



# MARYLAND DEPARTMENT of TRANSPORTATION

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## MARYLAND DEDICATES BALTIMORE BELTWAY TO 53RD GOVERNOR THEODORE R. MCKELDIN

### **Late Governor Honored for Transportation "Firsts"**

(BALTIMORE) - Lt. Governor Michael S. Steele was joined today by Transportation officials and descendants of the late Governor Theodore McKeldin to dedicate the Baltimore Beltway to the man who served as both Mayor of Baltimore and Governor of Maryland. During his tenure in office, Governor McKeldin prioritized making travel easier through and around the city and state. The construction of the Baltimore Beltway began under his watch in 1954.

"While we honor him today for his commitment to safer transportation, we also honor Governor McKeldin for his humanitarian service," said Lt. Governor Steele. "As a result of his reaching out to others - regardless of their religion or race - he created a climate of inclusiveness that we still appreciate today."

Governor McKeldin's son, Theodore R. McKeldin, Jr., also attended today's ceremony and received a replica of the highway signs that were unveiled along I-695 between Park Heights Avenue and Stevenson Road.

Theodore McKeldin was Governor from 1951 to 1959, the only Republican governor elected to two terms. He also served as Mayor of Baltimore before and after his gubernatorial tenure. During his first term as Mayor, Friendship (now Baltimore-Washington/Thurgood Marshall International) Airport was built. During his terms as Governor, McKeldin initiated a massive, 12-year program of road-building that included US 50 (John Hanson Highway), the Baltimore and Washington Beltways, and the first tunnel under the Patapsco River.

His administration also began construction of the state office buildings in Baltimore and Annapolis, and reorganized state government to increase its economy and efficiency.

"It is important that all of us, particularly our children and future generations, be reminded of the role Governor McKeldin played in shaping Maryland as it is today," said MDOT Deputy Secretary James F. Ports. "He was instrumental in building transportation projects around the state that literally transformed our communities, our economy and our way of life."

For more information on Governor McKeldin, log onto [www.mdarchives.state.md.us](http://www.mdarchives.state.md.us).

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