

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

Meeting Summary

Regular Meeting
Wednesday, January 9, 2013
MDTA Bay Bridge Police Building

PRESENT:

Jack Broderick, Chairman
Barbara Span-Obert
Barbara Hitchings

Pat Lynch
Nancy Wright
Delores Green

MDTA STAFF:

Harold Bartlett
Richard Jaramillo
John Narer

Patrick Fleming
Kerry Brandt
Kevin Webber

Call to Order

Chairman Jack Broderick called the meeting of the Bay Bridge Reconstruction Advisory Group (BBRAG) to order at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Jack Broderick discussed the retirement of Gail Moran from the MDTA. He felt that Ms. Moran had been a valuable resource and friend to the BBRAG and she would be missed. The following email was sent to Ms. Moran before she left:

Gail,

I'm feeling really ambivalent about this news. It is great to be able to reach that point in life where you can comfortably shift gears and live at the pace you desire. Congratulations on your retirement!

But..., we on the BBRAG are really going to miss you. You have been a real pleasure to work with – available, responsive, pleasant, and positive – even in the most frustrating of times. It has been our honor to have you as our MdTA contact and coordinator.

From all of us – Thank you - and best wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement.

I hope we will have the opportunity to say good bye and thanks in person.

Jack

Mr. Broderick also expressed the value to the BBRAG of the weekly emails of scheduled closures to stay informed and being able to discuss with the community. The weekly emails will continue.

Minutes:

The minutes of the October 3, 2012 meeting were amended and approved. A motion for adoption was made by Ms. Lynch and seconded by Ms. Hitchings.

Report from the Maryland Transportation Authority Executive Secretary

Mr. Harold Bartlett expressed that he would pass along the comments of the BBRAG to the MDTA Board members at the January meeting.

Mr. Bartlett discussed the active process that the MDTA has undertaken to proactively share with the community the initiatives that the MDTA is undertaking. This includes the MDTA's

submission of legislation updating the toll citation process to allow the MDTA to continue using video tolls and allowing for the issuance of citations. The bill has not been introduced in the General Assembly at this time, but it is expected to be introduced shortly.

Mr. Broderick said that he and the members of BBRAG are willing to help if needed to advocate for the proposed legislation.

Bay Bridge Construction and Preservation Projects

Gordon Garretson, Facility Administrator for the Bay Bridge, and Kevin Weber, MDTA Construction Area Engineer, reported on major capital projects on the Bay Bridge:

- Painting - Phase I of the westbound span painting, which includes the steel girders, is expected to be finished in March. Phase II, including the painting of the suspension spans, is approximately 60% complete. Since painting cannot occur in cold weather, progress has been suspended. Scaffolding is being removed from towers because painting is complete. Phase III, the deck truss on either side of the suspension spans, will begin in March 2013 and is expected to last 12-18 months. It is a \$36 million contract. Work will include painting of the westbound truss and will last two years.
- The re-wrapping, dehumidification and shielding of the main cables – work is progressing on the westbound span.
- Isolation Point installation – will add switches to allow power to overhead gantries at each location so that if one location fails all others after it will continue to operate.
- On-call contract – has been issued for \$10 million to address any issues that arise.
- Security fencing – Fencing has been installed along the shoreline along with anti-climbing shields.
- Substructure repairs – Fiberglass wraps were completed in November 2012, six months ahead of schedule.
- DMS/PVS – message signs are mostly repaired.
- Weather station – New station is fully operational. Allows staff to remotely look up wind speeds, precipitation, temperature, etc.

Closures are to be expected on the westbound span from 9 am until 2 pm through the month of January. In March the eastbound span will be closed from 9 am until 2 pm. These closures are needed to perform annual inspections. Two-way operations will be suspended in the coming weeks on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays because the traffic demands do not necessitate two-way operations. Inspections will also require some full bridge closures in the coming months.

Ms. Wright asked if the Bridge was affected by the power outage on December 21. Mr. Garretson said that the Bridge did lose power but was not affected because of the dual feed.

Ms. Lynch talked about moving the toll booths to the eastern shore side of the Bridge. Mr. Broderick discussed the issues related to traffic management and public safety if they were moved to the eastern shore. Mr. Broderick understands that it is not ideal to have the booths on the western shore but it is more viable option and would oppose the movement of the booths. He said that Kent Island and Queen Anne's county should be included in any further discussions of the movement of the toll plaza. MDTA commented that they are not exploring the option of moving the

toll plaza at this time. It was noted that Anne Arundel County can't address the needs at the Severn River bridge until the next steps for the Bay Bridge have been discussed.

SHA Brick Bridge

Mr. John Narer from the State Highway administration provided an update on the Brick Bridge. The project is about 50% complete, but slightly behind schedule because of weather delays. One deck is curing and parapet wall was poured last week. A traffic switch is expected to occur next Friday January 18, 2013 and the second phase will begin on Sunday January 20, 2013. The completion date of May 4 is still achievable and there is a penalty if the contractor does not meet the completion date.

Future SHA projects – Rt. 2 overpass will need a long term maintenance project in about 3 – 5 years and they have begun to identify preventative maintenance projects. Shamrock rd. overpass on Kent Island wasn't reconstructed as part of the "Reach the Beach" campaign. The development that was to occur there hasn't and the project isn't on anyone's priority list. The interchange of US 301 and US 304 is fully funded for engineering analysis and has some money identified for right-of-way acquisition.

Other Business

Mr. Broderick asked if the Bay Bridge walk was going to be coming back. Mr. Bartlett said that at this time the MDTA did not have plans to bring the walk back but that a private company has approached the MDTA about doing a run on the bridge.

Ms. Hitchings said that there were 3 lights on the Sandy Point overpass that were out and wasn't sure who to contact. Mr. Garretson said he would look into it.

Next meeting:

The next meeting of the Bay Bridge Reconstruction Advisory Group will be held on Wednesday, April 3, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned about 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Fleming