

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND
Legislative Session 2026, Legislative Day No. 18

Resolution No. 40-26

Mr. David Marks, Councilman

By the County Council, October 5, 2026

A RESOLUTION of the Baltimore County Council encouraging the United States Coast Guard to mandate that the vertical clearance of the proposed AMTRAK bridge over the Gunpowder River, detailed in Preliminary Public Notice D05PPN-03-2026, be a minimum of 25 feet or a design that would support the highest reasonable clearance above the mean high water.

WHEREAS, the proposed project is to replace the existing AMTRAK Gunpowder River Rail drawbridge at mile 78.86 in Chase, MD (fixed in closed position) that has 12 feet of vertical clearance with a fixed bridge in the same vicinity that has 15 feet of vertical clearance; and

WHEREAS, a 15 feet vertical clearance will continue to limit the size of the boats which can travel from the Chesapeake Bay into one of the many marinas on the shorelines of Harford and Baltimore Counties, while a vertical clearance of 25 feet would better allow Harford and Baltimore County to address the future economic, public safety, and recreational boating needs of the region in the decades ahead; and

WHEREAS, an additional mandate that the vertical clearance of the proposed AMTRAK bridge over the Bush River located at mile 6.8 in Edgewood, MD, detailed in the Preliminary Public Notice D05PPN-02-2026, be at a minimum a 30-foot clearance above the mean high water (closed bridge) and the continuation of the bridge operating as an open bridge; and

WHEREAS, Baltimore County needs the bridges' clearance height to be sufficient to

accommodate larger boats passing under both bridges, thereby welcoming watercraft into the Chesapeake Bay; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND, that the Baltimore County Council encourages the United States Coast Guard to require AMTRAK to design and construct the proposed replacement bridges over the Gunpowder River and Bush River with the highest practicable vertical clearances necessary to preserve and enhance recreational and commercial boating access; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council specifically urges that there be a minimum vertical clearance of 25 feet above mean high water for the Gunpowder River Bridge, as referenced in Preliminary Public Notice D05PPN-03-2026, and a minimum vertical clearance of 30 feet above mean high water in the closed position for the Bush River Bridge, as referenced in Preliminary Public Notice D05PPN-02-2026, with consideration given to designing the Bush River Bridge with the capacity to open; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council finds that these clearances would help preserve and expand boating access to the upper Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries for residents, visitors, and the boating community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect from the date of its passage by the County Council.



LEGISLATION DETAIL

LEGISLATION

RESOLUTION 40-26

DISPOSITION

PASSED

ENACTED

N/A

EFFECTIVE

N/A

AMENDMENTS

NO

ROLL CALL - BILL

ROLL CALL - AMENDMENTS

MOTION MARKS

SECOND YOUNG

MOTION

SECOND

AYE

NAY

AYE

NAY



Councilman Young



Councilman Young



Councilman Patoka



Councilman Patoka



Councilman Mangione



Councilman Mangione



Councilman Jones



Councilman Jones



Councilman Marks



Councilman Marks



Councilman Ertel



Councilman Ertel



Councilman Crandell



Councilman Crandell

*** COUNCILMAN CRANDELL WAS ABSENT**

ROLL CALL - AMENDMENTS

ROLL CALL - AMENDMENTS

MOTION

SECOND

MOTION

SECOND

AYE

NAY

AYE

NAY



Councilman Young



Councilman Young



Councilman Patoka



Councilman Patoka



Councilman Mangione



Councilman Mangione



Councilman Jones



Councilman Jones



Councilman Marks



Councilman Marks



Councilman Ertel



Councilman Ertel



Councilman Crandell



Councilman Crandell