
MEMORANDUM

TO: ACTING SECRETARY KATHRYN THOMSON
FROM: ADMINISTRATOR HOLLY ARNOLD
SUBJECT: MARC DUAL MODE LOCOMOTIVE PROCUREMENT INTERGOVERNMENTAL
COOPERATIVE PURCHASING AGREEMENT WITH MBTA
DATE: JANUARY 12, 2026
RESPONSE
REQUESTED BY: JANUARY 16, 2026

PURPOSE OF MEMORANDUM

To request your approval to procure new dual mode locomotives for MARC Train Service utilizing an Intergovernmental Cooperative Purchasing Agreement (ICPA) with the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA).

SUMMARY

MTA recently learned that MBTA is preparing a procurement for new locomotives, including diesel locomotives for themselves and potentially other operators, and dual mode locomotives (utilizing overhead catenary and battery as the two modes of propulsion) for themselves. MTA is also planning to procure new dual mode locomotives to meet its commitment to Amtrak and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for MARC to have 100% electric operations on the MARC Penn Line after completion of the Frederick Douglass Tunnel. Discussions with MBTA have determined that MBTA's and MARC's needs for new dual mode locomotives align to where jointly procuring the locomotives will result in cost and time savings to both parties by allocating non-recurring costs for development and design of the locomotives across a larger pool of new locomotives, and also being able to share engineering resources during the design and production phases of the locomotive procurement.

MBTA will lead the procurement with MTA support, and MBTA is advancing at an accelerated pace to meet their own need for locomotives.

MTA has funding programmed in its Capital Program for the intended base order of five (5) new locomotives for MARC, and will work to identify additional funding for option orders of new locomotives to support MARC service in the future.

MTA has identified the joint purchasing agreement between MBTA and MTA as being an ICPA, and is following COMAR regulations governing ICPAs to participate in the ICPA process with MBTA.


Acting Secretary Kathryn Thomson
Page Two

ANALYSIS

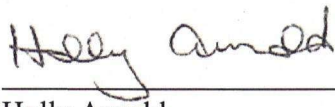
In accordance with COMAR 21.05.09.05, before awarding, sponsoring, or participating in an ICPA, MTA must obtain the approval of the primary procurement unit head or designee, and therefore, MTA requests the Secretary's approval to participate in the ICPA process with MBTA.

Approved and signed.

Denied.



Kathryn Thomson
Acting Secretary
Maryland Department of Transportation



Holly Arnold
Administrator
Maryland Transit Administration

Digitally signed by
Holly Arnold.
Date: 2026.01.12