

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MONTHLY MEETING
THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2026
OPEN MEETING VIA LIVESTREAM

OPEN SESSION

MEMBERS ATTENDING: Cynthia Penny-Ardinger
Dontae Carroll
Jeffrey Rosen
John von Paris

STAFF ATTENDING: William Bertrand
Greg Brown
Jeffrey P. Davis
Keara DeKay
Tonya Dorsey
Joshua Durant
Bruce Gartner
Chantelle Green
Anthony Hagen
Amber Harvey
Pilar Helm
Natalie Henson
Richard Jaramillo
Kendra Joseph
Megan Mohan, Esq.
Kenneth Montgomery
Simon Najar
Mark Rappold
Timothy Sheets
Patricia Tracey
Agnes Vadasz
Franshun Vann, Esq.

At 9:01 a.m., Member John von Paris, Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee, called the Finance and Administration Committee Meeting to order.

APPROVAL - OPEN MEETING MINUTES FROM JUNE 11, 2026 MEETING

Member John von Paris called for the approval of the minutes from the open meeting held on June 11, 2026. Member Jeffrey Rosen made the motion, and Member Cynthia Penny-Ardinger seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL – CLOSED MEETING MINUTES FROM JUNE 11, 2026 MEETING

Member von Paris called for the approval of the minutes from the closed meeting held on June 11, 2026. Member Dontae Carroll the motion, and Member Rosen seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL – CONTRACT No. MT-00211657 – EMERGENCY SNOW REMOVAL SERVICES

Mr. Richard Jaramillo requested a recommendation of approval from the Finance and Administration Committee to present Contract No. MT-00211657, Emergency Snow Removal Services, to the full Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) Board at its next scheduled meeting. The contract pertains to emergency snow removal services incurred from January 24, 2026 through January 31, 2026. The contract includes services for employee supervision, supplies, labor, and equipment. These services were provided at the MDTA's I-95 Express Toll Lanes, which is a critical infrastructure that supports travel mobility along the I-95, I-895, and I-695 corridors in and around the Baltimore metropolitan areas. The services were provided during Winter Storm Fern, a declared State of Emergency.

Member von Paris called for a motion to recommend approval of this item to the full MDTA Board at its next scheduled meeting. Member Ardinger made the motion, and Member Carroll seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

UPDATE - WORKFORCE AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT – LEADERSHIP INVESTMENT FOR TOMORROW (LIFT) PROGRAM

Ms. Keara DeKay provided the Finance and Administration Committee with an overview of the Spring 2026 Leadership Investment for Tomorrow (LIFT) program and the results of the 2026 LIFT Alumni Event.

Since the summer of 2025, a series of enhancements to the LIFT curriculum, resources, and evaluation structure have been implemented. These enhancements include new instructional modules to deepen participant learning in key leadership areas, such as Emotional Intelligence, Giving and Receiving Feedback, and Strategic Thinking. An interactive workbook supports participants with structured activities, action planning tools, and direct links to the references and resources used throughout the program.

Additionally, the LIFT Alumni Event, a new initiative for 2026, was held in conjunction with the Spring 2026 cohort's first session. The LIFT Alumni Event brought participants together from all six LIFT cohorts. The Alumni Event was designed to build community among alumni, to showcase career progress, and to connect participants to additional workforce development opportunities. Participant feedback was positive.

UPDATE - WORKFORCE AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT – ALL ACCESS TOUR TRAINING PROGRAM

Driven by feedback obtained from the MDTA Operations Leadership Team, the Workforce and Organizational Development Unit (the unit) developed a two-hour, hands-on workshop focused on the MDTA's core Human Resources systems.

The unit conducted 15 sessions across the 8 maintenance facilities while successfully training 231 staff members in the MDTA Operations Division in what has been hailed as "The All Access Tour". The All Access Tour demonstrated that bringing training directly to the workforce is a great way to close skill gaps. In addition, it was noted that by delivering hands-on support to the MDTA Division of Operations employees, the unit resolved immediate digital literacy issues and gained valuable insight into the team's operational needs.

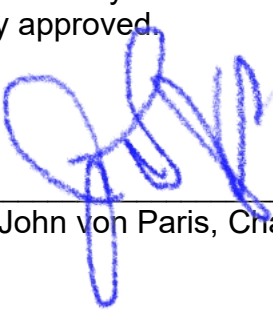
The systems discussed in the sessions included the Maryland Department of Transportation's Human Resources Information System (core Human Resources platform), Cornerstone (the MDTA's learning management system), MTrack (the payroll system), Workday (the employee benefits system), and ReACT (the employee password reset tool).

UPDATE TRAVEL PLAZA UPDATE – ANNUAL UPDATE ON THE MDTA's TRAVEL PLAZAS

Mr. Simon Najar updated the Finance and Administration Committee on the current progress of Travel Plaza operations at the Maryland House and the Chesapeake House. The update included a brief overview of the contract award and agreement, the contract awardee's (Areas USA) history and expertise, current operations at the travel plazas, and the future outlook.

VOTE TO ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting of the Finance Committee adjourned at 9:42 a.m., following a motion by Member Rosen. Member Carroll seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.



John von Paris, Chairman