

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

Meeting Summary

Wednesday, October 2, 2013  
MDTA Bay Bridge Police Building

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jack Broderick, Chairman  
Nancy Wright  
Tracy Schulz

Pat Lynch  
Barbara Hitchings  
Tracey Higgs

**OTHER ATTENDEES:**

Sparrow Rogers

**MDTA STAFF:**

Gordon Garretson  
Kerry Brandt  
Kevin Weber

Patrick Fleming  
John Narer (SHA)  
Kimberly Millender

**Call to Order and Welcome**

Chairman Jack Broderick called the meeting of the Bay Bridge Reconstruction Advisory Group (BBRAG) to order at 6:05 p.m. Introductions were made by all in attendance. Ms. Hitchings shared observations from her niece who attended the August meeting that the BBRAG was well run, organized and productive.

**Minutes:**

The minutes of the August 7, 2012 meeting were amended and approved. The amendment corrected the cost of the Bay Bridge painting project from \$88 million to \$73 million and a grammatical amendment. A motion for adoption was made by Mr. Schulz and seconded by Mr. Narer with all members in concurrence.

**Open Meetings**

Ms. Millender discussed that as part of legislation passed during the 2013 Legislative Session all public bodies are required to have designated staff representatives trained in compliance with the Open Meetings Act (OMA). The MDTA Board, its Finance and Capital Committees, and BBRAG are the four public bodies within the MDTA. Dennis Simpson, Director of Capital Planning has officially been designated as the staff representative for BBRAG. Ms. Lynch asked what the training will provide Mr. Simpson. Ms. Millender responded that while Mr. Simpson is already familiar with the OMA, the training will provide an overview of the law and details regarding the specific requirements. Mr. Fleming will also be taking the training course as the staff liaison.

Ms. Wright made a motion to endorse Mr. Simpson as the designated staff representative for BBRAG, Mr. Schulz seconded, and all members concurred.

## **Bay Bridge Run**

Ms. Rogers is one of the founders of the organization (Bay Bridge Run LLC) sponsoring a 10k race across the Bay Bridge on November 9, 2014. The organization also has a contract to conduct the race until 2016, dates and time of those races are to be determined. Dave McGillivray is the race organizer. Mr. McGillivray has organized other races like the Boston Marathon. The final course is still in design, but is nearly finalized. As of now the race will start on the western side of the bridge at the Northrop Grumman property and then head across the bridge and end at the Chesapeake business park off Rt. 8. Some pre-registration has begun, and the organization will officially open registration on Nov. 9, 2013. Ms. Lynch asked about a registration fee. Ms. Rogers said there is a \$60 registration fee. Ms. Rogers indicated that the organization already has registrants from 6 countries. The Yellow Ribbon Fund will be one of the official charities for the event and others charities will be named.

The eastbound bridge will be closed to vehicular traffic from 6 a.m. until 1 p.m. on November 9, 2014. The race is scheduled to start at 8 a.m. and racers will be started in waves. The last wave of racers will be at 12 p.m. Ms. Hitchings asked if there is minimum pace for runners. Ms. Rogers said racers are expected to keep a minimum pace of 19 minutes per mile. Racers will park at the Naval Academy Stadium in Annapolis or at the Chesapeake business park on Kent Island. Ms. Lynch asked if shipping beneath the bridge would be stopped. Mr. Garretson said that shipping would not be stopped.

Currently, the organizers are hosting a competition to create the tag line for the race. Final plans are being developed and Ms. Rogers will return to the April meeting to provide an update.

## **Bay Bridge Construction and Preservation Projects**

Mr. Garretson, 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 96% complete. The tarp on the tower will be coming down and the scaffolding will follow. This phase is expected to be finished in December. Phase III, the deck truss on either side of the suspension spans, has tarps and platforms installed and is expected to be complete in May 2015 Phase IV, superstructure painting, other project schedules are being reviewed to insert this project and minimize impacts on the public and no date has been set. All four phases cost approximately \$73 million.
- The re-wrapping, dehumidification and shielding of the main cables – work on the WB span is about 60% complete, total contract is about 30% complete. Temporary platform construction has been completed. Plant rooms and setup is ongoing. WB span is to be completed in December then will start on EB span. This project has had 59% loss of time due to weather.
- Isolation Point installation – work is ongoing. Worksite is being accessed from the water to reduce impact on motorists. Project is expected to be complete in November.
- Overhead Signals – work is wrapping up and should be complete by the end of October.
- Concrete replacement at Toll Plaza – drain fixed, looking to coordinate work with toll booth replacement. Should start in the fall of 2014.

Staff is looking at widening the cross-over areas for two-way operations. The current cross-overs need to be repaved and looking at widening them to accommodate additional lanes of traffic if needed during emergencies. Currently, only one lane of traffic can cross over at a time.

Currently regular lane closures are 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and 9 or 10 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. Monday through Thursday. Most closures are of the westbound span, but will start to have eastbound span closures. Staff is monitoring traffic numbers to determine if Friday lane closures from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. is feasible. At 3:30 p.m. everyday a 15 minute lane closure occurs to allow for the pick up of contractors.

Two-way operations are reducing through the week. Currently, there are no two way operations on Mondays and they are expected to be dropped on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

### **Other Business**

Mr. Garretson said that traffic is about the same as last year. The first half of the summer was down, which is likely the result of severe weather. The second half of the summer is over last years' traffic.

Ms. Lynch asked about E-ZPass marketing. Ms. Brandt responded that the website and phone number are constantly promoted. During the winter holiday season, E-ZPass On-the-Go is marketed. During the summer, E-ZPass is promoted in addition to safe driving across the bridge. Ms. Lynch also asked if cash receipts are provided. Upon request cash receipts are provided.

Mr. Garretson briefly discussed an incident that occurred involving smoke on the westbound span. The incident is still under investigation. At 5:50 p.m. smoke was reported, at 5:54 p.m. the westbound span was closed and reopened at 7:46 p.m. The incident resulted in a 7 mile backup in the westbound direction and a 3 mile backup in the eastbound direction. The fire marshal is still investigating the cause of the smoke.

Ms. Lynch asked about cameras on the bridge. Mr. Garretson said that there were 8 cameras on the bridge.

Mr. Narer provided an update about the US 301 Brick Bridge. The bridge is open to traffic and only has a punch list of items for completion. SHA is embarking on a number of projects on the eastern shore as a result of the Transportation Investment Act passed during the 2013 legislative session. These projects include: dualization of 404 (near 309) at a cost of approx. \$40 million; the \$60 million replacement of the Dover Bridge; fully funding interchange improvements at the intersection of 301 and 304; and SHA will also be studying options for the Severn River Bridge.

### **Next meeting:**

The next meeting of the Bay Bridge Reconstruction Advisory Group will be held on Wednesday, January 8, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned about 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Fleming