



*Maryland Port Administration
Open Session Meeting Minutes, #425
Tuesday, February 3, 2026*

MEETING DATE & LOCATION

The Four Hundred and Twenty-Fifth Session of the Maryland Port Commission was called to order at 9:02 a.m. on January 6, 2026, by Acting Secretary, Kathryn Thomson. The Commission met in Open Session from 9:02 a.m. until 10:04 a.m. in the Stanton Room, 20th floor, World Trade Center, 401 E. Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD 21202.

ATTENDANCE

Chairman and Officials:

Acting Secretary Thomson and Commissioners Barber, Brewer, Neuman*, Richardson, Roberts, and Webb.

Executive Members:

Samantha Biddle (Deputy Secretary), Jonathan Daniels (Executive Director), Brian Miller (Deputy Executive Director, Operations & Logistics), Robert Munroe (Deputy Executive Director, Administration and Environment), Matthew Wypyski (Deputy Executive Director, Commercial Development), Jason Sayers (Assistant Deputy Principal Counsel).

Directors:

Bradley Smith (Director of Maritime Commercial Management & Strategic Initiatives), Cindy Burman (Director of Cruise Marketing and Business Services), Dominic Scurti (Director of Planning), Holly Miller (Director, Office of Navigation, Innovation & Stewardship), Jennifer Guthrie (Director of the Office of Government Relations and External Affairs), John Boden (Director of Human Resources), Kathleen Pickett (Director of Security), Melody Countess (Chief Financial Officer & Treasurer), Richard Scher (Director of Communications), Ryan Barry (Director of Operations), Steve Johnson (Director of Engineering), Tracy Pinder (Director of Internal Audit), William Richardson (Director of the Environment).

Affiliates:

Alexander Mann (Capital Program Manager), Daren Dean (Property Management), Emmanuel Ansa (EEO Manager), Jasmin Todman (Budget Manager), Jill Lemke (Senior Manager, Strategic Planning), Mark Riesett (Procurement Manager), Michael Keegan (Procurement), Nick Porter (Manager, Business Development), Nancy Moyo (Executive Office).

Staff:

Marvis Harden (Special Assistant to the Executive Director), Krystal Jones (Executive Office), Mana Sherman and Paul Wainaina (Office of Information Security and Technology).

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Richardson moved to approve the Open Session Minutes of the Four Hundred and Twenty-Fourth Maryland Port Commission (MPC) meeting. Commissioner Barber seconded the motion, and the Commission voted unanimously to approve the Open Session Minutes.

*Attended via Teams/phone

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE, Jonathan Daniels, Executive Director

Mr. Daniels reflected on his prior remarks about the challenges from 2024 into 2025, noting that now, in early 2026, 2025 showed significant rebound and recovery. Reflecting on the period in Annapolis during the budget sessions a year ago, the primary discussions were around how quickly the Port of Baltimore (POB) may recover to the pre-incident 2023 numbers that set the benchmark.

Mr. Daniels referenced a recent press release from Governor Moore's office announcing that the POB set several new records, including container moves and cargo vessel visits, that exceeded the 2023 levels and provide MPA with a solid message going into this legislative session.

Mr. Daniels relayed a special thank you to the operations and cruise team for the incredible work done during the recent storm event. Operations did a fantastic job staying in front of the storm, allowing cargo activity to get back to work. The cruise team worked closely with Carnival to assist passengers arriving back in Baltimore after a two-week voyage to the Caribbean. Carnival's Brand Ambassador, John Heald, received several comments from passengers reflecting the high level of service and assistance provided by MPA staff and Directors, and members of the ILA.

Mr. Daniels advised the Commission that an announcement regarding cruise was coming soon.

Mr. Daniels reported that progress continues on the implementation of the EPA Clean Ports grant, with MPA recently passing a \$1M reimbursement milestone. He thanked Bill Richardson and Jessica Shearer for their hard work in administering the \$147M program, in addition to the stakeholders who have invested.

The City of Baltimore has completed work on the Colgate Creek Bridge, although MPA is still waiting for final inspection and approval of the bridge. The bridge is important to the port as it is part of the route allowing overweight trucks to move from Seagirt to TradePoint Atlantic (TPA) and the DC network. Additional structural tests will take place in the next few weeks before final approval. Until the work is complete, containers moving to TPA will have to continue to utilize an extended route. MPA has been in contact with many of our customers to ensure they are aware of the situation.

Mr. Daniels -congratulated Commissioner Karenthia Barber for being named one of the Baltimore Sun's Top 25 *Black Marylanders to Watch in 2026*.

FY27 OPERATING BUDGET, Jasmin Todman

Jasmin Todman, Budget Manager, provided an overview the MPA's FY27 budget allowance, currently under consideration for final approval by the Maryland General Assembly. Upon approval it will become effective July 1, 2026 (FY2026). At the time of the drafting of the budget documents, MPA had 2% of MDOT's total PINs, which include positions among Operating (160 PINs) and Capital (43 PINs) Programs.

The total MPA budget allowance of \$397.6M includes salaries and wages, non-discretionary and discretionary, and general funds.

Ms. Todman outlined the breakdown of costs that make up the \$58.5M FY27 operating budget, with salaries and benefits, security services, contracted services, fuel and utilities, other operating expenses and insurance.

FY2027 CAPITAL BUDGET, Dominic Scurti

Dominic Scurti, Director of Planning, provided an overview of the MPA's FY27 capital budget. MPA's

final six-year CTP budget of \$1673.7M was released on January 15, 2026. The budget includes state, federal, GO bonds and other funds.

Mr. Scurti explained the breakdown of MPA's final CTP and highlighted the six-year Capital Budget Requests for Navigation, Innovation & Stewardship (NIS) and Terminals and the World Trade Center (WTC). The FY27 Capital Budget Request for NIS is \$215.5M. The majority of that will go towards Mid-Bay Design and Construction, in addition to other large projects, like Masonville and Cox Creek, as well as several smaller initiatives.

The FY27 Capital Budget Request for Terminals and the World Trade Center (WTC) is \$37.4M. The vast majority will go towards agency-wide repairs, the WTC, DMT and other contracts.

Mr. Scurti identified the remaining FY27 Proposed Budget Highlights for the Commission as being the EPA Clean Ports Grant and Chromium Ore Processing Remediation, in addition to the CSX/Ports America Chesapeake CRISI Projects.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES, Jennifer Guthrie

Jennifer Guthrie, Director of the Office of Government Relations and External Affairs, provided a Legislative Update on behalf of the MPA Office Government Relations.

Ms. Guthrie discussed movement on the federal level in 2026 with the submission of two requests for the next Water Resources and development Act (WRDA) and work to be done to advocate for sufficient federal funding levels for FY 2027 appropriations related to the federal channels and joint projects between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and MPA.

Ms. Guthrie noted that state legislative session in Annapolis began on January 14, 2026, with MPA budget hearings set for February 13, 2026, in the Senate and February 16, 2026, in the House.

The MPA is monitoring several pieces of legislation and will continue to provide updates to the Commission.

STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE, Jill Lemke

Jill Lemke, Senior Manager, Strategic Planning, provided an overview of the MPA Strategic Business Plan (SBP) developed by the Strategic Planning Committee. The Strategic Planning Committee was formed with executive leadership and representatives from each department, and met monthly to discuss and develop values, goals, strategies and actions. The Committee started with the foundational mission to increase the flow of waterborne commerce through the ports of the State of Maryland in a manner that would be beneficial to the citizens of the State.

Ms. Lemke shared that the core values of the mission consisted of innovation, collaboration, resilience, integrity and sustainability. Some of the Strategic Goals were to increase market share for key business lines, modernize MPA assets, improve and broaden MPA communication, and improve workforce development and employee relations.

The committee considered strategies and actions to be implemented within the next three to five years and developed key performance indicators (KPIs) to track and monitor progress. Examples include working with stakeholders, partners, and customers to explore new opportunities for increasing container volumes in the POB and increasing renewable energy sourcing in Port operations, as well as promoting and enhancing professional development opportunities for all MPA Personnel.

Ms. Lemke explained that implementation of the Strategic Business Plan will require a high level of coordination and focus between MPA and external stakeholders, to understand the vision and achieve the plan goals. The Strategic Business Plan's goals and strategies will be aligned with the development and support of departmental work plans, capital projects and public policies. The plan is envisioned as a living document that will be updated annually and will inform and be informed by the long-term Master Vision Plan.

Mr. Daniels noted that the Master Vision Plan contract will allow MPA to work with external stakeholders to incorporate their perspective into our strategic plan. Commissioner Richardson requested that the MPC be kept updated regarding MPA's progress in meeting the top 4-5 strategic goals in the Strategic Business Plan.

CONTRACTS, Mark Riesett

Mark Riesett, Manager of Procurement, presented the following contracts for approval by the Maryland Port Commission.

1. **Contract # 225044-S** – Master Vision Plan, John C. Martin Associates LLC dba Martin Associates, Lancaster, Pennsylvania; Amount: \$963,000; Term: March 5, 2026* – February 29, 2028 (Initial Term with One (1) One-Year Renewal Option) **or earlier upon BPW approval.*

After discussion, a motion to approve Contract #225044-S was made by Commissioner Webb, seconded by Commissioner Brewer and approved unanimously by the Commission.

2. **Contract # 525080** – BGE Feeder Upgrade at Dundalk Marine Terminal, Joseph B. Fay Co., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Amount: \$10,750,358; Term: 266 workdays from Notice to Proceed.

After discussion, a motion to approve Contract #525080 was made by Commissioner Richardson, seconded by Commissioner Barber and approved unanimously by the Commission.

VOTE TO CLOSE MEETING

At 10:04 a.m., in accordance with the State General Provisions Article, 3-305(b)(1)(i) and (ii) of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Commissioner Barber moved that the Commission meet in Closed Session, Commissioner Roberts second the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously. See attached Closing Statement.

The Commission met in Closed Session from 10:04 a.m. until 10:38 a.m. Acting Secretary Thomson, Deputy Secretary Biddle, Commissioners Barber, Brewer, Neuman*, Richardson, Roberts, and Webb, along with Jonathan Daniels (Executive Director), Robert Munroe (Deputy Executive Director, Administration and Environment), Matthew Wypyski (Deputy Executive Director, Commercial Development), Jason Sayers (Assistant Deputy Principal Counsel), John Boden (Director Human Resources), and Marvis Harden (Special Assistant to the Executive Director), were present for the closed session.

The following topic was discussed in the closed session:

State General Provisions Article Citation #	Topics Discussed
§ 3-305(b)(1)(i) and (ii)	Personnel Matter

Mr. Daniels presented the Commission with a personnel matter for an individual over which the Commission has jurisdiction.

No votes were taken during the Closed Session.

Commissioner Roberts made a motion to move out of the closed session, seconded by Commissioner Barber and approved unanimously by the Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Richardson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Brewer. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:38 a.m.