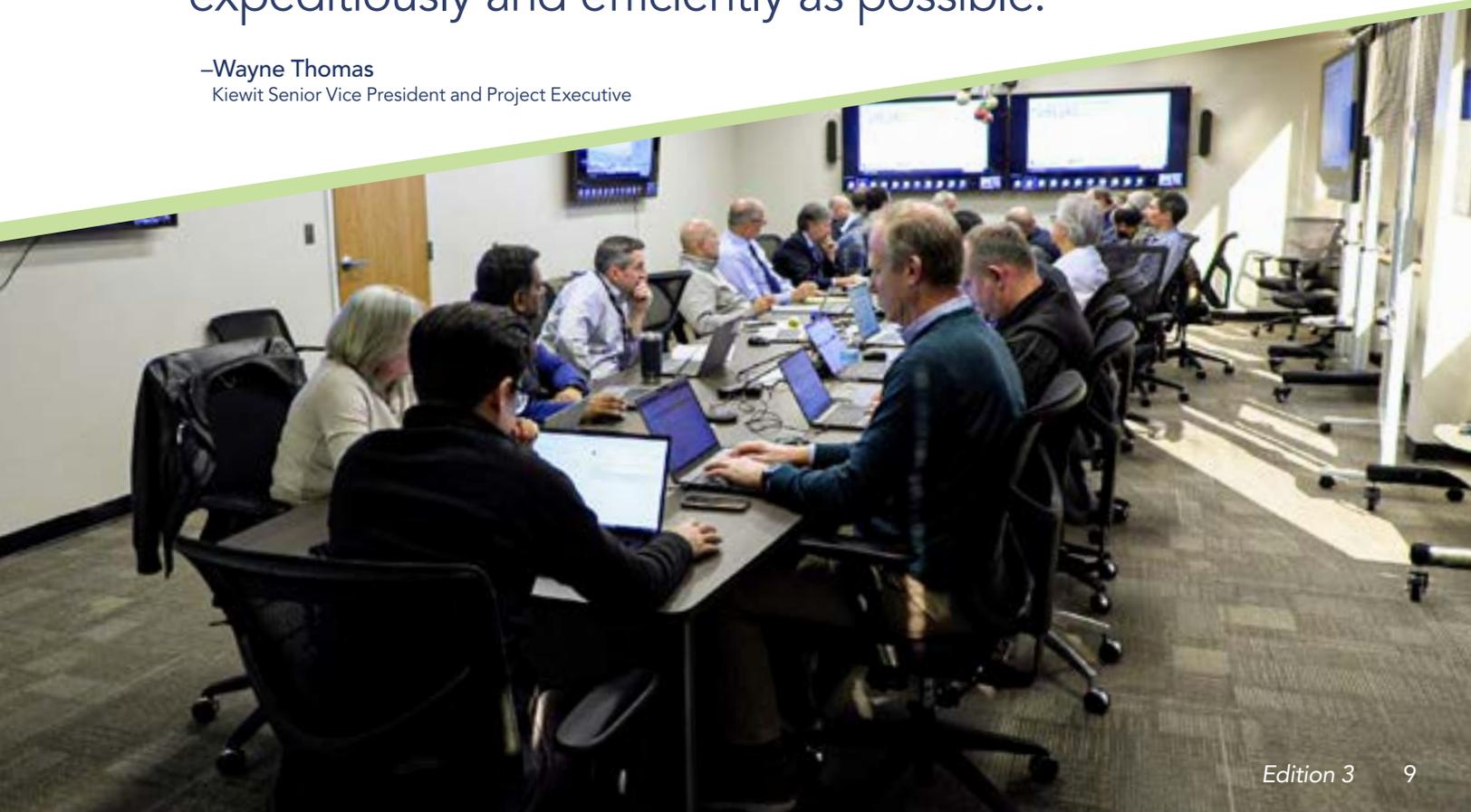
Watch Allison Persing's video for a behind-the-scenes look at the project office and to learn more about the collaboration!



<https://qrco.de/bgZY80>

“It's very critical infrastructure here for the region, so we want to advance the job as most expeditiously and efficiently as possible.”

–Wayne Thomas  
Kiewit Senior Vice President and Project Executive





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## Stay Connected

The MDTA is committed to keeping local communities and stakeholders informed every step of the way. Go to our website to join the mailing list and subscribe to text alerts for project updates and events.



**WEBSITE**  
[KeyBridgeRebuild.com](http://KeyBridgeRebuild.com)



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