

BY-LAWS OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY BRIDGE RECONSTRUCTION ADVISORY GROUP

The Chesapeake Bay Bridge Reconstruction Advisory Group (“Advisory Group”) was created during the 2020 Session of the Maryland General Assembly with the passage of House Bill 56 (Chapter 611) codified in the Transportation Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland as Section 4-211. Section 4-211 established the Advisory Group including its members, functions, and oversight; and required the adoption of these By-Laws.

A. Membership

The Advisory Group consists of the following Members:

- Secretary of Transportation, or the Secretary’s designee;
- the State Highway Administrator, or the Administrator’s designee;
- the MDTA Executive Director, or the Executive Director’s designee;
- two citizen members appointed by the Anne Arundel County Council;
- two citizen members appointed by the County Commissioners of Queen Anne’s County;
- three citizen members who live in Anne Arundel County and are familiar with issues faced by commuters who cross the Chesapeake Bay Bridge by the Governor; and
- three citizen members who live in Queen Anne’s County and are familiar with issues faced by commuters who cross the Chesapeake Bay Bridge by the Governor.

Members are appointed for a term of three (3) years. Terms shall be staggered as set forth in House Bill 56 (Chapter 611). At the end of a term, a Member continues to serve until a successor is appointed and qualifies. A Member who is appointed after a term has begun serves only for the rest of the term and until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

B. Chair and Vice-Chair

The Advisory Group shall elect a Chair and Vice-Chair each year from among its Members. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be elected by a majority vote of the Members. The Chair shall preside over each meeting of the Advisory Group. Should the Chair be unable to attend a meeting, the Vice-Chair shall preside over the meeting.

C. Duties and Obligations

The Advisory Group shall provide the MDTA with an independent, citizen-informed perspective on the MDTA’s operations at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge. The Advisory Group shall assist the MDTA in the following:

- assessing potential concerns about activity related to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge;

- educating the general public about activity relating to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge; and
- working collaboratively with the MDTA and providing pertinent input related to traffic and customer service issues.

Any entity that conducts a traffic capacity study pertaining to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and U.S. Route 50 between Interstate 97 and Maryland Route 404 shall report its findings and recommendations to the Advisory Group.

D. Required Reports

The Advisory Group shall report its activities and recommendations quarterly to the MDTA.

On or before July 1, 2021, and each July 1 thereafter, the Advisory Group shall report its activities and recommendations to the Governor, and in accordance with Section 2-1257 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly.

E. Place, Time and Notice of Meetings

Meetings of the Advisory Group shall be held at the Bay Bridge Police Headquarters building starting at 6:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month on a quarterly basis starting in January 2021 or at such places and times as shall be determined by the Chair with the concurrence of the Members. Notice shall be given to each Member by electronically mailing the notice at least three business days before the time fixed for the meeting.

Should the Chair determine that an urgent need exists for a meeting, notice of the meeting may be given by telephone or electronic mail not less than twenty-four hours before the time fixed for the meeting.

Any and all business may be transacted at any meeting of the Advisory Group which is called according to these By-Laws and at which a quorum is present.

Notice to the public of such meetings shall be published in accordance with State law.

F. Conduct of the Meetings

Meetings of the Advisory Group shall be open to the public and shall be conducted in accordance with State law, including the State Open Meetings Act.

Meetings may be conducted in-person or virtually by telephone or other electronic means as long as all Members are able to participate fully in the meeting and the public has access to observe and participate as allowed by the Chair.

Members may participate in any meeting of the Advisory Group in-person or virtually by telephone or other electronic means.

The Chair shall cause minutes to be kept of all meetings. Draft minutes shall be distributed to the Members for review no later than 30 days after the meeting occurred. Minutes of a previous meeting shall be reviewed and approved at the next meeting of the Advisory Group.

G. Quorum

A simple majority of the Members of the Advisory Group, including the Chair, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business or the exercise of any power or function of the Advisory Group. Vacancies shall not count towards calculating the quorum. In the absence of a quorum, a meeting will be postponed and notice of the new date shall be given in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph E.

H. Passage of Motions or Resolutions

A simple majority vote of those Members present at any meeting, if the number present constitutes a quorum, shall be sufficient for the passage of motions or adoption of resolutions. Each Member is entitled to one vote.

I. Compensation

Members of the Advisory Group shall not receive compensation as a Member of the Advisory Group but may receive reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State Budget.

J. Staff

The MDTA shall provide staff and coordination for the Advisory Group.

K. Amendments

These By-Laws may be altered or amended by the Advisory Group, provided that a copy of the proposal to so alter or amend shall have been mailed, electronically mailed, or otherwise delivered to each Member at least seven business days prior to the date of the meeting at which the proposal is to be considered. The Members of the Advisory Group may, however, by unanimous consent, waive such requirements and agree to consider and act upon such proposal at any duly called meeting of the Advisory Group.

These By-Laws were adopted and approved at a duly constituted meeting of the Advisory Group on this 7th day of October, 2020.