

MARC System Accessibility Improvements Project

The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) is requesting funding from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) All Stations Accessibility Program (ASAP) to complete construction of accessibility improvements at the Martin State Airport Station on the Maryland Area Regional Commuter (MARC) system's Penn line, as well as to complete design and construction of accessibility improvements at the Metropolitan Grove Station on the MARC system's Brunswick line. This Project will complete all construction activities and all remaining engineering steps to ensure these two MARC stations are accessible for users of all ages and abilities.

The improvements will ensure that the publicly accessible passenger-use areas in the two stations are fully accessible in accordance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. Both stations are legacy MARC stations, predating the ADA, and are not ADA-compliant.

Currently, the Martin Airport Station platform consists of three walkouts for boarding and three at-grade crossings. The station lacks elevated structures and bridges for passengers to safely cross the MARC tracks, which are also used by Norfolk Southern and Amtrak, requiring operational holds on rail operations. The Project will include construction of:

- Two, high-level platforms for level and accessible boarding, which will replace existing at-grade, low-level platforms
- A through truss pedestrian bridge with a roof and wind walls that spans the two southernmost existing railroad tracks and would be accessible via stairs and ramps

The Metropolitan Grove Station features non-ADA-compliant sidewalk and platform cross-slopes, as well as non-ADA-compliant parking spaces, signage, and station resources. The Project will include design and construction of:

- Restriped accessible parking spaces meeting aisle and space width requirements
- Signage improvements throughout the station
- Two regraded platforms that meet accessible slope requirements
- A wheelchair lift and enclosure for each of the station's two platforms

This Project is especially important given the stations' locations along routes connecting Maryland's suburbs to Washington, D.C. and Baltimore, two large and closely-linked metropolitan nexuses of jobs, housing, health care, schools, and more opportunities. Both stations also serve as multimodal hubs where transit users can transfer to and from MTA bus routes at Martin State Airport and Montgomery County Ride On bus routes at Metropolitan Grove.