

EDITION 5

# KEYnected

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THE KEY BRIDGE REBUILD



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JULY 15, 2026 // ED. 05

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—enhancing daily life, strengthening connections, facilitating the movement of people and goods across the country, and ensuring a modern bridge that will serve Marylanders for generations to come.

## A Message from MDTA Executive Director Bruce Gartner



Since the beginning, from recovery and clean up to our first procurement with the progressive design-build process, the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) has been and will continue to be transparent to keep our stakeholders, customers, and communities informed every step of the way. The Key Bridge Rebuild project is highly visible, and transparency is non-negotiable.

There have been a lot of big changes recently, starting in April with the announcement that Kiewit would not be retained for the construction phase of the project. Off-ramping was always a provision available to use when a final price cannot be agreed upon. As stewards of public dollars, the MDTA is taking a fiscally responsible step by returning to the market to seek other contractors for the project.

The MDTA is splitting the procurements into multiple contracts, allowing for greater competition, expanding opportunities, and expediting the award of new contracts.

### The four planned contracts include:

- demolition of the remaining structures over water and miscellaneous marine work;
- construction of the south land approach;
- construction of the north land approach; and
- construction of the main span, pier protection, and marine approaches.

Work will not stop on the project, and progress will continue as Kiewit fulfills their contractual obligation for Phase 1 through the end of this year, such as driving foundation pile and building a temporary trestle.

The MDTA will continue to work to ensure the Key Bridge is rebuilt as quickly, safely, and cost-effectively as possible.

For more information on the industry forums, [see page 5](#).

## Advancing the Rebuild

The project team continues to make strong progress driving permanent foundation piles at the main span piers near the federal navigation channel. To support full pile-driving operations, additional equipment has arrived on site.

A second impact hammer has arrived, allowing the crew to drive production piles in two locations at once. The Weeks 531 crane barge, with a boom exceeding 200 feet tall, has also arrived on site. The crane will be used to lift steel piles into position and handle the hammers used to drive them. To help expedite the pile-driving process, crews have constructed a larger steel pile-driving template than the original 2-pile floating template. This structure measures 120 feet long and 30 feet tall and allows crews to place, vibrate, and impact up to seven permanent piles at once. This 7-pile template sits on temporary piles, as opposed to the original floating template, which holds the piles in precise alignment, improving efficiency while maintaining a high level of accuracy and control. To date, more than 70 steel piles have been driven, up to 230 feet long and 8 feet in diameter.

Crews are also making rapid progress on the temporary construction trestle, having driven more than 160 piles. Crane mats are now being placed, allowing crews and equipment to begin accessing and working directly from the trestle. ■



▲ Pile driving template.



▲ Trestle construction on the north side.

# KEYping it Reel

## Temporary Construction Trestle



The temporary construction trestle began with crews procuring materials in August 2025, followed by delivering and welding steel piles together at the construction staging area. In January 2026, crews started building the trestle, which will be constructed using thousands of tons of American—sourced steel and lumber. Work is currently focused on driving piles measuring 2 and 3 feet in diameter and up to 160 feet long. The trestle will continue to be built on both the north and south sides of the bridge and will extend to the pylon.

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 see and hear from Jake Grier, superintendent for the south trestle construction. ■



Surveyors on land use precision instruments to measure elevations, distances, and angles, helping to determine the exact locations where the crane will place the steel piles. ▲

# Bridging the Facts

## Temporary Construction Trestle

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 questions from the public and breaking down key topics about bridge design, construction, and safety in a clear, visual way.

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

Follow along on Facebook @KeyBridgeRebuild to see the latest **Bridging the Facts** posts and learn more about how the new Key Bridge is taking shape.



# Faces of the Rebuild



Meet **Leyla Lange**, a dedicated environmental scientist with more than 25 years of hands-on experience working in the environmental field. She currently serves as the **Environmental Manager** for JMT as part of the General Engineering Consultant Team for MDTA's Key Bridge Rebuild project. Leyla's expertise, attention to detail and deep knowledge of regulations play a critical role in ensuring the project is moving forward with all necessary permits and authorizations in hand.

**Q: What is experience with large infrastructure projects?**

For over 25 years, I have been involved with permitting large transportation projects, most of which have been in Maryland, DC and Virginia. Most recently, I served as the environmental manager for the MDTA's Nice Middleton Bridge Project over the tidal Potomac River, which included many of the same challenges as the Key Bridge Rebuild Project.

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

I am responsible for ensuring that all permits and authorizations are obtained, collaborating with local, state, and federal agencies as the project evolves, tracking the status of environmental commitments made throughout the NEPA process, and ensuring appropriate mitigation is provided for unavoidable impacts to regulated resources. In addition, I continuously collaborate with the Design-Build Contractor with respect to design elements and the proposed means and methods for construction to ensure that avoidance and minimization of impacts is taken into consideration throughout design and construction.

▲ *Leyla Lange, environmental manager*

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

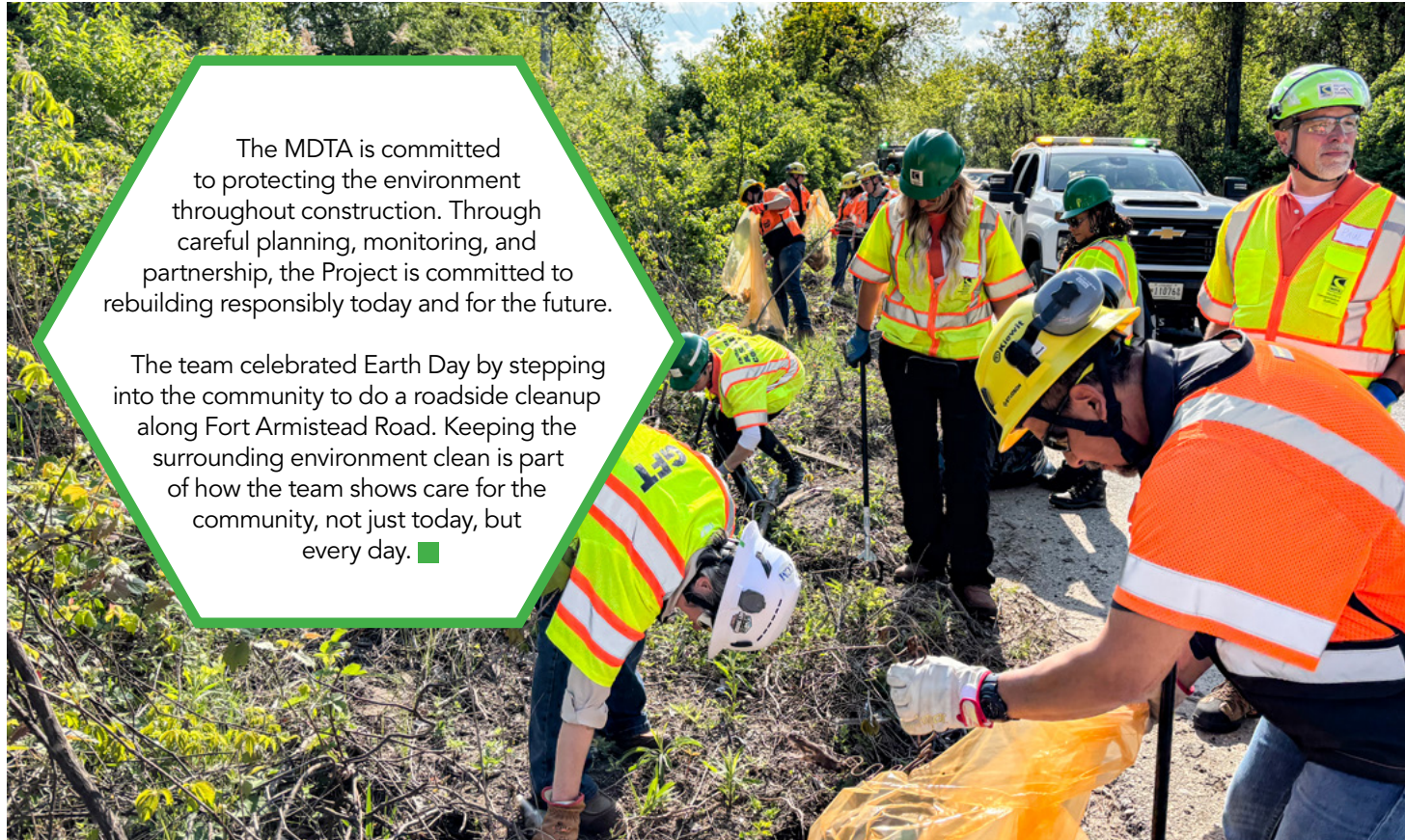
I love puzzles, and I approach large projects such as this as big puzzles. Projects like this are fast-moving and have a lot of factors that need to be taken into consideration. Collaboration with owners, engineers, and contractors throughout design and construction to minimize environmental impacts while still achieving the goals of the project is the key to success. While this is one of the more challenging puzzles I've worked on, I'm confident that all the pieces will come together nicely!

**Q: What would you want someone outside the project to know about the environmental work being done on the project?**

Permitting and compliance with state and federal environmental regulations is a huge factor for this project, and a tremendous amount of work has been performed to date just to get us where we are. Over 20 state and federal regulatory entities have jurisdiction over portions of the project. Agency coordination was initiated immediately, has been non-stop, and will continue throughout the life of the Project.

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

# Environmental Stewardship



The MDTA is committed to protecting the environment throughout construction. Through careful planning, monitoring, and partnership, the Project is committed to rebuilding responsibly today and for the future.

The team celebrated Earth Day by stepping into the community to do a roadside cleanup along Fort Armistead Road. Keeping the surrounding environment clean is part of how the team shows care for the community, not just today, but every day. ■

# Industry Opportunities

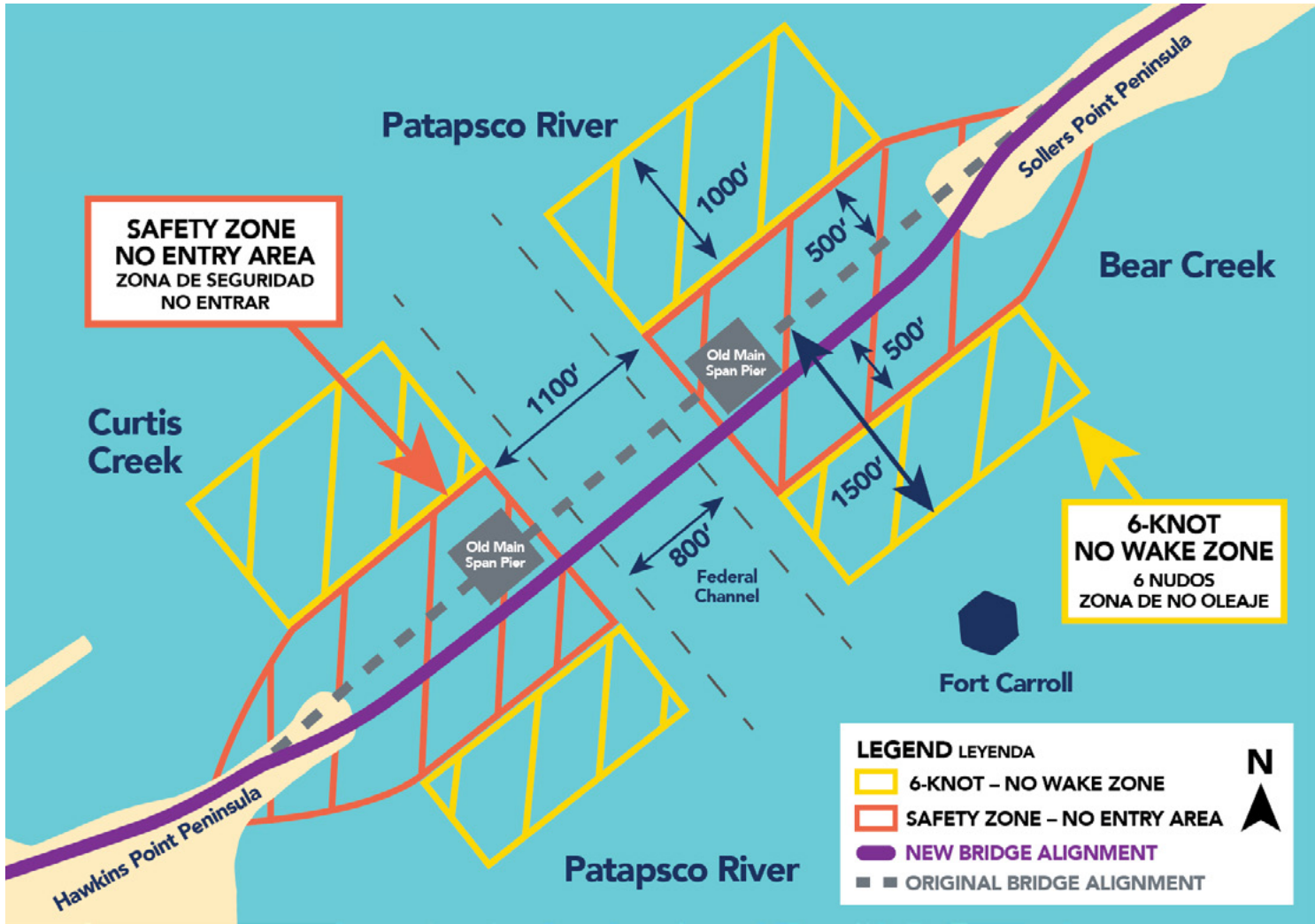
In May and June 2026, the MDTA hosted two industry forums to engage the contracting community and share key updates on the Francis Scott Key Bridge Rebuild procurement strategy. Together, the forums served to inform industry partners, encourage participation, and promote transparency as the MDTA advances the rebuild effort.

On May 19, 2026, the MDTA held a virtual industry forum that drew approximately 1,000 attendees, with over 200 questions submitted. The forum provided an overview of the anticipated contracting approach, including details on dividing the work across four contracts, and a live Q&A session.

On June 18, 2026, the MDTA held an in-person industry Forum for main span and marine approaches procurement. The event brought together more than 100 attendees, including prime contractors, joint venture teams, marine construction firms, specialty subcontractors, major suppliers, and professional service firms with experience in major bridge, marine, and heavy civil infrastructure projects. The forum provided anticipated procurement approach, including the proposed scope, schedule and contracting considerations for the Main Span & Marine Approaches contract.

To access to presentation recording and materials, visit: [keybridgerebuild.com/opportunities](https://keybridgerebuild.com/opportunities)

# Smooth Waters Initiative



The MDTA is continuing the Smooth Waters Initiative, a public safety campaign designed to protect boaters, marine workers, and construction personnel during the rebuilding of the Key Bridge on the Patapsco River. The initiative began in July 2025 and will continue for the duration of the project.

### Safety Guidelines:

- **Obey Safety Zones and No Entry Areas:** Follow all Safety Zone-No Entry Areas marked as restricted areas
- **Federal Navigation Channel Remains Open:** Please take precautions with larger ships.
- **Slow Down Near Construction Zones:** Maintain speeds of 6-knots or less to minimize wake when transiting adjacent to construction equipment and listen for important communication from project vessels via VHF FM marine radio channels 16 and/or 13.
- **Stay Informed:** Check the USCG District 5 Local Notice to Mariners for real-time updates and navigation alerts. ■



Find the Smooth Waters Initiative stakeholder toolkit at [KeyBridgeRebuild.com](https://KeyBridgeRebuild.com)

# In the Community

The Key Bridge Rebuild team participated in the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) Baltimore Post “Easy as Pi” STEM event, engaging more than 100 seventh and eighth grade students from Baltimore City, Anne Arundel and Baltimore counties. The session included information on construction and an introduction to the wide range of careers involved in the project. The presentation concluded with an interactive, hands-on demonstration where a volunteer student tried on personal protective equipment used when on site, followed by a pile driving and bubble curtain demonstration.

During Read Across America Week, the Key Bridge Rebuild team connected with local elementary schools near the project area to inspire young learners and support literacy. Team members visited kindergarten classrooms to read *I Want to Be an Engineer*, dressed in personal protective equipment to spark excitement about engineering and STEM careers. In addition, the team hosted a book drive that collected more than 600 books, which were donated to the participating schools to support students and teachers in the community. ■



▲ The team reading to students at Norwood Elementary.



▲ The team put together packages of books to be delivered to the schools.



▲ The team delivering books to Brooklyn Park Elementary School.

### 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.

# Community Spotlight

## Turner Station Conservation Teams, Pantry-On-The-Go



Formed in the fall of 2001, the Turner Station Conservation Teams is guided by a mission to honor its proud past, engage residents of all ages, expand resources, and advocate for the best interests of Turner Station. The organization envisions a strong and vibrant community where all generations work together to ensure every neighbor can thrive.

The MDTA and the Key Bridge Rebuild team are proud to support the Turner Station Conservation Teams and their impactful work, including the Pantry-On-The-Go program. Serving Dundalk and the greater Baltimore area, Pantry-On-The-Go uses grant funding to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to neighbors in need, helping ensure greater access to nutritious, healthy foods. Monthly distribution days draw large crowds and reflect the strong community support behind the effort. Volunteers are essential to the program's success, and the team continues to welcome new helpers who want to make a meaningful difference in the 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](https://www.keybridgerebuild.com)!

▲ Team members and volunteers from the MDTA and the Turner Station Conservation Teams packing bags of food for distribution.

Watch Allison Persing's behind the scenes to learn more!

# By the Numbers

## Temporary Construction Trestle

These materials come together to form the main line of the temporary construction trestle, designed to provide strength and stability needed to support safe construction activities.

### Piles



270+  
pcs.

### Pile Bonnets



270+  
pcs.



150+  
pcs.



### Cap Beams

500+  
pcs.



### Stringer Packs

1,400+  
pcs.



### Crane Mats



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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**  
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