

Newsletter

# BRIDGE PROJECT

## FORT AVE.

BALTIMORE CITY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
7 E. Redwood Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

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## PLEASE, PLAN AHEAD!

### CLOSURE DATE/PROJECT SCHEDULE

The Fort Avenue Bridge above the CSX rail line just west of Lowman Street will be closed on or about August 15, 2011 in order to replace the bridge. While the total project is expected to last one year, the construction contract gives the contractor a significant financial incentive to re-open the bridge within 9 months. Additional work such as paving, landscaping, signage, etc. may continue once the bridge is open to traffic.

### PREFERRED DETOUR ROUTES

Traffic is being detoured to other nearby streets to ensure efficient and safe travel. Residents are being encouraged to use Hull Street and Andre Street to reach their destination, while buses and trucks are being directed to McComas and Andre Streets.

We are coordinating with area businesses and industry to ensure that trucking companies know of the preferred truck detour. The National Park Service is notifying all groups visiting Fort McHenry to have their buses use McComas Street to Andre Street.

### REDUCING NOISE, DUST AND VIBRATION

Bridge demolition requires the use of heavy equipment. All demolition activities will be monitored very closely, but the operation may result in an increase in noise levels, minor ground vibrations and the creation of dust.

Before demolition, the Baltimore City Department of Transportation (DOT) will determine an acceptable noise level, and noise levels will be monitored during demolition. If acceptable noise levels are exceeded, the DOT will take measures immediately to return them to the acceptable levels if possible.

Vibrations as a result of the demolition should not result in any impacts to your home or business. However, the DOT will be offering pre- and post-demolition inspection and monitoring to adjacent property owners. The inspections will involve an independent inspector entering your home

or business and taking photos of the internal and external walls to document the current condition. If you believe that your property may have been damaged as a result of the demolition activities, a post-demolition inspection will be performed to compare photos and evaluate any potential damages. The DOT will work very closely with the independent inspector and the property owner to investigate and resolve any legitimate impacts resulting from demolition activities. Dust control measures have been included in the general contractor's contract, including watering and site clean-up, to reduce the production of demolition-related dust and keep the area and atmosphere clean.



BEFORE



AFTER



DETOUR MAP



### BUSINESS ACCESS

The DOT is working closely with the Fort McHenry Business Association to let visitors know that Locust Point is “open for business.” Marketing materials, maps and internet advertisements will be used to maintain patronage at neighborhood shops, bars and restaurants.



### FIRE AND EMERGENCY ACCESS

In partnership with the Fire Department, a temporary Fire and EMS station has been set up at North Locust Point Marine Terminal and emergency vehicles and personnel will be able to respond in a timely fashion in the event that trains are blocking a railroad crossing along the detour routes. The emergency access route is totally unimpeded by railroad crossings.



### TRANSIT ROUTING/SCHOOL SERVICE

The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) Route #1 will use Hull Street to Fort Avenue to Fort McHenry as their detour route. During the times when students are dropped-off and picked up from Francis Scott Key (FSK) Elementary School, buses will use the school's drop-off loop instead of the bus stop on Fort Avenue.



### TRAIN CAM

In partnership with CSX, the DOT is installing cameras to view and detect when trains may be blocking any of the three railroad crossings in Locust Point. Text messages will be sent to residents and workers who “opt-in” to a notification system when a train will be blocking the tracks for more than 10 minutes. Variable message signs will also be deployed at key locations and controlled remotely to notify motorists of a train blockage. The “Train Cam” will also be viewable on the project website: [www.fortavenuebridge.com](http://www.fortavenuebridge.com).

## LETTER — from the — MAYOR

Dear Neighbor:



By the end of this summer, nine of Baltimore's more than 300 bridges will be under construction—more than at any other time in recent memory. This will include the Fort Avenue bridge in your community.

In total, the work on these bridges reflects nearly \$100 million of investment in our City's aging infrastructure, including more than \$5 million invested by CSX to help rebuild the Fort Avenue bridge.

Repairing and reconstructing bridges undoubtedly means hassle and inconvenience for a brief period of time, but the work is absolutely necessary to keep Baltimore moving safely and for growing our economy.

As the Fort Avenue bridge undergoes reconstruction, I truly appreciate your patience and the partnership of the Locust Point Civic Association and Fort McHenry Business Association, who will help tackle the challenges we face with this project.

Thank you for your understanding. Best wishes for a safe and happy summer.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Rawlings-Blake  
Mayor  
Baltimore City

# OPEN HOUSE



GET YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

TUES. JULY 19, 2011

From **6:30–8:30PM**

BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

Offices at McHenry Row

1500 Whetstone Way, Suite 300

Baltimore, Maryland 21230



#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Sign – up for email and text alerts regarding the bridge project, traffic situations, etc.

#### CONTACT TIA WADDY

City DOT Community Liaison Team  
Leader, with questions/concerns:  
phone: 443.984.4095  
email: [tia.waddy@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:tia.waddy@baltimorecity.gov)

#### VISIT THE PROJECT WEBSITE:

[www.fortavenuebridge.com](http://www.fortavenuebridge.com)