

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

Meeting Summary

Wednesday, April 24, 2013
MDTA Bay Bridge Police Building

PRESENT:

Jack Broderick, Chairman
Nick Deoudes
Barbara Hitchings
Tracy Shultz

Pat Lynch
Nancy Wright
Bill Nevel

MDTA STAFF:

Gordon Garretson
Kerry Brandt
Kevin Weber

Patrick Fleming
John Narer

Call to Order

Chairman Jack Broderick called the meeting of the Bay Bridge Reconstruction Advisory Group (BBRAG) to order at 6:03 p.m.

Minutes:

The minutes of the January 9, 2012 meeting were amended and approved. A motion for adoption was made by Ms. Wright and seconded by Mr. Deoudes.

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, was finished in March. Phase II, including the painting of the suspension spans, is approximately 60% complete. Since painting cannot occur in cold weather, progress was suspended during the winter. Dependent upon weather it should be complete by August. Phase III, the deck truss on either side of the suspension spans, a contractor has been selected and given "Notice To Proceed" on May 13, 2013. After that date containment measures, platforms, and barges will be seen. As part of phase III some railing will be replaced. This will be done at night starting in September and is expected to last about 100 days weather permitting. Phase IV, superstructure painting, other project schedules are being reviewed to insert this project and minimize impacts on the public. No date set.
- The re-wrapping, dehumidification and shielding of the main cables – work is progressing on the westbound span. Work on the eastbound span is anticipated to begin in June.
- 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. Also, looking to add un-interruptible power supply to the lane signals. This is still in the design phase.

- On-call contract – Contractor has been selected and will address any items identified as a result of the annual inspection.
- DMS/PVS – repairs finished on sign at 50 and 404. Issue at Cox Creek sign has been resolved and erection of new sign has started. Hoping to have project complete before Memorial Day.
- Additional safety measures on westbound bridge – “Rumble” strips have been added between lanes 2 and 3, and added additional signage.

Mr. Nevel asked about the potential for built-in sensors to help guide what repairs are needed. Mr. Weber responded that our facilities have annual inspections making sensors not necessary. Mr. Weber also noted that the MDTA is exploring adding sensors to monitor movement of the bridge.

A discussion about wind speed monitoring occurred. Mr. Nevel asked when restrictions are enforced. Mr. Garrettson stated that at 30+ mph wind warnings are issued, at 40+ mph restrictions for empty box trucks, 50+mph prohibit trucks under 64K lbs., and 55+ consider closing bridge entirely. Ms. Lynch asked what happened on March 6, 2013 when a truck was involved in an incident on the bridge. Mr. Garrettson said that wind warnings were initiated at 5 am that morning and 1:57 pm wind speeds were monitored at 48 mph and warnings were still in effect.

Ms. Lynch asked how often two-way operations are implemented. Mr. Garrettson stated that two-way operations are implemented daily during the summer months and 4+ times a week during the rest of the year.

There was a general discussion about the merge area between the toll plaza and the bridge.

SHA Brick Bridge

Mr. John Narer from the State Highway administration provided an update on the Brick Bridge. Two-way operations were started on April 19, 2013. Work will continue through the summer with completion anticipated in September, depending on weather.

Other Business

Mr. Garrettson announced that Harold Bartlett will be retiring from the MDTA. His last day is expected to be in May.

A private company is leading an effort to hold a run across the bridge. The organizers will be invited to a future meeting to discuss the event with the group.

Chairman Broderick discussed the March 6 incident and thanked the Kent Island Volunteer Fire Department for all their work and support to the community.

Mr. Fleming discussed the completion of the 2013 legislative session. HB 420 MDTA’s bill that updated the toll enforcement and citation process passed unanimously. Working with the sponsors of SB 93, the MDTA will initiate a Life Cycle analysis of the Bay Bridge. The analysis is expected to take approximately 18 months to complete. Staff will be invited to discuss the analysis at the fall meeting of the BBRAG. SB 72 will allow the MDTA to assess an additional penalty to

drivers of the vehicles that are not in compliance with over-height/weight permits and cause damage to MDTA facilities.

Next meeting:

The next meeting of the Bay Bridge Reconstruction Advisory Group will be held on Wednesday, August 7, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned about 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Fleming