



# News Release

## **Board of Public Works Approves Contracts to Advance Loan Program for Federal Workers, Redevelop Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore**

*Comptroller Brooke Lierman highlights strong MBE participation in redevelopment plans*

**ANNAPOLIS, Md. (May 7, 2025)** – Comptroller Brooke E. Lierman joined Governor Wes Moore and Treasurer Dereck Davis for Wednesday’s meeting of the Board of Public Works, where the panel approved contracts for a loan program to support federal workers laid off by the Trump Administration and the redevelopment of Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore.

The Maryland General Assembly [passed legislation](#) during the 2025 legislative session creating the Federal Government Employee Assistance Fund and extending loan eligibility to federal workers living in Maryland who are terminated due to mass layoffs or similar events.

“I’m so proud so many Marylanders work for the federal government,” Comptroller Lierman said. “The Trump Administration’s continuing unjust firings of federal workers are not just an affront to their years of public service, but to our country and the services around our nation that we need. The no-interest loan program is one solution for those workers to help mitigate the negative economic consequences they may face through no fault of their own. I applaud the department and the General Assembly for stepping up.”

Meanwhile, the Board of Public Works also approved the first \$14.3 million contract with Clark Construction for the demolition, abatement, and construction of the Pimlico Racing Facility in Baltimore. The contract has a 35% MBE participation goal, which supports the statewide aspirational goal of 29% across all participating agencies and departments. The approval comes ten days before the 150<sup>th</sup> running of the Preakness Stakes at Pimlico. After the vote, Comptroller Lierman recused herself from voting on the \$4.5 million purchase of property in Woodbine, to support thoroughbred training and day-to-day operations at Pimlico. Comptroller Lierman’s recusal came under the advice of counsel from the State Ethics Commission due to a qualifying relative’s employment

with a business entity connected to the contract. Comptroller Lierman followed the practice of the Board of Public Works by notifying Ethics, as well as her colleagues, ahead of Wednesday's meeting. The purchase was approved by Governor Moore and Treasurer Davis.

The Board of Public Works also approved a settlement under the Lomax Act of \$1.2 million in the case of Tyrone Jones, a man whose 1999 conviction for conspiracy to commit murder was vacated in 2010 after 3,611 days of wrongful incarceration.

During Wednesday's meeting, Comptroller Lierman voted against extending general obligation bonds for four items, citing the seven years provided to spend the funds.

"Just to reiterate my comments from the February 26th meeting, I feel pretty strongly that grantees have to use it or lose it, Comptroller Lierman said. "They have seven years to encumber funding. I think that's more than enough time to advance projects given our extremely constrained capital budgetary needs. Over \$3.3 million for the four projects could have gone to other grantees in the past seven years who could have expanded the funds on time."

During the meeting, Comptroller Lierman also applauded the University of Baltimore's for prioritizing environmental sustainability in the design of its new School of Social Work building. The building will have a green roof garden, bike lockers as well as showers for commuters, and photovoltaic arrays that will produce 15% of the energy used by the building.

In all, the Board of Public Works approved 99 items representing a total State expenditure of \$637,771,329.15, including:

- Grant agreements for 20 recipients for 21 projects located in 11 counties and Baltimore City, with a total value of \$5,507,250.
- Nine items awarding \$309,784,419.75 to prime certified small business primes
- Seven items awarding \$159,162,535.31 to certified minority business enterprise primes
- Three items awarding \$5,396,014.23 to Employment Works Program providers
- 11 items awarded with established participation goals for minority business enterprises
- Five items with established participation goals for veteran-owned small business enterprises.

The next Board of Public Works Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 21, 2025.

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**Media Contacts**

**Robyne McCullough**  
[rmccullough@marylandtaxes.gov](mailto:rmccullough@marylandtaxes.gov)  
410-980-0139 (cell)

**Barbara Sauers**  
[bsauers@marylandtaxes.gov](mailto:bsauers@marylandtaxes.gov)  
410-212-9414 (cell)

Comptroller of Maryland, 80 Calvert Street, Annapolis, Maryland 21401, United States