



*Maryland Port Administration
Open Session Meeting Minutes, #421
Wednesday, October 1, 2025*

MEETING DATE & LOCATION

The Four Hundred and Twentieth First Session of the Maryland Port Commission was called to order at 9:04 a.m. on October 1, 2025, by Acting Secretary, Samantha Biddle. The Commission met in Open Session from 9:04 a.m. until 9:49 a.m. in the Stanton Room, 20th floor, World Trade Center, 401 E. Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD 21202.

ATTENDANCE

Chairman and Officials:

Acting Secretary Biddle and Commissioners Barber, Brewer*, Neuman*, 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).

Directors:

Bradley Smith (Director of Maritime Commercial Management & Strategic Initiatives), Dominic Scurti (Director of Planning), Holly Miller (Director, Office of Navigation, Innovation & Stewardship), John Boden (Director of Human Resources), Kathleen Pickett (Director of Security), Melody Countess (Director of Finance, CFO), Richard Scher (Director of Communications), Ryan Barry (Director of Operations), Tracy Pinder (Director of Internal Audit), Trisha O'Neal (Acting Director, Procurement), William Richardson (Director of the Environment), Phil Whaling (Assistant Attorney General, Deputy Principal Counsel), Jayson Knott (Senior Director, Office of Business Recruitment & Relocation Services, Maryland Department of Commerce).

Affiliates:

Jasmin Todman (Budget Manager), Katrina Jones, (ONIS), Mary Kay Radford (Executive Finance Manager), and Jill Lemke (Manager, Strategic Planning).

Staff:

Marvis Harden (Special Assistant to the Executive Director), Krystal Jones (Executive Office), and Mana Sherman (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 Twentieth Maryland Port Commission (MPC) meeting. Commissioner Barber seconded the motion, and the Commission voted unanimously to approve the Open Session Minutes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE, Jonathan Daniels, Executive Director

Mr. Daniels reported that tariffs are creating uncertainty for the industry and prompting manufacturers to evaluate the economics of expanding production in the U.S. The 30% tariff on upholstered furniture, effective October 1, will impact furniture shipments through ports. The federal government shutdown, which started October 1, may have impacts on the Port especially as it relates to the US Coast Guard and other federal agencies with direct relationships with the Port. The US Coast Guard and CBP will be working without pay if no arrangements are made to pay their salaries during the shutdown. Acting Secretary Biddle noted that federal funding flows to MDOT modes have not been impacted so far by the shutdown.

On the good news front, MPA recently celebrated Evergreen's 50th Anniversary at the Port of Baltimore and will soon celebrate the maiden voyage of the Ever Magnet, the twentieth Evergreen M-class vessel to come online, offering high tech capabilities and only requiring 27 staff. And, last Friday, September 26, the Howard Street Tunnel re-opened to train traffic after completion of the track lowering project. This project has been decades in the making and will provide full double-stack container accessibility for the Port of Baltimore when the remaining bridge clearance projects are completed in the spring of 2026.

Mr. Daniels reported that MPA's cargo statistics for the first half of the year show increases in certain categories such as container imports led by vessel calls on the combined Atlantic service of Evergreen (+38%), Hapag Lloyd (+29%), and ZIM (+12%), while imported vehicles from Mexico dropped significantly as Stellantis dropped one of their van imports, Promaster. Nissan has slowed imports to address a dealer overstock issue. Vehicle exports to West Africa have increased, making the POB the leader on the east coast for exports. Forest products' tonnage increased significantly in the first half though is expected to soften in the second half when a major importer moves its cargo operation back to Philadelphia.

Mr. Daniels stated that the MPA is working to accommodate its current terminal operator at North Locust Point, with the pier to be closed to operations at the end of 2025 due to its condition. The terminal operator's lease of the land, excluding the pier, will be extended beyond 2025.

Mr. Daniels reported that the draft MPA Strategic Plan has been completed and will be an exhibit to the Master Vision Plan to be prepared by an outside consultant. The procurement to retain a consultant to prepare the Master Vision Plan has been advertised.

Mr. Bob Munroe, Deputy Executive Director, Administration and Environment, echoed Senator Ferguson's comments at the September 26 tunnel re-opening event that the Howard Street Tunnel project is notable as a bi-partisan achievement having been approved and funded through multiple federal and State administrations of both parties. The project also reflects a successful public private partnership between the State and federal agencies and CSX.

DRAFT MARYLAND PORT COMMISSION REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE, Jill Lemke

Jill Lemke, Manager of Strategic Planning, reported that the Commissioner's edits to the annual MPC Report to the General Assembly ("MPC Report") have been made. After approval by the Commissioners, the final draft MPC Report will be submitted to the MDOT Secretary's office for review and approval. The report is due to the General Assembly by January 15, 2025. Commissioner Richardson made a motion to approve the MPC Report, seconded by Commissioner Brewer, and unanimously approved by the Commission.

DRAFT CONSOLIDATED TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM, Dominic Scurti, Director of Planning

Dominic Scurti, Director of Planning, provided an overview of the MPA's draft 6-year Consolidated Transportation Program ("CTP") for Fiscal Year ("FY") 2026 through FY 2031. The total 6-year draft CTP budget is \$1,598.2 million which includes \$1,214.4 million in State funds, \$258.5 million in federal funds, \$51.5 million in GO Bonds and \$125.3 million in other funds.

The major categories of CTP-funded capital projects include the Howard Street Tunnel project (through FY 2027), dredging activities, terminal improvements, environmental projects, renovations at the World Trade Center and capital improvements for MPA Security, Operations and IT. The draft CTP proposes \$214.8 million for FY27 projects overseen by the Office of Navigation, Innovation & Stewardship, including \$146.4 million for the Mid-Bay Project, \$23.4 million to raise the dikes at the Masonville Dredge Material Containment Facility, \$18.1 million for the STAR facility and \$7.8 million for Poplar Island. The draft CTP proposes \$46.1 million for FY 27 projects at the MPA Terminals, including, among others, \$17.5 million for the DMT Berth 11 project, \$12.9 for the Agency Wide Repair contracts and \$4.3 million for the DMT Resiliency projects. The FY 27 CTP allocations for the Office of the Environment include \$52.8 million for the Clean Ports Grant and \$5.2M for chromium ore processing remediation.

Commissioner Richardson asked how the draft FY '26 CTP funding compares with the FY '25 CTP. Mr. Scurti responded that the FY '25 draft CTP showed cuts to certain projects which were subsequently restored after the revenue enhancements passed during the 2025 legislative session.

Commissioner Neuman asked that Mr. Daniels and the MPA keep the Commissioners informed of impacts on the Port of the federal government shutdown. Mr. Daniels anticipates receiving updates at the annual American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) convention next week on AAPA advocacy and lobbying efforts for Ports in response to the shutdown and tariffs and will relay any relevant information.

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 9:49 a.m.