



**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING, AND REGULATION
CONSORTIUM
UPDATE
JUNE 19, 2013**

BACKGROUND

Maryland Transportation Administration (MTA) is in the planning and engineering stages of the deployment of the new Red and Purple Line mass transit light rail systems in the Baltimore Washington Metro area. These projects will result in the availability of nearly 2,000 jobs over the next five years. Building on the capacity and success of the State Highway Administration (SHA) partnership, the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR) is engaged in the collaboration of workforce preparation and training implementation with the MTA to train workers for these jobs. It seeks to provide targeted employment outreach to hard-to-serve populations including minorities, individuals with disabilities, low-income, ex-offender, low literacy and unemployed persons. They also seek to employ individuals who live in and around the Baltimore Washington Metro area corridor in which these projects will run.

ACTIONS

During the March 13, 2013, GWIB Board Meeting, an Interagency Agreement was executed between DLLR and MTA, committing the agencies to working in concert, hiring a workforce program coordinator at MTA, jointly applying for competitive funding, and sharing data and labor market information.

In that spirit, several joint meetings have taken place with construction industry representatives, and the DLLR Commissioner of Labor and Industry, who shared their knowledge of the types of jobs that will become available, as well as the training necessary for those jobs. DLLR now has an extensive list of potential jobs with their skills requirements. The Commissioner also delineated the path into pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship. Many of the trainees would enter pre-apprenticeship in order to learn about the construction industry, as well as gain the "soft skills" needed to succeed on the job. This 120-hour course would lead to either an apprenticeship with a union, or further training in a non-union shop or, perhaps, to a One Stop Career Center for job placement assistance.

Apprenticeship experts and leaders of organizations who are currently training in this method will be attending the next meeting, so that DLLR and MTA may learn best practices, and provide continued momentum to this partnership.