

Frederick Douglass Rail-Trail Project



The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is launching a project in Spring 2025 to design a 10-mile section of the proposed Frederick Douglass Rail-Trail between Tuckahoe State Park and Black Dog Alley near Easton, MD.



Above Right: Statue of Frederick Douglass in Easton, MD.

Below Right: Project Location Map

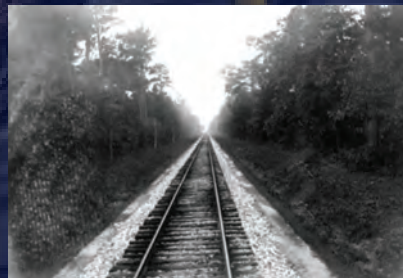
The project will be conducted by the State Highway Administration (SHA) under the umbrella of MDOT which is the trail sponsor for this rail-banked railroad corridor. The trail will pass through Talbot County in proximity to the birthplace of Frederick Douglass, famed orator, writer and advocate for liberation, human rights, and universal suffrage.

The former Maryland & Delaware railroad corridor is owned by the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) and has been entirely without railroad service since 1998. In 2013, the corridor was rail-banked and earmarked for future trail projects. Many locations along this line already have rail-trail projects in place, including in the towns of Easton, and Ridgely. The proposed trail project would include the removal of the railroad tracks, and the installation of a paved shared use path with a minimum width of 10 feet. Where roadways cross the corridor, the trail would include roadway treatments such as crosswalks and intersection improvements where necessary. Priority locations suitable for trail access will be identified as part of this project.



Project Benefits:

- 🔑 Will improve access for people walking, biking, and rolling to Tuckahoe State Park, and will reconnect Queen Anne to Tuckahoe State Park by bridging over MD 404
- 🔗 Will connect towns like Queen Anne, Cordova, and lead to better connections for people walking, biking and rolling to Easton and Ridgely
- 🏠 Will connect schools, fire stations, and employers to populated areas
- 🛡️ Will improve the aesthetic and safety of the railroad corridor, which is overgrown
- 🚂 Will improve the function of former rail bridges by refurbishing or replacing them for modern vehicular needs
- 🚴 Will provide a safe alternative and recreational benefit with off street infrastructure for walking, biking, and rolling



Above: Examples of completed rail-trails in Easton, MD and Cambridge, MD.

Left: Freight trains in Talbot County circa 1880's.

As the design project begins, more information will be made available about schedules, public meetings, and design configurations. Be sure to subscribe to the [MDOT Office of Active Transportation and Micromobility newsletter](#) and check the [MDOT Office of Rail and Intermodal Freight webpage](#) for updates.



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