

Bay Bridge Reconstruction Advisory Group (BBRAG)

Wednesday, July 19, 2017

Members Present

Jack Broderick, Chairman
Barbara Hitchings
Nick Deoudes
Nancy Wright
Tracy Schultz
Barbara Obert
Delores Green
Pat Lynch

MDTA & MDOT SHA Staff

Tim Cooke
Michele Gross
Richard Jaramillo
Lt. Jason Pulliam
Cpt. David Greene
Bob Rager (SHA)
Michael Kiel (SHA)
Hilary Gonzales (SHA)

Other Attendees

Senator Ed Riley
Queen Anne's County Commissioners: Steve
Wilson and Jim Moran
Mike Waal – Kent County
Steve Calhoon – Queen Anne's County
Dick Ladd – Former Anne Arundel County
Commissioner
Daniel Hering Sr. (consultant for SHA)

Media

Jeremy Cox (Salisbury Daily Times)

Opening Remarks

Mr. Broderick began the meeting at 6:03 p.m., welcoming BBRAG members and other attendees. Minutes were reviewed and adopted from the previous meeting in April.

Bay Bridge System Preservation Update

Mr. Jaramillo provided updates on current construction activities at the Bay Bridge. Discussion took place regarding Fourth of July traffic and Sandy Point State Park lingering issues. Ms. Hitchings and Ms. Lynch thanked MDTA Officers for their help with Sandy Point State Traffic. Kent Island Day was recapped as well, with Mr. Broderick thanking MDTA for their participation.

Questions regarding the validity of traffic numbers arose, and Ms. Lynch requested the Average Daily Traffic (ADT) numbers by month. She was provided the numbers, and Mr. Cooke emailed them to the group at a later point.

Commissioner Wilson states that he does not believe the traffic numbers and Commissioner Moran stated that Queen Anne's County is hiring a consultant to get westbound traffic for their own planning purposes. Mr. Broderick commented that it was good for Queen Anne's County to participate with funding. Commissioner Wilson stated that he believes it is the state's responsibility to pay for the traffic counts.

Discussion of BBRAG & Its Purpose

Mr. Cooke described the creation of BBRAG and its purpose. Mr. Broderick agreed and offered historical information. BBRAG was created out of the need to disperse information to the local community about system preservation projects on the bridge, following the 2003 re-decking project. BBRAG also offers MDTA the opportunity to hear from communities and impacted parties. The group's general purpose is to work with MDTA on Bay Bridge and surrounding area traffic patterns, construction, and delays.

While MDTA will continue to update BBRAG on the Bay Crossing Study, there are separate outreach efforts specifically tied to the Tier 1 NEPA Study. BBRAG is not the place for in depth discussions about traffic related to the Study.

Ms. Obert said that there is a bigger place for BBRAG in the Bay Crossing Study in a mutual advisory role. BBRAG can provide valuable insight and try to head off potential problems from the community that we may encounter.

Update on Bay Crossing Study: Tier 1 NEPA

Mr. Cooke provided the update for the Bay Crossing Study. The full purpose and need will be developed this fall and MDTA will have public meetings in the fall. The two main goals of study are – where it will go and how it will be financed.

MDTA has also installed a westbound counter that provides similar accuracy for the eastbound counter which uses toll booths and E-ZPass information.

SHA Update

Mr. Rager updated BBRAG on 404 and Rte 50 in Salisbury. Mr. Kiel and Mr. Rager updated BBRAG on 50 westbound paving from Kent Narrows to the Bay Bridge.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.