



## 6. Conclusions

The Task Force process was extremely valuable in helping the Authority, MDOT, and the public understand many of the issues associated with additional capacity across the Chesapeake Bay. The detailed presentations made to the Task Force were informative and provided a wealth of information about current Bay Bridge operations and congestion levels, the process by which new crossing studies would be undertaken, preliminary traffic forecasts for crossings in the four zones, design and construction of major projects, environmental resources and regulations, and the growth and economic development trends in Maryland.

Based on the 2004 Transportation Needs Report and the comprehensive comments and suggestions that came from the Task Force members, elected officials who were briefed during the process, and citizens who attended the workshops, it is clear that the issue of capacity across the Chesapeake Bay is complex, controversial, but also compelling. Presentations made clear that the congestion is already a pressing issue that must be dealt with, and further delay will only exacerbate an already serious problem; therefore, the Task Force recommends that more detailed studies be undertaken. A transit study, followed by more detailed studies, will be the next steps in this process. Throughout these studies, the public will be informed and included in every step.

