



March 21, 2024
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Press Release

Aberdeen receives \$800,000 in federal funding for vital train station upgrades

Aberdeen, MD – Mayor Patrick L. McGrady is pleased to announce that Aberdeen’s Station Square Improvement project is slated to receive an \$800,000 planning grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Grant Program. The funding will soon be awarded to the City and will be used for engineering and design plans, an environmental feasibility study, and establishing right-of-way needs for future improvements to Aberdeen Train Station. The City applied for this funding and was selected as one of 71 recipients from around the country.

The project, located at 18 East Bel Air Avenue, will modernize the Aberdeen Train Station, which has both Maryland Area Regional Commuter (MARC) and Amtrak as well as regional bus service. The station is primarily accessed through a non-ADA compliant tunnel and non-ADA compliant pedestrian bridge. The planning grant would establish pre-construction documents to facilitate connectivity through an underpass and promote redevelopment surrounding the train station.

The project will improve the Aberdeen Station and surrounding areas by providing a safe and efficient intermodal transportation hub, constructing a new pedestrian underpass connecting East and West Bel Air Avenue by removing the physical barrier of the pedestrian overpass, and improving handicap accessibility for commuters, visitors, and the community. The biggest visible change will be the removal of the current outdated pedestrian overpass, constructed in 1982, which bifurcates the City. Instead, the plan calls for a modern and accessible underpass, connecting both sides of the station and allowing residents comfortable and safe passage. These improvements would remove the physical and economic barriers separating the City’s residents from U.S. Route 40, employment opportunities, and downtown services.

The funding is another important first step for this project. Previously, Aberdeen secured \$4 million through the Fiscal Year 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act for this effort, with support from Senators Chris Van Hollen and Ben Cardin.

Senators Van Hollen and Cardin and Representative Andy Harris wrote letters of support for the project to DOT Secretary Pete Buttigieg.

Mayor McGrady stated, *“I am so pleased to announce the \$800,000 to continue with this project. The project will bring quality jobs to the area and provide residents and visitors an improved and accessible commuting experience. I appreciate the support of Sens. Van Hollen and Cardin and Rep. Harris. We look forward to continuing our partnership to see this project to completion.”*

“The outdated pedestrian infrastructure at Aberdeen’s Train Station not only limits accessibility to public transportation services, it also hinders travel across the City. Through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, we secured funding to update the infrastructure of the past – like this – and lay the foundation for a future of connectivity and more economic prosperity,” **said Senator Van Hollen.**

“Station Square is the busiest stop in Harford County, but its old, outdated transportation infrastructure cannot adequately serve this growing community. Modernizing the Aberdeen Train Station will better support the capacity of Amtrak, MARC and Harford Transit buses while also making the area safer for bikers and pedestrians,” **said Senator Cardin.** *“Team Maryland is delivering the resources needed to help Aberdeen’s communities grow safer and more connected,”* **said Senator Cardin.**

“I am pleased to see that the Department of Transportation has awarded a sizable grant to the city of Aberdeen, Maryland, which I fully supported. The grant will facilitate much needed engineering and design plans needed to renovate the Aberdeen train station. The station, which is used for passenger rail as well as regional bus service, is heavily trafficked and it is imperative that it is updated to fit the safety and accessibility needs of all its passengers,” **said Rep. Harris.**