

Maryland Port Commission
Open Session Minutes
December 7, 2021

The Three Hundred and Eighty Second Session of the Maryland Port Commission was called to order at 3:36 pm by Secretary Gregory Slater. The Commission met in Open Session from 3:36 pm until 4:24 pm in the Stanton Room, 20th floor, World Trade Center, 401 E. Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD 21202.

Present: Secretary Slater and Commissioners Dandy (by phone), Dean, Huber, Lunn, McDonald, and Richardson.

Staff: William Doyle (Executive Director), Brian Miller (Deputy Executive Director), Bob Munroe (MPA Principal Counsel), Christina Nichols (Chief of Staff), Rick Powers (Director of Marketing), Richard Scher (Director of Communications), David Espie (Director of Security), Ryan Barry (Director of Operations), Dominic Scurti (Director of Planning), Steve Johnson (Director of Engineering), Wonza Spann Nicholas (Director of Finance), Kristen Fidler (Director, Harbor Development), Brad Smith (General Manager of Strategic Initiatives), and Jennifer Guthrie (Legislative Manager).

Minutes of the Three Hundred and Eighty First Open Session Meeting

Commissioner McDonald moved to approve the Open Session Minutes of the Three Hundred and Eighty First Port Commission meeting. Commissioner Huber seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Business Update, William P. Doyle, Executive Director

Mr. Doyle provided an update on the following:

Cruise:

Mr. Doyle was very excited to report that Norwegian Cruise Line (NCL) will be sending the Norwegian Sky to Baltimore to operate Canada & New England cruises. NCL has dedicated two dates for testing this route from the Port of Baltimore, those dates are September 7, 2024 and October 19, 2024. If these two test sailings go well, NCL plans to start permanently cruising from the Port of Baltimore. Mr. Doyle congratulated Cindy Burman, MPA General Manager of Cruise and Rick Powers, Director of Marketing, for constantly reaching out to NCL and creating strong relationships in the cruise industry.

Airbus:

Mr. Doyle requested that Richard Powers, Director of Marketing, comment on Airbus. Mr. Powers reported that Airbus executives visited the POB from Canada on December 1st to meet with Wallenius Wilhelmsen (WW) and MPA to discuss project. Mr. Powers explained that the new Airbus A220 is a single aisle jet being manufactured outside of Toronto, Canada. The

components for the fuselage are manufactured in China and are being transported via ship by WW through the Port of Baltimore. Once the cargo reaches the Port it is then delivered by truck to Canada for assembly. This three-year project began in December 2021. Airbus executives observed cargo being off-loaded from a WW ship during their visit.

2021 Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP) Annual Report & Recommendations, Kristen Fidler, Director, Harbor Development

Ms. Fidler gave an overview of the Annual Dredged Material Management Program. Highlights of Ms. Fidler's presentation included:

- The Dredged Material Management Act of 2001 established the DMMP Executive Committee and prioritized dredged material management solutions.
- Multi-year planning efforts came to fruition this year to include:
 - Construction of Poplar Island Expansion was completed
 - Cox Creek expansion +60 dike raising and expansion contract awarded and construction commenced.
 - Masonville, Dredged Material Containment Facility expansion funding restored and dike raising and construction resumed.
 - Seagirt Marine Terminal Berth 3 dredging completed, and four additional ultra-large, Neo-Panamax cranes arrived at Seagirt.
 - Launched Innovative Reuse and Beneficial Use website tool to provide a formal dredged material request process. The Board of Public Works approved 6th Innovative Reuse contracts for research and development.
- The DMMP is emerging from the pandemic stronger and showing resilience and adaptability while maintaining the overall progress of its 20-year plan.

Howard Street Tunnel Update, Bradley Smith, manager, Strategic Initiatives

Mr. Smith presented to the Commission recap of 2021 accomplishments.

- In March, the Environmental Assessment for NEPA released the 45-day public review and comment period.
- In May, MPA sells the Jessup property to CSX.
- In June, FRA approves a finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) to complete the NEPA process.
- In November, agreements were signed, and groundbreaking commenced.
- The funding and agreement overview includes a \$125 million INFRA grant, \$202.5 million in State funding, \$113 million in private funding, \$22.5 million PennDot state grant, and \$3 million in FHWA formula funds.
- The cooperative agreement executed on November 10, 2021 officially obligates \$125 million INFRA grant to the project, establishes the project's scope, schedule, and budget, and outlines federal regulations, policies, and procedures, to be followed throughout the project.

- The subrecipient and project agreement executed on November 29, 2021 between MDOT, MPA, and CSX, among other things, flows down federal requirements to CSX, commits the State of Maryland and CSX funding, establishes the process CSX must follow to seek reimbursement of State and INFRA funding, and incorporates additional policies that are important to the State of Maryland.
- The HST Tunnel Project requires vertical clearance improvement at 22 locations. The project has been broken up into 10 smaller pieces for engineering and construction.
- The Engineering/Construction packages include:
 - Howard Street Tunnel Package
 - North Avenue bridge Modification
 - Guilford Avenue Bridge Replacement
 - Harford Road Bridge Replacement
 - Baltimore Track Lowerings
 - Delaware Track Lowerings
 - Chichester Avenue
 - Clifton Avenue
 - Boone Tunnel
 - 58th Street to 68th Street
- CSX has initiated the procurement process and is responsible for advertising the procurement on Dodge.
- Construction will officially begin the winter of 2022 and commence in 2025.

Maryland Port Commission Draft Citation, Robert Huber, Maryland Port Commissioner

Mr. Huber and the Maryland Port Commission decided it would be a good practice to recognize MPA employees and individuals working at the Port of Baltimore with a Commissioner’s Citation. With the approval of Mr. Doyle, Executive Director, the MPC presented the first citation to Ms. Christina Nichols, MPA Chief of Staff. Ms. Nichols was recognized for her leadership, teamwork and dedication to the Maryland Port Administration. Ms. Nichol’s contributions have greatly assisted in helping to establish policies, employee management, and planning events. The efforts of this first citation were led by Commissioner Huber, and unanimously agreed upon by the Commission.

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner McDonald and seconded by Commissioner Huber. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:24 pm.