

## **Local Minority and Women-Owned Firms Get Briefed on the Billions of Dollars of Transportation & Infrastructure Opportunities that are Upcoming**



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On the heels of President Trump's trillion-dollar legislative proposal, Mayor Catherine Pugh and Congressman Elijah E. Cummings 7<sup>th</sup> District, MD held a transportation and infrastructure summit to bring forth and discuss present such opportunities in the Baltimore City region. The summit took place at Morgan State University's, Earl G. Graves School of Business auditorium with about 200 in attendance. Morgan's President, David Wilson, opened the summit welcoming the attendees to the campus and thanking the mayor and congressman for bringing the summit to the university. He also mentioned that his world-renowned School of Engineering and School of Architecture, which produces hundreds of new professionals annually, are employed throughout the transportation industry, either in design or management.

Speakers included, Thurgood Marshall BWI Airport's Ricky Smith, CEO; Baltimore City Department of Public Works Director Rudy Chow; Baltimore City Transportation Director Michelle Pourciau; and Eric Lundy, Director of Procurement for State Highway Administration.

Ricky Smith discussed the growing airport and Southwest Airline's massive growth, which includes additional billion-dollar upgrades, along with a new exclusive hotel on airport property.

Director Chow declared Baltimore City's water and waste water an underground utility contractor's utopia with federal mandates to replace pipe that is as much as 100 years old, and barely operating. That price, \$3 billion now, couples with the \$1 billion-dollar replacement of the city's four existing reservoirs. All of which is occurring now.

Director Pourciau, discussed the thousands of miles within the city limits that her department must maintain as well as all street lighting. Hundreds of millions will be spent over the next ten years without Trump's legislative approval, which will include replacement of 100-year-old Hanover Street Bridge.

Director Lundy discussed how State Highway Administration has upgraded its abilities to get projects on the street and analyze bids. This he said, will support the billions proposed to be spent on highway and bridge improvements.

Other speakers included Steve Sharkey, Director of Baltimore City's Department of General Services; C. Gail Bassette, Project Director, Minority Business Development Council; and N. Scott Phillips, Esq., Director of the Minority Business Manufacturing Agency, who also served as the moderator and did an excellent job of keeping the evening exciting and engaging.

Md. Washington Minority Companies Association (MWMCA) wishes to give a special shout out to Paul E. Taylor, Director of the Mayor's Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business for making the event happen. In addition, representatives from The Whiting-Turner Contracting Company, Clark Construction, and AECOM were in attendance along with Courtney Billups, Chief of the Minority and Women's Business Opportunity Office of Baltimore City.

MWMCA's Wayne R. Frazier, Sr. had this to say, "Mayor Pugh is always trying to move Baltimore forward by ensuring infrastructure is constantly being addressed and local certified minority/women and pre-qualified firms know about upcoming opportunities and get a chance to bid. She cares about us and is proving to be a great leader!"

To learn more about the opportunities contact [info@mwmca.org](mailto:info@mwmca.org).

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