



Wes Moore  
Governor  
Aruna Miller  
Lieutenant Governor  
Kathryn Thomson  
Acting Secretary

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**J00H01 Maryland Department of Transportation  
Maryland Transit Administration  
Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget  
Response to Department of Legislative Services Analysis**

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
Public Safety, Transportation, and Environment Subcommittee  
Chair Shelly Hettleman  
February 19, 2026

House Appropriations Committee  
Transportation and the Environment Subcommittee  
Chair Courtney Watson  
February 23, 2026

**J00H01 MDOT – Maryland Transit Administration  
Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget  
Response to Department of Legislative Services Analysis**

***DLS Budget Analysis***

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**1. Status of Legislative Additions (Page 13)**

*MTA should provide an update on the status of Maryland Senior Rides and Neighborhood Rides grant agreements and distribution of funds to these grantees*

**MDOT Response:**

All FY 2026 Senior Ride grant agreements have been signed by MTA and distributed to recipients for their final execution; execution status varies among recipients. Once grant agreements are fully executed, recipients may submit eligible expenses for reimbursement.

**J00H01 MDOT – Maryland Transit Administration**  
**Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget**  
**Response to Department of Legislative Services Analysis**

***DLS Budget Analysis Issues***

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**1. Red Line Transit Project (Page 31)**

*MDOT should comment on the planned uses of capital funding budgeted for the Red Line project in fiscal 2027 in light of the pause in advancement of the federal NEPA process. DLS recommends committee narrative requesting that MTA provide a report on the Red Line project that includes the current project timeline and next steps, including the status of planning and design activities while the federal NEPA process remains paused and the project's future funding needs and projected sources of funding.*

**MDOT Response:**

The Red Line FY 2027 budget focuses on answering key questions about the project's scope to identify the project's concept design (or “preferred alternative”) that will advance through the Federal Transit Administration’s (FTA) Capital Investment Grants (CIG) program. This work includes planning, preliminary engineering, traffic analysis, field investigations, community engagement and administrative support to the program. This positions the Red Line for future CIG funding eligibility, as well as final engineering and construction.

The NEPA pause is administrative in nature and has not affected this ongoing technical work to determine the preferred alternative. Rather, the duration of this pause is coordinated with FTA to enable a thorough assessment of the current scoping questions and then establish a corresponding NEPA timeline that incorporates this work.

The Department concurs with providing a report outlining the project's timeline, next steps, and projected funding needs and sources.

**J00H01 MDOT – Maryland Transit Administration  
Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget  
Response to Department of Legislative Services Analysis**

***Operating Budget Recommended Actions***

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- 1. Delete funding for 5 new apprenticeship positions; the agency should reclassify existing vacant positions instead. (Page 38)**

**MDOT Response:**

The Department respectfully does not concur with the proposed deletion of five new apprenticeship positions. The Bus Maintenance Apprenticeship Program requires dedicated training PINs to assure trainees' focus fully on learning the technical skills needed to excel as bus mechanics. Bus mechanics are critical to increase bus availability, which is key to improving reliability of service and bus on time performance. MTA is actively recruiting for all vacant positions. There are no vacant positions at the agency that can be repurposed for the apprenticeship program without negatively impacting other parts of the agency.

The Bus Maintenance Apprenticeship Program launched in 2024 in partnership with the Community College of Baltimore County and the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 1300. Ten candidates were accepted into the first cohort of the three-year program. The program aims to expand career opportunities, develop a resilient workforce, and address the demand for skilled mechanics.

- 2. Adopt committee narrative requesting bimonthly construction status reports for Purple Line. (Page 38)**

**MDOT Response:**

The Department concurs with the DLS recommendation

- 3. Adopt committee narrative requesting a report on the status, timeline, and funding needs of the Red Line project. (Page 39)**

**MDOT Response:**

The Department concurs with the DLS recommendation

**J00H01 MDOT – Maryland Transit Administration  
Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget  
Response to Department of Legislative Services Analysis**

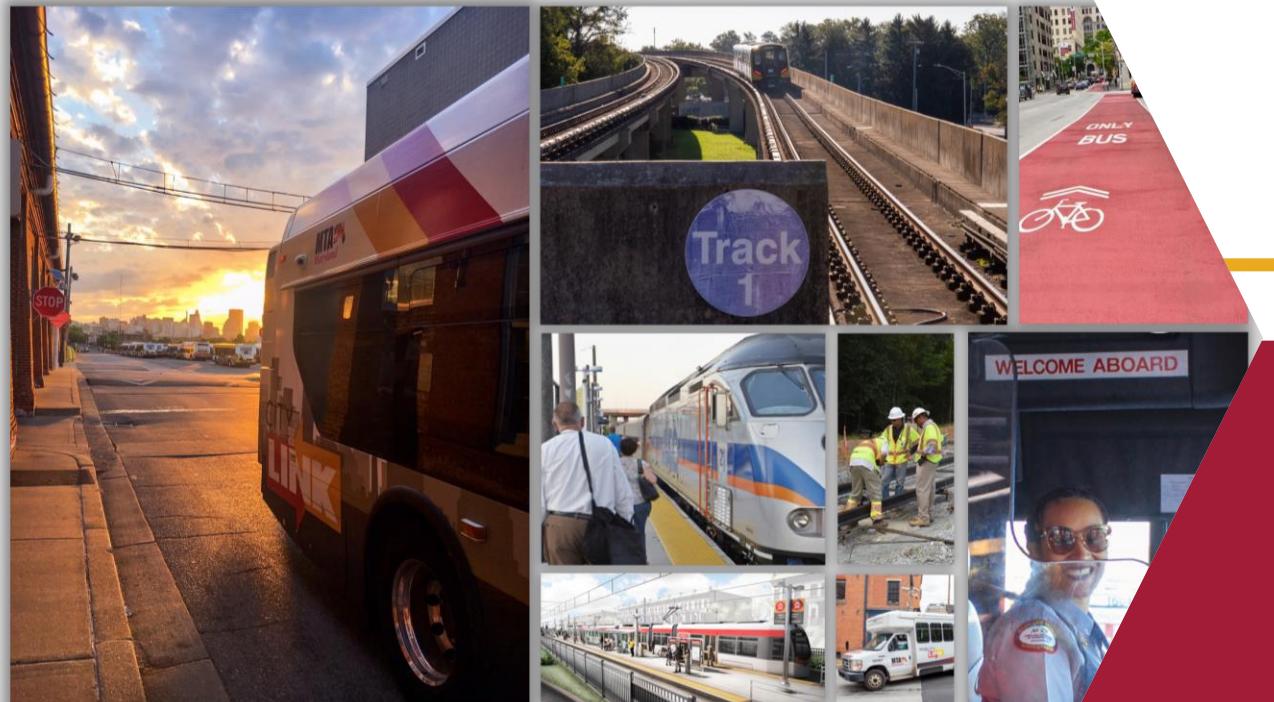
***PAYGO Budget Recommended Actions***

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**1. Concur with Governor's allowance. (Page 39)**

**MDOT Response:**

The Department concurs with the DLS recommendation



# Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Transit Administration

Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Overview  
Presentation to Budget Committees  
2026 Session



# Investments from Revenue Increase

- The Light Rail Modernization program to upgrade MTA's light rail vehicles to modern, low floor vehicles, as well as upgrading stations, maintenance facilities, train control, and power systems to enable successful use of the new vehicles
- 90% of MTA's FY26-30 State of Good Repair and Enhancement needs are met
- Replacement of 81 escalators across MTA's rail systems
- Structural repairs at six Metro stations, external Metro platform rehabilitation and addition of a snow melt system, as well as replacement of the Metro switch heater system
- Overhaul of 26 MARC locomotives
- Upgrades to MARC's Riverside Heavy Maintenance Facilities
- Advancing design of a MARC turnback facility at Silver Spring, to enable planned service improvements outlined in the MARC Growth and Transformation Plan
- Rehabilitation and structural repair of Eastern Bus Division
- Inclusion of funding to acquire a property for a Fifth Bus Division



# Economic Impact of MTA

**\$2.7B** ~10,000

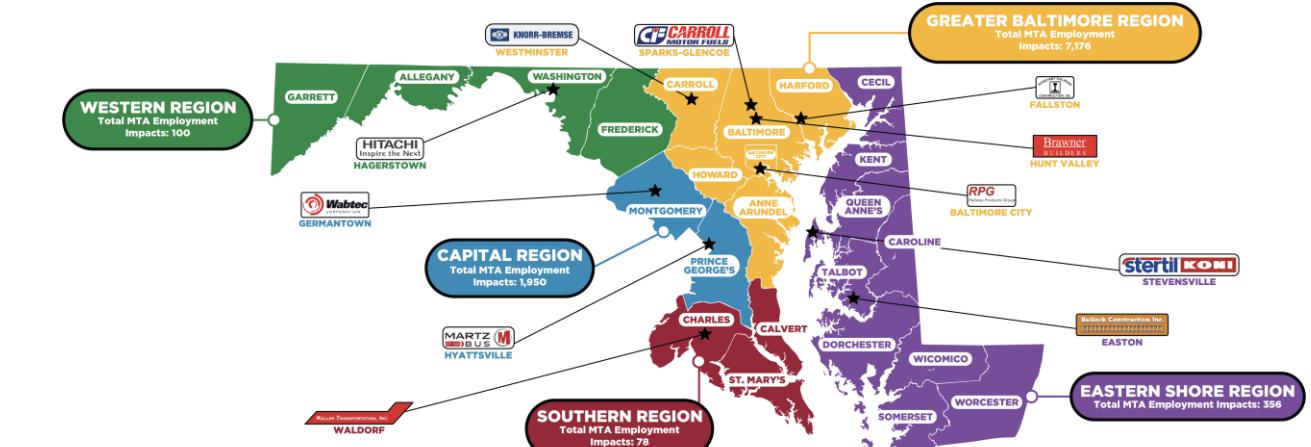
in total economic output statewide



**79%** >\$900M

of MTA's budget spent within Maryland

in total labor income statewide on an annual basis

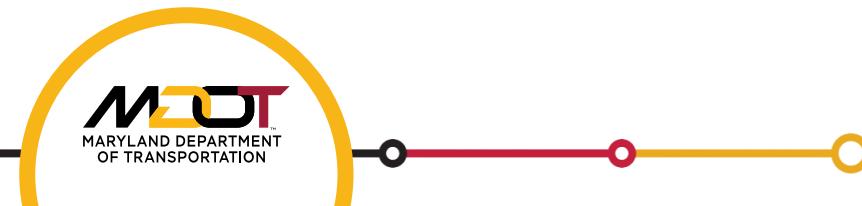
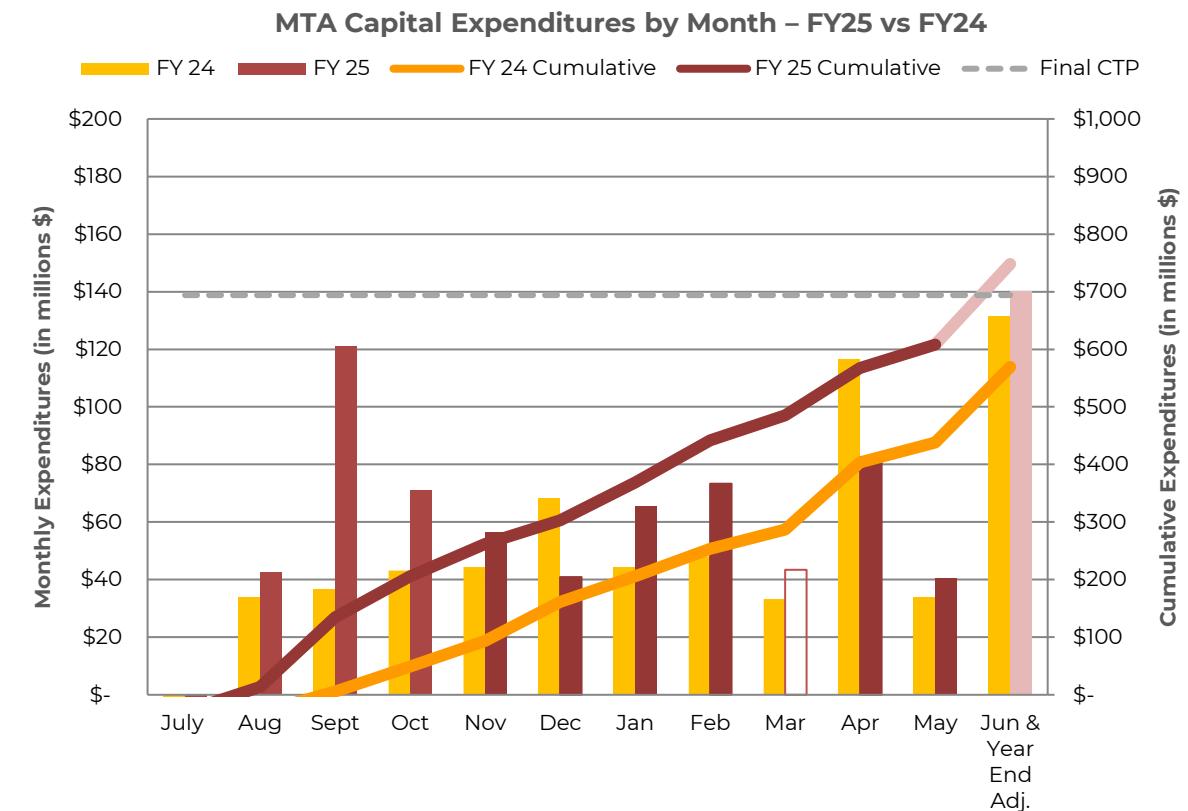


Hitachi Rail production facility in Hagerstown



# Performance Metrics

- Ridership Growth
  - Up 9% in FY25
  - Over 70 million rides in FY25
  - Year-over-year increases and post-pandemic highs on all modes
- Budget Performance
  - Closed FY25 operating budget within 0.2% of spending plan
  - Closed FY25 capital budget at 97% of Final CTP allocation
    - SGR and Enhancement spending up 24% YOY
    - Increased each year since FY21
- Public Safety
  - Part 1 crimes down 50% over the past decade
  - Zero homicides or rapes on MTA in 2025
  - Over 200 lives saved by Narcan
  - Improved clearance rates for serious crimes



# MTA Operating Budget

## Restored funding in FY26:

- Commuter Bus Service: \$1.1M
  - Additional trips for routes with growing ridership
- Mobility Demand: \$11.1M
  - Additional funding for Call-a-Ride growth
- Elimination of Fare Collection COPS: \$5.9M
  - Postponement of fare collection system replacement

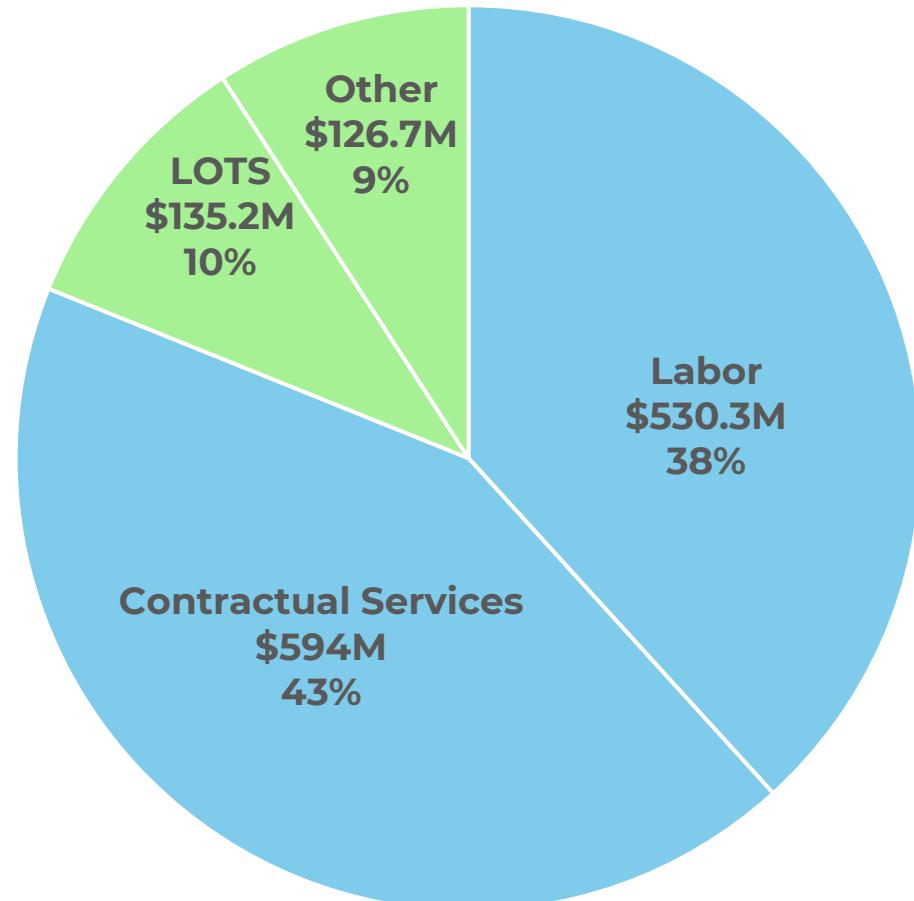
## Additional Funding in FY27:

- Contracts/Commitments: \$59.1M
  - Contractual service inflation, includes MARC, Call-a-Ride, Commuter Bus
  - Union overtime and benefits
- Additional PINS: \$11M
  - Purple Line Police\*, Apprentices

\*Note: negotiations with WMATA ongoing

# FY 2027 Operating Budget

- Total for FY27 = \$1.39 billion
  - 81% is labor and contracted services
- Additional 128 PINs
  - 5 for Apprenticeship Program
  - 123 for Purple Line Police\*



\*Note: negotiations with WMATA ongoing

# MTA Capital Projects

## Light Rail Modernization Program



## Metro and Light Rail Maintenance of Way



## MARC Vehicle Overhauls and Replacements



## Eastern Bus Facility Rehabilitation



## Bus and Mobility Vehicle Replacements



## Purple Line



## Metro Railcar and Train Control Replacement Program



## Frederick Douglass Tunnel (Amtrak Lead)

