



*Maryland Port Administration
Open Session Meeting Minutes, #426
Tuesday, March 10, 2026*

MEETING DATE & LOCATION

The Four Hundred and Twenty-Sixth Session of the Maryland Port Commission was called to order at 9:03 a.m. on March 10, 2026, by Acting Secretary, Kathryn Thomson. The Commission met in Open Session from 9:03 a.m. until 10:12 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*, Richardson*, Roberts, and Webb.

Executive Members:

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), Phil Whaling (Assistant Attorney General, Deputy Principal Counsel).

Directors:

Bradley Smith (Director of Maritime Commercial Management & Strategic Initiatives), 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-Bowen (Director of Security), Melody Countess (Chief Financial Officer & Treasurer), Richard Scher (Director of Communications), Ryan Barry (Director of Operations), Steve Johnson (Director of Engineering), Trisha O'Neal* (Director of Procurement), William Richardson (Director of the Environment).

Affiliates:

Andrea Williams, (Deputy Director, OESS), Daren Dean (Manager, Maritime Management), Emmanuel Ansah (EEO Manager), Mark Reiset* (Procurement Manager), Nick Porter, (Business Development Manager).

Staff:

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

Guest and Press:

Hayes Gardner (Baltimore Banner), James Bast (Seafarers International Union Representative).

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

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

Commissioner Roberts moved to approve the Closed Session Minutes of the Four Hundred and

Twenty-Fifth Maryland Port Commission (MPC) meeting. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion and the Commission voted unanimously to approve the Closed Session Minutes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE, Jonathan Daniels, Executive Director

Mr. Daniels acknowledged the two-year anniversary of the Francis Scott Key Bridge incident coming up on March 26. The Port of Baltimore continues to be resilient through economic and geopolitical impacts, as it continues to rebound and recover.

Mr. Daniels, Mr. Wypyski and Mr. Porter recently attended the TPM Conference in Long Beach, California. The focus of this year's meeting was on the impacts to trade lanes based on recent actions in Iran. The reopening of the Red Sea has been delayed due to fears of vessel attacks. The imposition of the new 15% tariff could impact cargo flows for an unspecified time and will be watched. MPA executives met with carriers and shippers, and with CSX on the progress and opening of the Howard Street Tunnel (HST) Project. The HST continues to be of great interest to existing and potential new business partners. The late April 2026 opening appears to be on target with planning underway for customers to begin utilizing the new infrastructure. Discussions were also held regarding the expanded market access that would become available to both international and domestic businesses upon the project's completion.

The announcement of the new Carnival agreement for the second ship that will arrive in the last quarter of 2027 has generated excitement in the industry. The Carnival Miracle will fill add new and distinct itineraries for the company and will not mirror the itineraries for the Carnival Pride. Extended voyages are being considered, including both in duration and geographic scope.

The budget hearings before the legislative subcommittees have been completed. The hearings focused on the Port's recovery and MPA's ability to draw down on approved federal grants, in light of actions taken by new administration. The MPA drawdowns on federal grants have been occurring without delays. Mr. Daniels thanked Acting Secretary Thomson, TSO, and the MPA staff for their preparedness and support during the hearings.

The Port of Baltimore Master Vision Plan was launched a few weeks ago during a meeting with the consultant. The meeting began the effort to further refine the focus of this MPA and stakeholder driven process. Over the next few months, the Master Vision Plan group will move from scope development to implementation and begin holding discussions and meetings with the stakeholders.

Mr. Daniels acknowledged the work by Mr. Bob Munroe and his entire team in working with the City to get an agreement to utilize the \$1M legislative appropriation for dredging in anticipation of the arrival of tall ships for the Sail 250 program. The dredged material is being placed in MPA's confined disposal facilities along with material generated by the development of the new container terminal at Sparrows Point.

ANNUAL SAFETY REPORT, Andrea Williams

Andrea Williams, Deputy Director, Office of Environment, Safety, and Sustainability (OESS) provided an Annual Safety, Emergency, Response, and Risk Management update. In collaboration with MDOT, OESS and cohorts of other modes have worked closely over the past six years to establish programs, policies and procedures to ensure the safety of every member of the MDOT family. The collaboration has resulted in a new heat stress policy and air quality procedure.

The MPA is hosting the MDOT Safety Fair on June 17. This year, the awards will include the new Life Saving Award. The MPA has proudly won the Safety Leader Award for last three consecutive years and is hoping to win again this year.

MPA's OSHA total recordable incident rate has decreased annually over the past three years, with each year being lower than the previous one. MPA's commitment to continuous improvements and safety pillars are 1) safety compliance, 2) building inspections, 3) root cause analysis, 4) training, and 5) drills and exercises. The safety compliance updates include mold inspection and remediation, hot work, lockout tagout, and hazard communication programs.

Ms. Williams acknowledged Mr. Ryan Barry and his maintenance staff for the initiative taken to request and complete training on mold remediation which allows MPA maintenance staff to perform remediation work that was previously performed by contractors. The collaboration has enhanced the agency's ability to respond effectively to mold-related issues and generated financial savings.

Workforce training and capacity-building initiatives undertaken by MPA enable the agency to provide internal training, thereby enhancing staff skills while reducing costs associated with external services. MPA has upgraded safety equipment with every MPA building being equipped with an AED, and in the WTC, an AED on each floor to ensure rapid access in case of emergencies.

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS OVERVIEW, Jennifer Guthrie

Jennifer Guthrie, Director of the Office of Government Relations and External Affairs, provided a legislative update to the Commission. The legislative session in Annapolis is quickly approaching the finish line, with *Sine Die* set for April 13th. Ms. Guthrie thanked the Port private sector partners and the Baltimore Port Alliance for their advocacy on behalf of the entire Port of Baltimore and MPA in Annapolis. The MPA continues to track two bills, one involving the Heavy Weight Port Corridor permit and another involving minimum required crew size on freight trains.

On the federal side, Ms. Guthrie advised that MPA submitted its funding and program requests under the Water Resource Development Act and federal fiscal year 2027 appropriations requests to the Maryland Congressional Delegation. MPA, along with other ports and the AAPA, are closely tracking the Maritime Action Plan recently released by the administration.

Ms. Guthrie discussed MPA's involvement in the American Association of Port Authorities Legislative Summit, attending meetings on Capitol Hill and sitting on a panel advocating for port infrastructure investment in the upcoming surface transportation reauthorization bill. Ms. Guthrie spoke to businesses from Spain about port infrastructure at the Spanish Embassy in Washington, D.C. earlier this month.

Ms. Guthrie highlighted several upcoming events, including visits from the Norwegian Minister for Fisheries and Ocean Policy and the Norwegian Ambassador to the United States (U.S.), a delegation focused on cargo and freight from Kazakhstan in coordination with the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program, and later in May, Members of the European Parliament Committee on Transport and Tourism.

CONTRACTS, Trisha O'Neal

Trisha O'Neal, Director of Procurement, presented the following contracts for approval by the Commission:

1. **Contract #521040R, Modification No. 13** – First Street Box Culvert at Dundalk Marine Terminal (DMT), Joseph B. Fay Co., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Amount: \$261,531.91; Modification Term: Unchanged from original contract term (730 calendar days). This modification is due to the discovery of differing site conditions during excavation for the

project and the need to address those differing conditions which were unknown at the time of project design. As such, the Contractor is entitled to an equitable adjustment to the original contract to complete the work in accordance with MPA General Provisions for Construction Contracts.

After discussion, a motion to approve Contract **#521040R, Modification No. 13** was made by Commissioner Webb, seconded by Commissioner Barber and approved unanimously by the Commission.

2. **Contract #524010** – Electrification 15KV Substation Submetering and Management System at Dundalk Marine Terminal, Glenelg Construction, Inc., Hanover, Maryland; Amount: \$3,024,140; Term: 400 Workdays from Notice to Proceed.

After discussion, a motion to approve Contract **#524010** was made by Commissioner Roberts, seconded by Commissioner Barber and approved unanimously by the Commission.

VOTE TO CLOSE MEETING

At 10:12 a.m., in accordance with the State General Provisions Article 3-305(b)(1)(i)(ii) and (13) Annotated Code of Maryland, Commissioner Barber moved that the Commission meet in Closed Session, Commissioner Roberts seconded and the motion was approved unanimously. See attached Closing Statement. The Commission met in Closed Session from 10:12 a.m. until 10:14 am, during which time the Commission determined that the vote to close the meeting should have referenced an additional category of discussion consistent with the Closing Statement, and took a brief recess. Acting Secretary Thomson, Commissioners Barber, Brewer*, Richardson*, Roberts, and Webb, and 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), Phil Whaling (Assistant Attorney General, Deputy Principal Counsel), Bradley Smith (Director of Maritime Commercial Management & Strategic Initiatives), Daren Dean (Manager, Maritime Management), and Marvis Harden (Special Assistant to the Executive Director), were present for the closed session.

VOTE TO OPEN MEETING

At 10:14 a.m., Commissioner Roberts moved that the Commission return to Open Session, Commissioner Barber seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

VOTE TO CLOSE MEETING

At 10:15 a.m., in accordance with the State General Provisions Article 3-305(b)(1)(i)(ii) and (13) of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Commissioner Barber moved that the Commission meet in Closed Session, Commissioner Roberts seconded and the motion was approved unanimously. See attached Closing Statement. The Commission met in Closed Session from 10:15 a.m. until 11:08 a.m. Acting Secretary Thomson, Commissioners Barber, Brewer*, Richardson, Roberts, and Webb, and 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), Phil Whaling (Assistant Attorney General, Deputy Principal Counsel), Bradley Smith (Director of Maritime Commercial Management & Strategic Initiatives), Daren Dean (Manager, Maritime Management), and Marvis Harden (Special Assistant to the Executive Director), were present for the closed session.

The following topics were discussed in the closed session:

State General Provisions Article Citation #	Topics Discussed
§ 3-305(b)(13)	Evaluation of Competitive Position of Public Marine Terminals at Port of Baltimore

§ 3-305(b)(1)(i) and (ii)	Personnel Matter
---------------------------	------------------

Mr. Matthew Wypyski, Deputy Executive Director, Commercial Development, and Mr. Bradley Smith, Director of Commercial Development, discussed the competitive position of public marine terminals at the Port of Baltimore

Mr. Daniels discussed a personnel matter involving 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 Barber made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Roberts. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

*Attended via Teams/phone