

Brunswick MD Pedestrian/Bicycle/Emergency Vehicle Bridge Project

Description

New grade-separated structure near South Maryland Avenue to accommodate the safe passage of pedestrians, cyclists, small emergency vehicles, and transit riders across the five tracks of CSXT, especially during train blockage events.

Purpose & Need Statement

The need for this project is rooted in the ongoing safety concerns for pedestrians, cyclists, emergency personnel, City employees, and transit riders trying to traverse the CSXT railroad tracks when the at-grade crossings are blocked by stopped freight trains.

The purpose of the project is to project an alternate crossing allowing unrestricted access from the downtown Brunswick area to the C&O Canal National Historical Park and other Potomac River areas of interest.

Current Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) Project

Use of MDOT's Section 130 Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Improvement Program funds (100% federal) to progress project to 30% design.

Tasks Completed to Date Under Current MDOT Project

- Evaluation of Existing Information and data gathering
- Preparation of Purpose and Need Statement
- Conduct Alternatives Analysis

Remaining Tasks to Be Completed Under Current MDOT Project

- Topographical Survey via Lidar
- Development of 30% plans and cost estimate

Next Steps

MDOT is currently working on drafting a Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Consolidated Rail Infrastructure & Safety Improvement (CRISI) grant application that covers the final design of the grade-separated structure and project development (30%) for a MARC site plan for the Brunswick Yard. Due: May 28, 2024

The City of Brunswick plans to submit an FRA Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) grant application that covers only the final design of the grade-separated structure as a backup in case the CRISI grant isn't awarded. The Notice of Proposed Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the grant is anticipated to open in late spring 2024.



Schedule

30% Plans – October 2024
NEPA Approval – 18 months after 30% Plans
60% Plans – 20 weeks after NEPA approval
100% Plans – 36 weeks after NEPA approval

Cost Estimates

Final Design: \$2 Million (Not funded – Pending Grant Applications)
Construction: \$8-\$10 Million (Not funded)

Goals/Benefits

- Improve safety for vulnerable road users at grade crossings
- Enhance multi-modal connections from downtown to C&O Canal
- Reduce the likelihood of trespassing incidents
- Recapture recreational users producing an economic increase to the City

Other Related Projects

1. **Short-Term Improvements along Maple Avenue (Design):** Consists of pavement markings, signage, and interconnection between SHA traffic signal at Potomac Avenue and railroad signals. Design Completion: End of 2024
2. **MARC Site Plan (Preliminary Planning):** Consists of reconfiguring the existing westbound platform to a center island platform and expansion of the existing Brunswick Yard.

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