

Maryland Port Commission
Open Session Minutes
June 4, 2024

The Four Hundredth and Eighth Session of the Maryland Port Commission was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Secretary of Transportation Paul J. Wiedefeld. The Commission met in Open Session from 9:00 a.m. until 10:20 a.m. in the Stanton Room, 20th floor, World Trade Center, 401 E. Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD 21202.

Present: Secretary Wiedefeld, Commissioners Barber, Dandy (via telephone), McDonald, Richardson, Roberts and Webb.

Staff: Jonathan Daniels (Executive Director), Brian Miller (Deputy Executive Director, Operations and Logistics), Robert Munroe (Deputy Executive Director, Administration and Environment), Philip Whaling (Assistant Attorney General and Principal Counsel), Richard Scher (Director of Communications), Dominic Scurti (Director of Planning), Ryan Barry (Director of Operations), Holly Miller (Director of Harbor Development), Steve Johnson (Director of Engineering), Richard Powers (Director of Business Development), Bradley Smith (Director of Maritime Commercial Management & Strategic Initiatives), Kathleen Pickett (Director of Security), Jennifer Guthrie (Director of Government Relations and External Affairs), William Richardson (Director of the Environment), John Boden (Director of Human Resources), John Arnold (Director of Internal Audits), John Thornton (Director of Procurement), Cindy Burman (Deputy Director of Business Development and Cruise), Mary Kay Radford (Executive Finance Manager), Jasmin Todman (Budget Manager), Mark Riesett (Procurement Supervisor, Construction/AE), Molly Krueger (Media Buyer & Event Coordinator), Jayson Knott (Maryland Department of Commerce Senior Director, Office of Business Development), Marvis Harden (Special Assistant to the Executive Director), Nichol Conley (Administrative Programs Manager), Paul Wainaina (Office of Information Security and Technology) and Krystal Jones (Executive Office).

Minutes of the Four Hundredth and Seventh Open Session Meeting

Commissioner McDonald moved to approve the Open Session Minutes of the Four Hundredth and Seventh Maryland Port Commission meeting. Commissioner Barber seconded the motion. The Commission then voted unanimously to approve the Open Session Minutes.

Executive Director's Update, Jonathan Daniels, Executive Director

Introduction of Special Assistant to the Executive Director

MPA Executive Director Jonathan Daniels introduced Marvis Harden as the new Special Assistant to the Executive Director. Ms. Harden came to the MPA from Johns Hopkins University.

Key Bridge Response/Channel Reopening

Mr. Daniels described the significant progress made on the main Port of Baltimore shipping channel since the collapse of the Key Bridge on March 26, 2024. The 400 foot-wide main channel was opened within 50 days and restrictions remain on travel through the channel, including tug assistance for cargo vessels. The Key Bridge Response Unified Command expects the full-width channel to be open by June 10 or June 11, 2024.

Customers are already returning to the Port. Roll-on/roll-off cargo is nearly back to normal. The Port is experiencing a lag on the containers as companies start bookings that were halted after the incident. The private terminals are doing well as bulk cargo is coming back.

Maersk has suspended a vessel service to Baltimore because of the need to transit the Cape of Good Hope to avoid the Red Sea/Suez Canal. The suspension is unrelated to the bridge collapse and the service will return in the future.

The Cruise Maryland Terminal was restored to its purpose as a cruise terminal with the return of cruise operations after being used as the operations site for the Unified Command. Cruisers were excited for the return of cruising and the occasion was marked with a press conference.

The development of the Strategic Business Plan continues with the team focused on core values. The separate long-term master plan is commercially driven and will focus on trade lanes and infrastructure. A request for proposal will be issued for the Master Plan development.

The hurricane season has arrived. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) predicts it will be very active. MPA Operations conducted a tabletop exercise to ensure that the MPA is prepared for storm situations.

The MPA staff continues to work on business development and three grant proposals. The Clean Ports grant proposal has been submitted. Mr. Daniels thanked the staff for continuing to grow the Port in the face of the challenges presented by the Key Bridge incident.

Secretary Wiedefeld stated the Governor recently held a two-hour tabletop exercise on responding to severe weather events. Although a true hurricane has never landed in Maryland, only tropical storms, the Governor and his cabinet are taking this hurricane season very seriously.

Commissioner Webb asked about the unloading of the Dali cargo vessel. Mr. Daniels commented that “declaration of general average” considerations and safety concerns may limit any unloading of cargo at Seagirt. The goal is for the vessel to sail to Norfolk for safe unloading.

Commissioner Richardson asked that data be provided showing the impact of the Key Bridge incident on cargo at the Port of Baltimore. Rick Powers, Director of Business Development, noted that Port customers have been very complimentary of the State/Federal/MPA response to the incident and have asked how they can assist. Mr. Powers responds by paraphrasing Mr. Daniels, “Bring cargo to Baltimore.”

Mr. Daniels stated that the temporary closure of the Port has highlighted the importance of the Port as an employer, and its impact on the global supply chain and economy. The Key Bridge incident has also brought focus to the importance of infrastructure which is positive. Secretary Wiedefeld commented on the road traffic impacts and how the incident response has highlighted the importance of having a consolidated department of Transportation and consolidated funding source which facilitates efficient and quick decision-making.

Recovery Communications, Richard Scher, Director, Office of Communications

Mr. Daniels introduced Richard Scher to provide the Commission with an overview of the MPA's communications response to the Key Bridge incident.

MPA's social media engagement exploded after the incident. On March 26-27, 2024, the MPA received 200 unique media hits to our agency's Office of Communications, besides the contacts received by MDOT and the Governor's Office. "Engagement" refers to the measure of interaction received by a social media account or a post. The engagement metrics for MPA social media posts after March 26 exceeded those of some very famous public figures.

MPA posted updates on the response to the Key Bridge incident on MPA's social media platforms, on its eBroadcast platform (6500 Port users), and MPA's website. External media organizations looked to MPA's platforms for information which they in turn used in their reporting and on their websites and platforms. MPA will continue to use social media to promote and highlight the Port of Baltimore.

MPA posted a "Welcome Back" video on the return of cruising to Baltimore. MPA will post a video on the local International Longshoremen's Association organizations later this week.

The press conferences held by the Governor and the Unified Command were posted on MPA's social media platforms, highlighting the extraordinary response and leadership of Governor Moore and the Unified Command.

Cruise Maryland Restart, Cindy Burman, Deputy Director, Business Development and Cruise

Cindy Burman provided an update on the Cruise Maryland restart. Cruising returned to Baltimore with the May 25 sailing of Royal Caribbean's Vision of the Seas, and Carnival's return sail on May 26, 2024.

After the bridge collapse, the Carnival voyage that sailed on March 24 was unable to return to Baltimore and was rerouted to the Port of Norfolk and passengers were transported via bus back to Baltimore. From March 31 to May 19, 2024, eight Carnival voyages were impacted, resulting in the voyages departing from and returning to Norfolk and the passengers being bussed from Baltimore to Norfolk.

The Royal Caribbean voyage that sailed on March 23 was unable to return to Baltimore and was rerouted to Norfolk. The April 12 and April 20 Royal Caribbean cruises also had to be rerouted out of Norfolk before the Royal Caribbean vessel went into drydock. After coming out of drydock, the first sailing of the Vision of the Seas was from Baltimore.

Ms. Burman presented statistics showing the passenger counts and number of cruise vessel calls to Baltimore during the past years.

Cruise Maryland's homeport cruise lines are Carnival, Royal Caribbean, Norwegian Cruise Lines. Cruise Maryland also receives port calls from various cruise lines. Baltimore draws drive-in cruisers from the Mid-Atlantic region and areas extending into the Northeast, the Midwest and points South. Cruise Maryland also benefits from its close proximity to BWI Airport. Cruise Maryland's tag line is "Come for the cruise, stay for the experience."

Contracts for Approval, John Thornton, Director of Procurement

John Thornton, with assistance from Mark Riesett, Procurement Supervisor, Construction/AE, presented the following contracts for approval by the Maryland Port Commission.

1. **Contracts #522827A, #522827B, and #522827C** – Miscellaneous Engineering Services (Work Order Based Contracts for MDOT MPA Facilities); Total Amount – \$21,000,000. Term: July 18, 2024* – July 17, 2029 **(or earlier upon BPW approval)* (Five Years):
 - Contract A – Whitney, Bailey, Cox & Magnani, LLC, Baltimore, Maryland; \$7,000,000
 - Contract B – Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc., Hunt Valley, Maryland; \$7,000,000
 - Contract C – Moffatt & Nichol, Inc., Baltimore, Maryland; \$7,000,000

After discussion, a motion to approve Contracts #522827A, #522827B, and #522827C was made by Commissioner Richardson, seconded by Commissioner McDonald and approved unanimously by the Commission.

Remarks

Robert Munroe, Deputy Executive Director, Administration & Environment, emphasized the strong, inspired, calm and determined leadership of Mr. Daniels as the MPA's Executive Director in the aftermath of the Key Bridge incident. Mr. Daniels calmly stewarded the MPA and the Port of Baltimore through this challenging period. His positive and authentic demeanor brought hope, steadiness and consistency to the organization and to the greater Port community.

Mr. Daniels commented that after the initial response to the incident and in the following days he has worked to set the stage for moving the Port forward. The leadership of Governor Moore, Lt. Governor Miller, and Secretary Wiedefeld were very important in the response effort. The State and MPA's response won't be judged by what happened, but how we emerge from the incident. Mr. Daniels thanked the staff for their hard work and stated that this challenge has provided an

opportunity to develop a closer working relationship. He thanked Mr. Munroe for the kind remarks, as well as the staff, Commission and Secretary Wiedefeld.

Ship's Wheel Presentation to Commissioner McDonald

At the conclusion of the meeting, Mr. Daniels presented an engraved Port of Baltimore ship's wheel to outgoing Commissioner Edward F. McDonald for his valuable service on the Maryland Port Commission. Commissioner McDonald's term on the Commission concludes at the end of the month of June.

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Roberts, and seconded by Commissioner Barber. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.