

MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2018
2310 BROENING HWY, BALTIMORE, MD 21224

OPEN SESSION

Pete Rahn, Chairman

MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Katherine B. Armstrong
P. Jack Basso
Dontae Carroll (via telephone)
William H. Cox, Jr.
William Ensor
W. Lee Gaines (via telephone)
Mario J. Gangemi
John von Paris

STAFF ATTENDING:

Katie Bennett
Percy Dangerfield
Donna DiCerbo
Joyce Diepold
Luther Dolcar
Trudy Edwards
Clay Fischer
Allen Garman
Chantelle Green
Michele Gross
Meshelle Howard
Col. Jerry Jones
Larry Kimble
Ray Kyler
Heather Lowe
Kimberly Millender, Esquire
Tonya Morant
John O'Neill
Kevin C. Reigrut
Larry Schwager
Deborah Sharpless
Dan Williams
Melissa Williams

OTHERS ATTENDING:

Ed McDonald, MDOT

At 9:05 a.m. Chairman Pete Rahn called the meeting of the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) Board to order.

APPROVAL – OPEN SESSION MINUTES OF MARCH 29, 2018

Upon motion by Member William Cox and seconded by Member William Ensor, the Open meeting minutes of the MDTA Board meeting held on March 29, 2018 were unanimously approved.

UPDATE – GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION (GFOA) AWARD

Ms. Deborah Sharpless stated MDTA received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the fifth consecutive year for our Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for fiscal year 2017. The Certificate of Achievement is awarded by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). Ms. Chantelle Green, Mr. Larry Schwager and Mr. Luther Dolcar presented the Members with the certificate and the medallion that will be placed on the plaque.

APPROVAL – HB0004 – RENAMING HARRY W. NICE MEMORIAL BRIDGE TO THE HARRY W. NICE/THOMAS “MAC” MIDDLETON BRIDGE

Mr. Kevin Reigrut requested approval on the renaming of the Harry W. Nice Bridge. Mr. Reigrut stated HB0004 (HB4) was filed by Delegate Jameson this year requesting the Harry W. Nice Memorial Bridge be renamed to the Harry W. Nice/Thomas “Mac” Middleton Bridge to be effective October 1, 2018.

Upon motion by Member Cox and seconded by Member Ensor, the Members unanimously approved the renaming of the Harry W. Nice Bridge to the Harry W. Nice/Thomas “Mac” Middleton Bridge.

APPROVAL – 2018 TOLL REVEUNE BOND CASH DEFEASANCE

Ms. Sharpless requested approval to expend \$503 million in cash to defease the Series 2008 Toll Revenue Bonds. This item was reviewed by the Finance Committee.

In November 2017, the MDTA Board approved the agency’s operating budget and financial forecast. Because there was no specific funding allocation for the proposed revenue bond defeasance in the operating budget or the financial forecast at that time, the MDTA Board’s approval is required to proceed with the defeasance. Based on the results of the financial analysis that was conducted on whether it would be financially advantageous to defease the Series 2008 Toll Revenue Bonds, it is recommended that the agency utilize the upcoming July 1 call option to defease the entire bond series.

The MDTA conducted an analysis of defeasing the Series 2008 Toll Revenue Bonds compared to refunding the bonds. The analysis yielded that there are multiple benefits to defeasing the bonds such as (1) saving the MDTA \$12 million annually in net debt service costs during each year that the subsequent bond issue is delayed; (2) providing the agency with greater financial flexibility by aligning future bond sales with actual need thereby allowing the MDTA to more appropriately balance debt and pay-as-you-go funding for the Nice Bridge; and (3) enhancing MDTA's financial flexibility without taking on substantial interest rate risk.

The MDTA's analysis also elevated the affordability of the I-95 Express Toll Lanes (ETL) Expansion project. The analysis showed that the defeasance remains financially affordable even after adjusting for the additional costs associated with the ETL expansion project.

Upon motion by Member P. Jack Basso and seconded by Member Katherine Bays Armstrong, the Members unanimously approved the cash defeasance of the 2008 Toll Revenue Bonds.

UPDATE – CHESAPEAKE BAY CROSSING STUDY: TIER 1 NEPA UPDATE

Ms. Melissa Williams presented an update to the Members on the Chesapeake Bay Crossing Study: Tier 1 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (Bay Crossing Study) and the upcoming public meetings.

The Bay Crossing Study Scoping Report has been finalized and uploaded to the project website.

There will be six public meetings in May 2018 on the following dates: Tuesday, May 8, at Calvert High School, Prince Frederick, MD; Wednesday, May 9, Broadneck High School, Arnold, MD; Thursday, May 10, Kent County Middle School, Chestertown, MD; Wednesday, May 16, Middle River Middle School, Middle River, MD; Thursday, May 17, Cambridge-South Dorchester High School, Cambridge, MD; and Tuesday, May 22, Chesapeake College, Wye Mills, MD.

The Bay Crossing Study Scoping Report summarizes public and agency involvement efforts and the range of comments received during the public scoping comment period from October 11 to December 15, 2017. The Scoping Report has been posted to the project website (baycrossingstudy.com).

Six public information meetings will be held throughout the study area in May 2018 to present the preliminary purpose and need for screening criteria. All information presented at the public meetings will be posted to the project website prior to the meetings. The public meetings will be advertised via the project website, elected official notification, MVA monitors, E-ZPass email blast, project mail list, print, online and digital ads, MDTA news release, MDTA social media and toll lane handouts.

Next steps include: hold public meetings Winter 2018/2019, publish the Tier 1 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Fall 2019, Public Hearing Fall 2019 and publish the Tier 1 EIS/Record of Decision Summer 2020.

UPDATE – CUSTOMER COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Katie Bennett and Mr. Larry Kimble provided an update on two customer communication initiatives.

Ms. Bennett reported that MDTA has worked over the last year to develop an *E-ZPass*[®] Maryland mobile website. The *ezpassmd.com* mobile website launched in February 2018. The mobile site was developed to enhance the level of customer service MDTA provides and to make it easier for customers to access and manage their E-ZPass Maryland account.

Mr. Kimble reported that MDTA has undertaken the building of a mobile hands-free traffic application to enhance the existing Maryland 511 system and to provide customers with accurate traffic information. Modeled after the Pennsylvania 511 traffic app, MDTA, in tandem with MDOT State Highway Administration, plans to launch the hands-free app later this summer.

UPDATE – LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Ms. Michele Gross updated the MDTA Board with a final 2018 Legislative update. The 2018 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session adjourned at midnight Monday, April 9. Ms. Gross included in the update the pieces of legislation that became law and those that did not, along with impacts to the MDTA.

Four pieces of legislation passed that MDTA was tracking. One has already been signed into law. House Bill (HB) 4: Toll Bridges – Renaming Harry W. Nice Memorial Bridge – Harry W. Nice/Thomas “Mac” Middleton Bridge – Enacted under Article II, Section 17(b) of the Maryland Constitution – Chapter 20; HB744/Senate Bill (SB) 850: Transportation – Complete Streets Policy – Adoption – MDTA was amended out of the bill, then it was passed; HB 1350/SB1006: Sea Level Rise Inundation and Coastal Flooding – Construction, Adaptation, Mitigation, and Disclosure – Passed; SB 973: Maryland Transportation Authority – Video Tolls – Collection – House amendment hurt MDTA by reducing the Civil Penalty to \$25 through legislative action, Senate refused it, and the House receded – Passed.

UPDATE – EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

Executive Director Reigrut introduced Mr. Ray Kyler, a Vehicle Recovery Technician at the Bay Bridge. Mr. Kyler has received so many customer kudos that we can’t even keep track. Mr. Reigrut stated that Mr. Kyler was an excellent ambassador for Customer Service and that he wanted to recognize him formally at the Board meeting.

Mr. Reigrut spoke regarding the International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association (IBTTA) event he was attending in North Carolina. He stated that MDTA is the host for the 2018 Annual IBTTA Conference that will be held here in Baltimore, October 12-14, 2018.

Mr. Reigrut provided an update on the TIGER Grant application for the Proposed I-95/Belvidere Road Interchange.

Mr. Reigrut invited the Board Members to the Annual Team MDTA Day on May 18, 2018. This event is in conjunction with the Governors Proclamation for State Employee Appreciation Day. He extended an invitation to each Board Member to attend the event.

There being no further business, the meeting of the MDTA Board was adjourned by general consensus at 10:11 a.m.

The next MDTA Board Meeting will be held on May 31, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. at 2310 Broening Hwy, Baltimore, Maryland 21224.

APPROVED AND CONCURRED IN:



James F. Ports, Jr., Acting Chair