

**Maryland Transportation Authority
Bay Bridge Reconstruction Advisory Group**

Meeting Summary

Wednesday, January 7, 2015
MDTA Bay Bridge Police Building

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jack Broderick, Chairman
Barbara Hitchings

Nancy Wright
Tracy Schulz

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Rob Rager (SHA)

MDTA STAFF:

Gordon Garrettson
Kerry Brandt
Will Pines

Patrick Fleming
Sgt. Edward Wojcik (MDTA Police)
Barry Clothier

Call to Order and Welcome

Chairman Jack Broderick called the meeting of the Bay Bridge Reconstruction Advisory Group (BBRAG) to order at 6:07 p.m. Introductions were made by all in attendance.

Minutes:

The minutes of the October 1, 2014, meeting were reviewed and approved with amendment. The amendments were:

- On page 2, two-way operations have been implemented during the non-rush hour period, not rush hour.
- On page 3, the ongoing cleaning and painting project was just on the westbound span, not both spans.

The amendments were approved unanimously. A motion for adoption of the amended minutes was made by Ms. Wright and seconded by Ms. Hitchings with all members in concurrence.

Update on upcoming MDTA projects

Mr. Will Pines provided an update on the Westbound Suspension Span Rehabilitation project. The project is expected to be advertised in January 2015, with a Notice To Proceed in January 2016. The project will last approximately 2 years and cost about \$44 million. The project will add two new 3/5 inch diameter supplemental suspension cables on the westbound span to extend the service life of the original cables.

Mr. Schulz asked if a similar project is expected for the eastbound span. Mr. Pines stated that due to the difference in design on the eastbound span, supplemental cables for the eastbound span are not anticipated.

Mr. Broderick asked if there would be similar full nighttime closures for this project as there were for the dehumidification project. Due to the number of ongoing system preservation projects, it is anticipated that nighttime closures are going to be common place at the Bay Bridge. Projects may not require a full

closure, but due to the number of different projects occurring on the bridge, full closures will likely be implemented for worker and motorist safety.

Ms. Wright asked if the new cables will be linked to the dehumidification system. Mr. Pines said that as of now it will not be connected, but they will monitor to see if it needs to be linked to the system.

Update on Bridge Activities

Mr. Garrettson, Bay Bridge Administrator, updated the group on bridge projects and other newsworthy information.

Operations

First, Mr. Garrettson introduced the new Deputy Facility Administrator Barry Clothier. He was most recently with the State Highway Administration in the District 2 (upper Eastern Shore area) office as the District Utility Engineer.

Closures on the eastbound span have been scheduled for 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Fridays. These closures are expected to continue until mid-February, when lane closures on the westbound span will begin. Full nighttime closures of the eastbound span are expected to continue until spring. The hours of the full closure are 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. Monday through Friday and 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Two-way operations are not implemented on Mondays and Tuesdays. Two-way operations are expected to end on Wednesdays in the next few weeks.

Cleaning and Painting

The project to clean and paint on the westbound span is continuing. The westbound bridge is 93% complete. The project should be finished in May 2015, with extra crews being brought in to finish the \$38 million project.

Cable Wrapping and Dehumidification Project

The project is 80% complete and the westbound span is 100% done. The eastbound span dehumidification plant has been installed. The project is expected to be complete in April 2015, following a 64% work day loss due to weather.

Miscellaneous Repairs

The \$14 million contract for inspection-related miscellaneous repairs will continue until March when the contract will end. A new \$18.9 million contract will begin at the completion of this contract.

Toll Booth Replacement and Plaza Concrete Replacement

Lanes 9 - 11 have been completed. Currently lanes 6, 7 and 8 are under construction. The final phase will be construction on lanes 1 thru 5. All lanes are expected to be complete before the beginning of the summer travel season.

Traffic Statistics

Mr. Garrettson noted that traffic for the Thanksgiving weekend was down 3% as compared to 2013. On the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, two-way operations was not implemented due to inclement

weather. Traffic for the Christmas holiday was down 1%, and peak demand was spread out over more days because the holiday was on a Thursday.

Safety Enhancements

Safety enhancements (additional signage, flashing lights, speed warning signs, etc) have been completely installed, and there has been a 6% reduction in crashes. It is still too early to tell if it is a direct result of the additional signage.

Overhead Lane Signals

The project to modify the “green arrow” signs to allow for all five lanes to allow traffic in one direction. The use of all lanes in one direction has not been needed, but is a useful tool to have if needed in the future.

Other Business

Bridge Run

Committee members commended the MDTA and the race organizers for the successful event. The eastbound span was closed at 1 a.m. and was reopened at 12:15 p.m. Preparation activities started on the Thursday before the race. The first wave of runners started at 7:30 a.m. and the last wave left at 9:30 a.m. There were no crashes or traffic incidents during the race. Kent Island traffic was able to move around throughout the event.

Mr. Fleming discussed the upcoming legislative Session. There was a bill pre-filed by Del. McConkey (D33) to require the MDTA to convert to All-Electronic Tolling, but still allow one cash lane if desired, by 2024.

Next meeting:

The next meeting of the Bay Bridge Reconstruction Advisory Group will be held on Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at 6 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned about 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Fleming