THE BALTIMORE SUN
LIGHT FOR ALL
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2026

Baltimore's Department of Transportation director to step down

Her last day will be on Oct. 1


By Christopher Scarglato and Chevall Pryce

PUBLISHED: August 19, 2026

Baltimore Department of Transportation Director Veronica Perry will step down from her role Oct. 1, Mayor Brandon Scott announced Wednesday, becoming the fourth senior official to leave his administration this year.

Perry, who took over as transportation director in January 2025, will be replaced on an interim basis by Berke Attila, director of the Department of General Services. Terrel Chessen, DGS' deputy director, will serve as interim DGS director.

"I want to thank outgoing Director Perry for her service to the City of Baltimore and her leadership of DOT," Scott said in a statement. "I am confident that the entire department will continue the critical work of maintaining and strengthening our transportation infrastructure day in and day out, and I want to thank Interim Director Attila for stepping into this role as we search for our next DOT Director."

Perry is leaving as DOT prepares to take on a major new responsibility: bringing repair and maintenance of Baltimore's underground conduit system back in-house after the city's current agreement with BGE ends in January.

Scott's administration has said DOT plans to rebuild a Conduit Division to handle the work, but it has not yet determined how many employees will be needed or how much the new operation will cost. The administration plans to fund those costs through an increase in the conduit franchise fee beginning in 2027.

The mayor's office cited the conduit decision as one of Perry's accomplishments, saying she "most recently helped secure unanimous support among the Board of Estimates to bring the repair and maintenance of the City's underground conduit system back in house."

Earlier this month, the Baltimore Board of Estimates approved increasing the conduit franchise fee from $2.20 to $4.05 per linear foot beginning Jan. 1, 2027, with annual increases tied to inflation. The roughly 700-mile conduit system carries electric, telecommunications and fiber-optic lines beneath city streets.

The change follows the city's decision in June not to renew its 2023 agreement with BGE. Under that agreement, BGE stopped paying the franchise fee in exchange for committing $120 million in capital improvements through the end of 2026.

Roads remain a challenge

Perry's departure also comes as the administration faces continuing scrutiny over Baltimore's roads and transportation infrastructure.

During Perry's tenure, DOT launched Repave Baltimore, which the administration described as a reimagining of the city's road resurfacing program.

From April through July, city crews filled 36,045 potholes and repaved 28.3 miles of road as part of Scott's 90-day Spring Sprints initiative. The administration said the effort exceeded its goal of filling 25,000 potholes.

But Baltimore's underlying infrastructure problems remain substantial. A recent report from transportation research nonprofit TRIP estimated Baltimore-area drivers pay about $3,017 annually in additional costs associated with deteriorating roads, traffic congestion and crashes.

City officials have attributed much of Baltimore's infrastructure backlog to years of reduced state transportation funding. Baltimore lost nearly $1 billion over roughly 15 years because of cuts to Maryland's Highway User Revenue program, according to city budget data.

In fiscal 2026, Baltimore allocated $94.1 million in HUR funds to transportation capital projects. But city projections show that capital funding could fall sharply if previously delayed state cuts take effect, potentially dropping to about $24.7 million in fiscal 2028.

Latest in a series of departures

Perry's resignation marks the latest in a series of departures from the Scott administration this year.

Caylin Young, deputy director of the Office of Equity and Civil Rights, resigned effective Jan. 8 after being charged with second-degree assault. Marvin James, a former chief of staff who later served as a special adviser to Scott, left City Hall July 1.

Terence Nash, a founding architect and coordinating chief of the Group Violence Reduction Strategy, resigned in July and left the administration in August.

Have a news tip? Contact Christopher Scarglato at cscarglato@baltsun.com or 443-900-0371.