

MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
BOARD MEETING  
THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2019  
2310 BROENING HIGHWAY, BALTIMORE, MD 21224

OPEN SESSION

R. Earl Lewis, Jr., Acting Chairman

MEMBERS ATTENDING:

P. Jack Basso  
Dontae Carroll  
William H. Cox, Jr.  
William Ensor  
Mario J. Gangemi  
Jeffrey S. Rosen  
John von Paris

STAFF ATTENDING:

Nafiz Alqasem  
Melissa Bogdan  
Carl Chamberlin  
Percy Dangerfield  
Donna DiCerbo  
Chantelle Green  
Natalie Henson  
Meshelle Howard  
Col. Jerry Jones  
Bob Jordan  
Jeanne Marriott  
Kelly Melham  
Kimberly Millender  
Tonya Morant  
Mary O'Keeffe  
John O'Neill  
James F. Ports, Jr.  
Deborah Sharpless  
Darol Smith  
Christina Thompson  
Russ Walto  
Tonya Wigfall  
Eric Willison

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Chris Body, Kapsch  
Jack Henneman, Transcore  
Jim Kruszynski, FOP 34  
Kim Letke, Letke Security  
Bryan Sears, Daily Record

At 9:00 a.m. Acting Chair R. Earl Lewis, Jr. called the meeting of the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) Board to order.

**APPROVAL – OPEN AND CLOSED SESSION MINUTES OF JUNE 27, 2019**

Upon motion by Member William Cox and seconded by Member John von Paris, the open and closed meeting minutes of the MDTA Board meeting held on June 27, 2019 were unanimously approved.

**RESOLUTIONS – YEARS OF SERVICE RECOGNITION**

Mr. James F. Ports, Jr. read the Years of Service Recognitions for the following retired employees: Sergeant Myron Bateman, Ms. Linda H. Jester, and Lieutenant Colonel Joseph F. Ruff, Jr. On the occasion of their retirement from their distinguished careers of service, the Chairman and Members of the Maryland Transportation Authority hereby express to them their most sincere appreciation for their excellence and commitment.

**APPROVAL – BOARD COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

With Member Jeffrey S. Rosen officially becoming a member of the Board, MDTA staff developed proposed committee assignments to reflect the new membership. These assignments added Member Rosen to the Finance and Human Resources Committees.

Upon motion by Member P. Jack Basso and seconded by Member Dontae Carroll, the Members unanimously approved the new Board Committee assignments.

**APPROVAL – TOLL MODERNIZATION**

Mr. James F. Ports, Jr., Ms. Deb Sharpless, Ms. Christina Thompson, and Mr. Carl Chamberlin requested a recommendation of approval from the MDTA Board to advertise the Toll Modernization Proposal and to begin the toll setting process.

The Electronic Toll Collection Third Generation (ETC3G) project will reshape the MDTA toll collection practices by modernizing the delivery of tolling services to MDTA customers. The modernization includes the opportunity to:

I. Expanded and New Vehicle Classifications:

- Provides MDTA the ability to expand and create vehicle classifications for motorcycles, 3-wheeled cars, passenger vehicles towing trailers and campers, 3- and 4- axle recreational vehicles, and 2-axle recreational vehicles and tow trucks towing vehicles.
- Staff proposes the toll rates for these vehicles to be reduced by 17% to 50% (50% for motorcycles and small vehicles; 25% for 3-axle vehicles (3A “light” classification); 17% for 4-axle vehicles (4A “light” classification).

II. Establish New Payment Option (Pay-by-Plate):

- A new payment method would be created for infrequent customers and those that do not want an E-ZPass account. This payment method allows customers to pay as they go by registering their license plate and credit card and eliminates the need to maintain a prepaid balance. The toll rates paid will mirror the cash and non-Maryland E-ZPass rates for the legacy facilities and be 25% higher than the EZPass rate on the Intercounty Connector (ICC) and I-95 Express Toll Lanes (ETL).

III. Video Toll Early Payment Discount (Pay-by-Invoice)

- The MDTA proposes the introduction of an early payment discount structure, which would allow customers who pay their notice of toll due within a predetermined timeframe and prior to the mailing of the notice, to receive a 15% discount off of the video toll rate. Currently, customers have 45 days from the date notice is mailed to pay the video toll amount due without any penalty.

Seizing these opportunities will save customers an estimated \$28.1 million over the next five years, while also improving the fairness of toll rates for certain vehicle classifications and resolving long-standing customer feedback that previously could not be resolved due to technology limitations.

Mr. Ports emphasized that the MDTA is seeking the Board's approval to proceed with public hearings for the changes noted above.

Upon motion by Member William H. Cox, Jr. and seconded by Member John von Paris, the Members unanimously approved to proceed to advertise the proposal and begin the toll setting process.

**APPROVAL – FINANCIAL FORECAST**

Ms. Jeanne Marriott requested approval from the MDTA Board of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-2025 Financial Forecast for submission to the legislature.

Throughout the six-year period (FY 2020-2025), the MDTA will remain above its financial goals and legal standards.

- Throughout the six-year period (FY 2020 – 2025), the MDTA remains above its financial goals:
  - >\$350 million unencumbered cash, and
  - > 2.5 debt service coverage through FY 2020; > 2.0 thereafter
- The MDTA remains above its trust agreement rate covenant (net revenues >1.0 x sum of: 120% debt service + deposits to M&O account).
- The forecast adheres to the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act (BRFA) of 2015.
- No system wide toll increases are needed in the six-year period.
- Debt to be issued during the six-year forecast period is approximately \$1.3 billion. Approximately \$20 million in debt is expected to be incurred in FY 2020.

Upon motion by Member P. Jack Basso and seconded by Member John von Paris, the Members unanimously approved the FY 2020-2025 Financial Forecast.

**UPDATE – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Mr. James F. Ports, Jr. joined Acting Chair R. Earl Lewis, Jr. in welcoming new Member Jeffrey S. Rosen. He then gave a brief update on the following topics: BHT Legionellosis Incident, MDTA Police Academy Graduation of Recruit Class 52, Water Main Failure at FMT Administration Building, Governor's Citation to MDTA long-time employee Nancy Althoff for her 50 Years of Service, MDTA Roadeo, Customer Service/Training Bus, Westbound Bay Bridge Rehab Project, Upcoming ETL Open Houses, and the MACo Conference. Mr. Ports presented employee Tonya Wigfall as his employee of the month for outstanding service.

There being no further business, the meeting of the MDTA Board was adjourned by consensus at 10:19 a.m.

The next MDTA Board Meeting will be held on August 29, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at the Maryland Transportation Authority, 2310 Broening Highway, Baltimore MD 21224.

APPROVED AND CONCURRED IN:



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Pete K. Rahn, Chairman