

MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
BOARD MEETING

THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2024  
9:00 A.M.

2310 BROENING HIGHWAY, BALTIMORE MD 21224  
IN-PERSON & LIVESTREAMED OPEN MEETING

OPEN SESSION

Paul J. Wiedefeld, Chairman

MEMBERS ATTENDING:

William H. Cox, Jr.  
W. Lee Gaines, Jr. – via Conference Call  
Mario J. Gangemi – via Conference Call  
Cynthia D. Penny-Ardinger  
Jeffrey S. Rosen  
Samuel D. Snead  
John F. von Paris

STAFF ATTENDING:

Tekeste Amare  
Donna DiCerbo  
Bruce Gartner  
Chantelle Green  
Natalie Henson  
Richard Jaramillo  
Lt. Col. Corey McKenzie  
Kimberly Millender, Esq.  
Ebony Moore  
Mary O’Keeffe  
John Sales  
Cheryl Sparks  
Sonia Thomas  
Brian Wolfe

OTHERS ATTENDING:

Tony Bridges, Assistant Secretary, MDOT  
Louis Champion, Maryland Motor Truck Association  
Chris Cichon, WBAL-AM Radio  
Tammie Clark, WBAL-TV  
Brenda Tharp, Maryland Motor Truck Association

At 9:01 a.m. Chairman Paul J. Wiedefeld called the meeting of the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) Board to order. The meeting was held in-person at MDTA Headquarters, 2310 Broening Highway, Baltimore MD 21224 and was livestreamed on the MDTA Board Meeting web page.

**APPROVAL – OPEN SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 28, 2024**

Upon motion by Member William H. Cox, Jr. and seconded by Member Mario J. Gangemi, the open session meeting minutes of the MDTA Board meeting held on June 28, 2024 were unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL – CONTRACT AWARD**

- **FT-3020-0000R – Fort McHenry Tunnel (FMT) Underpass and Low-Level Lighting Upgrades**

Ms. Donna DiCerbo requested contingent approval from the MDTA Board to execute Contract No. FT-3020-0000R – Fort McHenry Tunnel (FMT) Underpass and Low-Level Lighting Upgrades with Aldridge Electric, Inc. in the amount of \$9,406,077.59.

Ms. DiCerbo explained that the work to be performed under this contract is located at FMT, Interstate 95 (I-95) between the Joh Avenue overpass and the I-895 interchange. The project will upgrade existing underpass and low-level lighting through the corridor. The lighting upgrades will consist of replacing existing underpass, low-level, and sign lighting with LED, as well as replacing existing circuits feeding those lights and any related junction box covers that are damaged or missing.

Upon motion by Member Jeffrey S. Rosen and seconded by Member Samuel D. Snead, the Members unanimously gave contingent approval of Contract No. FT-3020-0000R – Fort McHenry Tunnel (FMT) Underpass and Low-Level Lighting Upgrades.

- **KH-3020-0000 – I-95 Express Toll Lanes Northbound Extension MD 24 to Bynum Run**

Ms. Donna DiCerbo requested contingent approval from the MDTA Board to execute Contract No. KH-3020-0000 – I-95 Express Toll Lanes Northbound Extension MD 24 to Bynum Run with DXI Construction, Inc in the amount of \$50,913,995.70.

Ms. DiCerbo explained that the work to be performed under this contract is located along I-95 (John F. Kennedy Memorial Highway) just north of the MD 24 (Veteran's Memorial Highway) interchange at HaHa Branch to Bynum Run in Harford County. The scope of work includes the installation of two express toll lanes (ETLs) and three general purpose lanes (GPLs) for I-95 Northbound from the end of the KH 3021 Contract and ultimately transitioning to 3 general purpose lanes at the end of the project limits.

Upon motion by Member William H. Cox, Jr. and seconded by Member Mario J. Gangemi, the Members unanimously gave contingent approval of Contract No. KH-3020-0000 – I-95 Express Toll Lanes Northbound Extension MD 24 to Bynum Run.

**APPROVAL – MDTA BOARD RESOLUTION 24-04 -DELEGATED AUTHORITY – CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS PLAN (COOP)**

Mr. Richard Jaramillo requested MDTA Board approval of MDTA Board Resolution 24-04 – Delegated Authority – Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP).

Mr. Jaramillo explained that the MDTA COOP provides framework, guidance, and concept of operations to enable MDTA staff to continue and/or rapidly restore the organization's essential functions in the event of a disruption to normal operations. This COOP provides an overview of continuity operations, outlines the approach for supporting the MDTA's essential functions, and defines the roles and responsibilities of staff. It also outlines the orders of succession, notification procedures, communication methods, provisions for alternate work locations, and plans for maintaining and restoring access to vital records.

He further explained that the MDTA Board Resolution 24-04 delegates authority to conduct such government functions and approvals to the Executive Director, in accordance with certain terms and conditions and authorizes the Executive Director, or during the absence or inability of the Executive Director, the Executive Director may designate the Chief Operating Officer, Chief Administrative Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Engineer, or Chief of Police (each an "Authorized Officer") to discharge or direct the discharge of the executive function of MDTA's staff and employees; and to perform the necessary activities of the MDTA, including the operation and maintenance of its projects, during all weather conditions, traffic, accidents, and other emergencies both major and minor on behalf of the MDTA in exercising the foregoing authority. The Authorized Officer is hereby authorized to take such actions as may be required to continue the business operations of the MDTA.

Upon motion by Member John F. von Paris and seconded by Member Mario J. Gangemi, the Members unanimously approved MDTA Board Resolution 24-04 – Delegated Authority – Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP).

**UPDATE – MDTA POLICE PUBLIC SECURITY**

Lieutenant Colonel Corey McKenzie updated the MDTA Board on MDTA Police activities.

Lieutenant Colonel McKenzie discussed vacancies, Recruitment Class 59, agency events, and initiatives they have taken regarding commercial motor vehicles (CMV) using the tunnels since the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge.

He provided information regarding MDTA Police activities related to commercial motor vehicle (CMV) inspection. Specifically, the MDTA Police conducted high visibility enforcement initiatives at the tunnels focused on CMV safety, including personnel from Maryland State Police and the Maryland Comptroller's Office. The Commercial Vehicle Safety Unit (CVSU) has been, and will continue to, conduct CMV operations and inspections at the tunnels. The MDTA Police has assigned personnel from other units with CVSU certifications to the assist at the tunnels and will be sending 7 additional officers to CVSU training in September. The MDTA Police continue to familiarize officers in the field with common CMV violations, especially related to tunnel restrictions such as over height/over width/HAZMAT.

He concluded his remarks by explaining that the CVSU personnel are frequently in contact with the Maryland Motor Truck Association and are currently working on a joint webinar with the MMTA to continue to educate CMV drivers. They have also met with numerous trucking companies' safety inspectors to ensure they are adhering to pre-trip inspections, accident procedures, benefits of cameras, and rules of our roadways to include Hazmat, wide-load, and over height compliance when traveling on MDTA roadways.

**\*\*\* At this point in the meeting, Secretary Paul J. Wiedefeld invited Mr. Louis Campion up for public comment. \*\*\***

Mr. Louis Campion, President and CEO of the Maryland Motor Truck Association (MMTA), began by acknowledging the tremendous amount of cooperation and support from all levels of government agencies and especially the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and its modals.

He continued by saying he was at the meeting to comment on the Baltimore Banner article stating that illegal hazardous materials were being transported through the tunnels. He reaffirmed that the MMTA does not support the transportation of any illegal materials in the tunnel. Those drivers who do that give the entire trucking community a "black eye." He stated that MMTA has put out repeated reminders to their members regarding the COMAR laws that exist.

Mr. Campion stated he has spoken with the MDOT Secretary and the MDTA Executive Director regarding safety and additional educational resources for the trucking community. He stated that the MMTA is committed to safety and working with the MDTA to educate the trucking community.

**\*\*\* Secretary Wiedefeld thanked Mr. Campion for his comments and partnership. He then proceeded with the next item on the agenda. \*\*\***

#### **UPDATE – FRANCIS SCOTT KEY BRIDGE UPDATE**

Mr. Bruce Gartner gave a brief update on the Francis Scott Key Bridge.

He stated that the MDTA is hopeful to award the Progressive Design Build contract by Labor Day and it will come to the MDTA Board for approval. The General Engineering proposal is out and a pre-proposal conference is scheduled for Friday, July 26. The Construction Management Inspection RFP should go out in about 3 weeks. He also said that MDTA can proceed with the Categorical Exclusion (CE) for NEPA from the Federal Highway Administration. This approval will open up the ability to move on with the next steps as soon as we are ready. He commended the MDTA staff that worked on this effort. A lot of hours and documentation went into applying for the CE and assisted in the fast approval.

Mr. Gartner further explained that the anticipated insurance payment should be sent to MDTA in the middle of August. Finally, he stated that the MDTA is in the final stages of submitting the \$60 million in invoices for the federal government.

### **UPDATE - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Bruce Gartner recognized Mr. James Harkness. Mr. Harkness was recognized by the Maryland State Police with a Superintendent's Salute for his work with the Unified Command. This was presented to Mr. Harkness on July 15<sup>th</sup> by Colonel Scott and Lieutenant Colonel McKenzie.

Mr. Gartner also updated the Board on the following items: Bay Bridge Traffic in the days surrounding the July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday; Bay Bridge Eastbound Deck Rehabilitation Project; Updates to DriveEzMD Mobile App; New Customer Service Center in the Easton MVA; Bay Bridge Reconstruction Advisory Group (BBRAG) Quarterly Meeting; MDTA's Annual Safety Fair and Expo; and Upcoming Events.

### **VOTE TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION**

At 9:38 a.m., upon motion by Jeffrey S. Rosen seconded by Member William H. Cox, Jr., the Members voted unanimously to move into Closed Session under the Maryland Open Meetings Act, the MDTA Board met in Closed Session under the General Provisions Article, Section 3-305(b)(10) and (12) to receive an update on deployment of police staff and resources and other security measures and to discuss a pending investigative proceeding involving possible criminal conduct; and, Section 3-305(b)(8) to receive a status update on all litigation currently pending against the MDTA.

In attendance for the Closed Session were Chairman Paul J. Wiedefeld; Members Cox, Gaines-via telephone, Gangemi-via telephone, Penny-Ardinger, Rosen, Snead, and von Paris; Bruce Gartner; Kimberly Millender, Esq.; Lieutenant Colonel Corey McKenzie; and Natalie Henson.

### **VOTE TO ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION**

At 10:08 a.m., a motion was made by Member William H. Cox, Jr. and seconded by Member Samuel D. Snead, which was unanimously approved, to adjourn the Closed Session and return to Open Session. There were no actions taken in Closed Session that require ratification.

**VOTE TO ADJOURN MEETING**

There being no further business, upon motion by Member Jeffrey S. Rosen and seconded by Member John F. von Paris, the Members unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

The next MDTA Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, August 29, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at MDTA, 2310 Broening Highway, Baltimore MD and will be livestreamed on the MDTA Board webpage.

APPROVED AND CONCURRED IN:



Paul J. Wiedefeld, Chairman