

Presentation to the  
**Freight Subcommittee**  
April 9, 2026

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# Howard Street Tunnel Project

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# HOWARD STREET TUNNEL (HST)

- The Howard Street Tunnel is a single-track rail tunnel in Baltimore City
  - Built in 1895
  - 1.7 miles long
  - Owned, maintained and used by CSX
  - Tunnel was approximately 18 inches too short for double-stack intermodal rail
- The HST Project will break a long-standing rail bottleneck and create a double-stack rail network to/from the Port of Baltimore and along the entire I-95 Rail Corridor

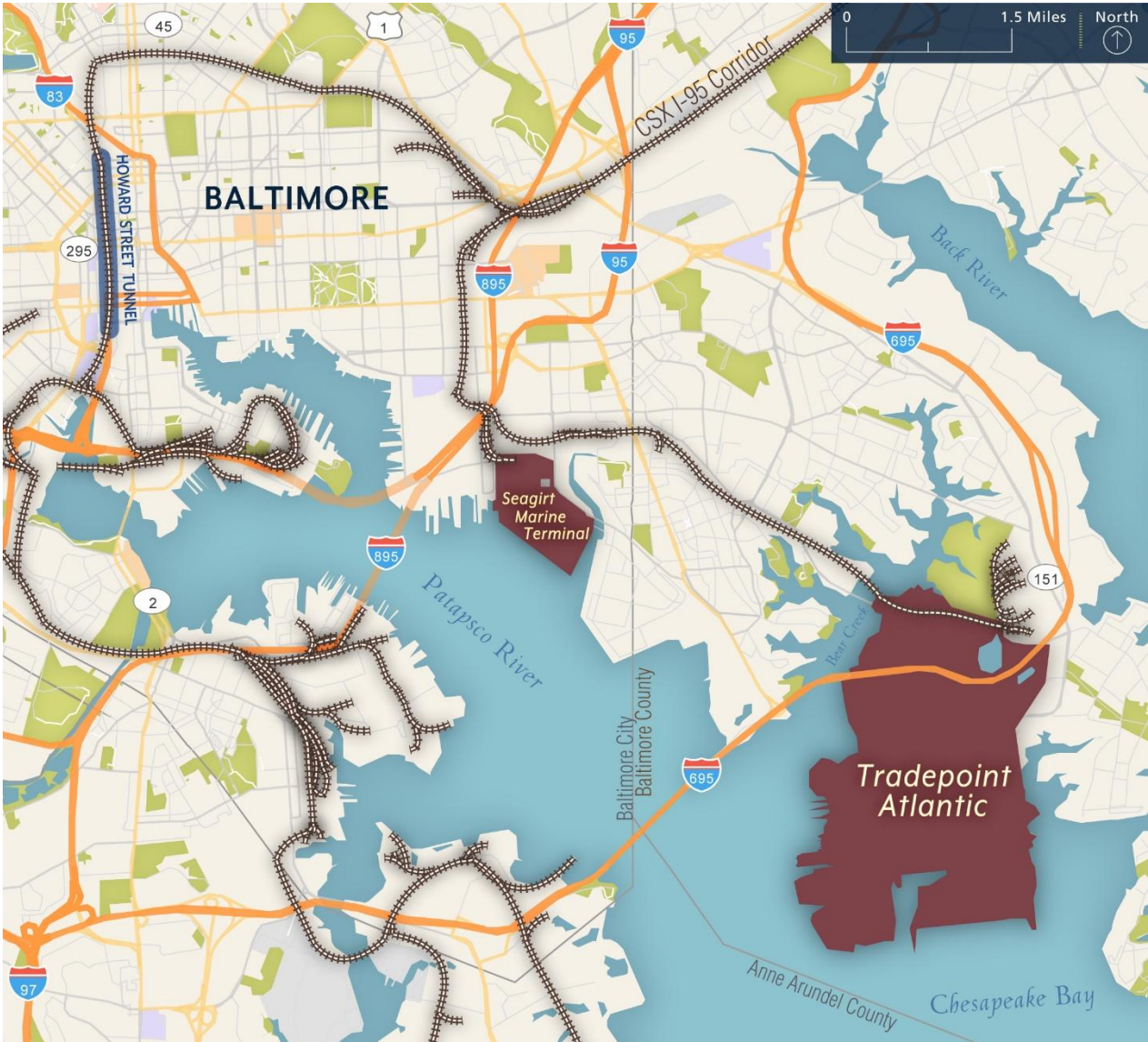


# HST Project

- The HST Project consists of double-stack clearance improvements at 22 locations between Baltimore and Philadelphia
  - Tunnel modification – Howard Street Tunnel (MD)
  - Bridge modification – North Avenue (MD)
  - Bridge replacement – Guilford Avenue (MD) and Harford Road (MD)
  - Track lowering – 18 locations in MD (8), DE (2) and PA (8)
- The project is grouped in ten packages for design and construction
- Project has been under construction since 2022, with final completion expected in 2026



# PORT OF BALTIMORE

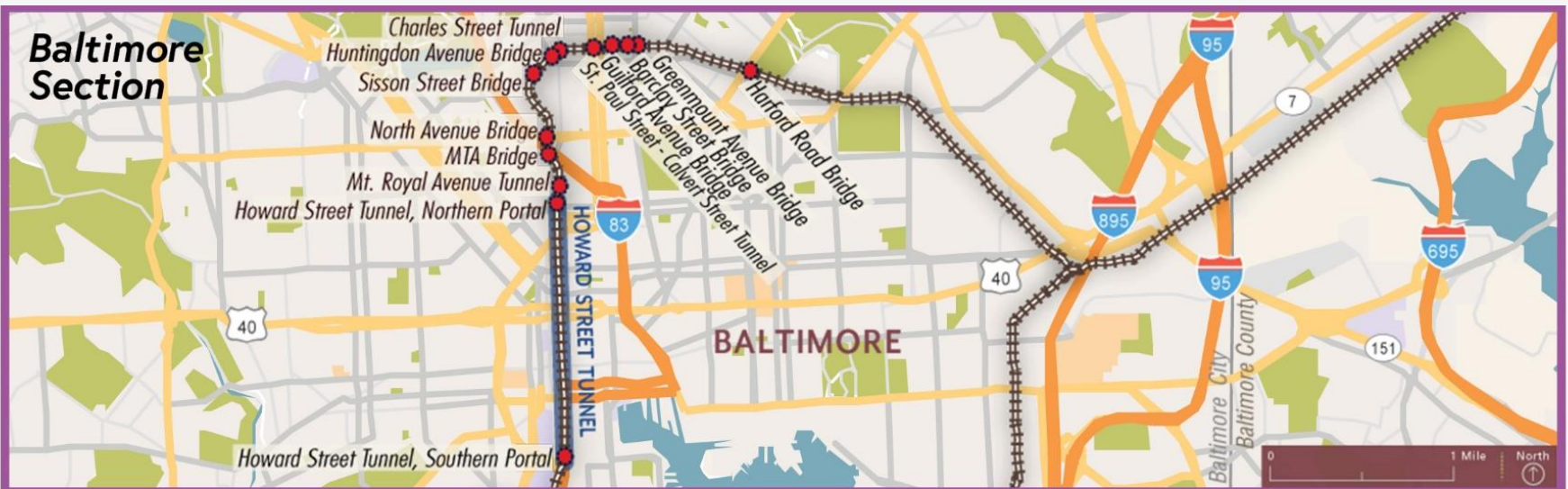


# HST Clearance Locations

Contextual Map



Baltimore Section



# Tunnel Package Construction

- CSX shut down tunnel to train traffic on February 1, 2025
- Crews worked 24/7 to replace existing brick invert with approximately 1,200 precast concrete panels at a lower elevation within the tunnel
- Construction was completed ahead of schedule and tunnel was reopened to train traffic on September 26, 2025



# Ongoing Clearance Work

- 20 of the 22 sites currently have double-stack clearance
- Last two sites are bridges in Baltimore City
  - North Avenue Bridge
  - Harford Road Bridge



North Avenue Bridge



Harford Road Bridge

# What's Next?

## Howard Street Tunnel project improves existing customer experience and unlocks new service offerings



- Howard Street Tunnel project completed in late September
  - Effective 9/26, CSX restored service between Florida/Savannah & New Jersey thru tunnel, eliminating temporary reroutes & improving speed between markets
  - Separate city bridge clearances underway and on track to finish Spring 2026 for full double-stack clearance
- CSX working to expand service offerings in near future connecting Southeast to Northeast markets
  - Prospective lanes include Atlanta to/from Baltimore, Chambersburg, New Jersey, and Philadelphia
- Upon full double stack clearance late Q1 2026, CSX will route Chicago-Baltimore traffic direct route thru tunnel
  - Fastest most direct route from West Coast & Chicago to Baltimore

# What's Next?

- CSX and MPA are working together on joint marketing and outreach to ensure shippers are aware of project status and timing of full double-stack service into/out of Baltimore
- MPA, CSX and Ports America Chesapeake held a town hall on November 12, 2025, to provide project update to over 200 shippers
  - Another Town Hall is being planned for early 2026



# Thank You

