



## Press Release

### Maryland Transit Administration

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## MTA AND DLLR PARTNER TO PREPARE MARYLAND RESIDENTS FOR TRANSPORTATION CAREERS

*Transportation Investment Act Would Support 44,000 Jobs*

**BALTIMORE, MD (MARCH 14, 2013)** – Maryland Transit Administrator Ralign T. Wells and Maryland Labor Secretary Leonard J. Howie III, signed a partnership agreement yesterday for the two agencies to work together in preparing Marylanders for thousands of skilled construction trade jobs expected to be generated by the Red and Purple Line transit projects and other transportation investments around the state. The partnership agreement builds from the announcement last week by Governor O’Malley, Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr. and House Speaker Michael E. Busch to pass legislation dedicating more than \$3.4 billion to transportation projects over the next five years.

Echoing Governor O’Malley’s remarks when announcing the Transportation Investment Act, MTA Administrator Wells said that, “Building a 21st Century transportation network requires a significant financial investment from the Governor and General Assembly. We can make that investment even smarter by making sure that Maryland’s workforce is ready to build, to operate and to maintain that transportation network as it grows.”

MTA and DLLR have worked together over the past year to identify five trades where the major transportation projects such as the Red and Purple lines might see a workforce shortage. Specifically, the agencies have identified heavy equipment operators, electricians, cement/brickmasons, carpenters and ironworkers as high-priority trades where the projected number of apprentices and journey-level workers may be in short supply as the workforce continues to age. The Agreement will help to focus DLLR’s job training efforts on these trades through partnerships with labor unions, local workforce development agencies, contractors and community-based organizations.

Together, the Red and Purple lines are expected to yield nearly 7,000 construction jobs. Thousands of other jobs in administrative, professional, technical and manufacturing fields will support the construction. MTA and DLLR will also initiate outreach activities in the Red and Purple Line corridors and across the State to encourage residents to prepare for job opportunities.

“As Maryland’s Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation continues to build a full pipeline of trained and ready-to-work Marylanders, we’re thrilled to partner with MTA to direct specific workplace

efforts toward those who will build Maryland's transportation future. Our team efforts will support the entire transportation workforce continuum from preparing Marylanders for their first job -- to achieving the highest possible certifications in their field," said Labor Secretary Howie.

Rod Easter, President of the Baltimore Building Trades Council and a member of the Governor's Workforce Investment Board also voiced his support. "Transportation projects bring thousands of jobs with family-supporting wages. We applaud the leadership of Governor O'Malley, Secretary Howie and Administrator Wells for their commitment to building a well-skilled workforce for the transportation industry from right here in our communities."

For the latest information on MTA service passengers are urged to check the MTA website at [www.mta.maryland.gov](http://www.mta.maryland.gov). Customers can also call the MTA Transit Information Center Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. at 410-539-5000. TTY 410-539-3497. To sign-up for email about service modifications and delays, go to [www.mta.maryland.gov/enotifications](http://www.mta.maryland.gov/enotifications). Visit MTA's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/mtamaryland> or Twitter feed at <http://twitter.com/mtamaryland> for more sources of updated information.

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