

June 11, 2024

Statement of the IBTTA Board of Directors on Reconstruction of the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Maryland

WASHINGTON – The Board of Directors of the International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association (IBTTA), the worldwide association for the owners and operators of toll facilities and the businesses that serve them, stands in solidarity with the Maryland Department of Transportation and the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) in the wake of the March 26, 2024, collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge. We extend our deepest sympathies to the families of those who lost their lives and to all those affected by the incident. We commend the response and recovery efforts of the many local, state, and federal organizations for their exemplary handling of this crisis.

Like so many catastrophic incidents in our history, this tragedy brings to the forefront the critical role of infrastructure in sustaining our economy and communities at a local, regional, and national level. The pressing need for investment in our critical transportation assets is top of mind in times of crisis and an ongoing requirement to support a strong economy, quality of life, and vibrant communities. The Francis Scott Key Bridge is integral to the transportation backbone of the East Coast and a vital link for moving freight serving the nation and the world. This essential connection must be expeditiously rebuilt.

Representing the interests of the operators of 132 toll supported bridge facilities in 17 states, IBTTA is dedicated to promoting the safety and resilience of transportation infrastructure. We join the MDTA in urging the federal government to provide full financial support for the reconstruction of the Francis Scott Key Bridge. There is no ability to financially program a total loss of infrastructure alongside a larger program that still requires programmed maintenance. Just as the federal government funded the full cost of the reconstruction of Minnesota’s Interstate 35W bridge collapse, it is imperative that the same level of commitment be demonstrated in Maryland. Working together, we can overcome this tragedy and ensure a stronger, safer transportation network for all.

Sincerely,



Bill Halkias
President
International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike
Association



Patrick Jones
Executive Director and CEO
International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike
Association