

Maryland Port Commission
Open Session Minutes
July 20, 2021

The Three Hundred and Seventy Eighth Session of the Maryland Port Commission was called to order at 9:59 am by Secretary Gregory Slater. The Commission met in Open Session from 9:59 am until 10:55 am in the Stanton Room, 20th floor, World Trade Center, 401 E. Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD 21202.

Present: Secretary Slater and Commissioners Dandy, Dean, Huber, Lunn, McDonald, and Richardson.

Staff: William Doyle (Executive Director), Sean Powell (Deputy Secretary, MDOT), Brian Miller (Deputy Executive Director), Bob Munroe (MPA Principal Counsel), Christina Nichols (Chief of Staff), Richard Scher (Director of Communications), Rick Powers (Director of Marketing), Kristen Fidler (Director of Harbor Development), 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), Brad Smith (General Manager of Strategic Initiatives), Jennifer Guthrie (Legislative Manager), Trisha O’Neal (Procurement), and Ellen Frketic (Maryland Environmental Service).

Minutes of the Three Hundred and Seventy Seventh Open Session Meeting

Commissioner McDonald moved to approve the Open Session Minutes of the Three Hundred and Seventy Seventh Port Commission. Commissioner Lunn seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously without discussion.

Business Update, William P. Doyle, Executive Director

Mr. Doyle provided an update on the following:

Howard Street Tunnel

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) signed a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Howard Street Tunnel (HST) Project on June 17, 2021.

This approval follows the public review and comment period for the project's Environmental Assessment (EA) in which 20 project stakeholders provided comments. The FONSI includes responses to those comments, a summary of stakeholder outreach conducted during the EA comment period, the selection of the conventional construction method for the tunnel clearance work and other project updates. The FONSI has been posted to the project website (www.mpa.maryland.gov/HST) and notifications have been provided to elected officials, community leaders and anyone that submitted a comment on the EA. The FONSI represents final National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) approval for the HST Project and allows the project team to move to the next phase on project implementation -- agreement execution.

The State of Maryland is required to execute two agreements for the HST Project. The first agreement - between MDOT and the Federal Railroad Administration - will obligate the \$125 million INFRA grant to the state, establish the project's scope, schedule and budget, and outline federal procedures that must be followed throughout the project. This agreement, referred to as the Cooperative Agreement, has been under development by MPA and FRA for the last two months. FRA is currently conducting its final legal review and MPA expects the agreement to be ready for execution in August.

The second agreement – a Subrecipient Agreement between MDOT, MPA and CSX -contains the terms governing the administration of funds from the Infra Grant from FRA provided to CSX as a subrecipient, and the State of Maryland's contribution to CSX to design, permit, construct, oversee, and manage certain capital improvements to address double-stack clearance restrictions along CSX's Interstate 95 rail corridor between Baltimore, Maryland and Philadelphia,. Like the Cooperative Agreement, this agreement has been under development for a couple months and is actively under negotiation by the parties.

Once these the agreements are in place, CSX will be able to finalize engineering, obtain permits and advance the project to construction. The project is expected to advance to construction in phases, beginning later this year.

Cruise

MPA and the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) have signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines to restart cruising and anticipate signing another similar MOA with Carnival Cruise Line (CCL) any day now. These MOA's are to ensure compliance with CDC protocols. Carnival is moving fast on restarting its cruising out of Baltimore, and an announcement on such is imminent.

The MD Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) switched to a pre-advised schedule for crew vaccination on Tuesday/Thursdays by providing 1 shot J&J to crews who request it in advance. Johns Hopkins University and Apostleship of the Seas are also making visits to vessels on request every Monday/Wednesday/Friday to administer shots.

New Container Service Originating in Vietnam/Southeast Asia Container

MPA, Ports America Chesapeake (PAC), and Maersk have secured a new Asian container service through Southeast Asia/Vietnam and China with the first ships arriving in Baltimore during the first week in September. This Transpacific/Panama Canal service will include a string of up to 13 ships with carrying capacities of 4,500-plus Twenty-foot Equivalent (TEU) containers. The new service will arrive at the Port's Seagirt Marine Terminal, which is managed by PAC under the public-private partnership with MDOT MPA. Vessels in Maersk's new TP20 Loop service will originate in the Port of Vung Tao, Vietnam, head north to the ports of Ningbo-Zhoushan, China and Shanghai, China and then sail through the Panama Canal discharging goods in Norfolk and Baltimore – the only two U.S. ports in this service string.

Seagirt Marine Terminal Cranes:

The four new Ultra-post Panamax cranes are set to arrive at the anchorage in Annapolis on September 5, 2021. They are now enroute from Asia on the heavy lift vessel ZHEN HUA 24.

Cargo Update for April 2021:

- Autos and light trucks at the public marine terminals totaled 43,356 up 146% over May 2020. Cars and light trucks are up 22% so far in 2021 compared to January through May 2020.
- Ro/Ro is up 27 % in 2021 compared to January through May 2020.
- Containers were up 15% over May 2020 with a total of 55,257 boxes.
- General Cargo was up 35% with over 1.09 million tons handled in May; a 9% gain over January through May 2020.
- Paper has seen an increase of 58% in May over May of 2020 at 65,073 tons. Paper is up 63% in 2021 compared to January through May 2020 due in part to the new Metsa business.

Ad Hocs

MPA served 22 “ad hoc” ships over the past year – vessels diverted to Baltimore not on a regularly scheduled call – totaling more than 35,000 TEU’s.

Maryland Environmental Service Presentation, Ms. Ellen Frketic, Director, MES

Maryland Port Commissioners requested a presentation from MES to get a better understanding of the projects MES conducts for the MPA. Ms. Frketic provided a briefing, highlights of this presentation included:

- MES has supported the MDOT MPA for over 40 years working closely with Harbor Development, Safety and Environmental Risk Management, and Engineering. Early projects include Hawkins Point in 1979 and Hart-Miller Island in 1983.
- MES works closely with MPA Harbor Development to ensure the mission of placement capacity for material dredged from shipping channels throughout the Bay, Patapsco River, and the Baltimore Harbor by providing dredged material management services.
- Dredged Material Containment Facility (DMCF) Operations at Cox Creek, Hart-Miller Island, Poplar Island, and Masonville include site management and facility maintenance, inflow inspection and monitoring, crust management material consolidation, permitting and regulatory support and coordination, erosion and sediment control measures, survey and capacity calculation and inflow planning, stormwater BMP improvements and maintenance, long range capacity planning, water quality monitoring and sampling, and invasive species control.
- MES assists MDOT MPA in environmental monitoring and support services.
- Support from MES on the Cox Creek DMCF projects includes construction of a new O&M complex and associated site security system, upland demolition of the Kennecott Copper refinery campus, borrow area excavation base dike widening, dike raising to El. +60’ MLLW, upland remediation, and mitigation.
- MES assists in a variety of services for Cox Creek Expanded.

- Masonville dredging, construction, and mitigation include Masonville Cove development, dike raising to El. +18', base dike widening and second dike El to +30', Dundalk Marine terminal trash interceptor, Masonville Cove and Gwynn's Falls trash wheels, Baltimore City compacting trash cans, Eel passage/dam removal support, shad and herring restoration support, and wetland development.
- MES provides coordination between MDOT MPA, USACE, Engineering and environmental consultants at Poplar Island and continues to support the expansion of Poplar Island on behalf of MDOT MPA.
- MES provides project and task management, engineering services, geotechnical services, regulatory coordination, support, and permitting, environmental resource surveys and reports, technical review and coordination, and outreach support and stakeholder coordination for the Mid-Chesapeake Bay Island Ecosystem Restoration project.
- Dredging and harbor support projects include Seagirt berth 3 dredging, Seagirt loop study, energy transfer ports, Harbor-wide surveys, Colgate Creek dredging and innovative reuse, and South Locust point maintenance dredging.
- Assistance with Confined Aquatic Disposal includes project management, engineering design and services, geotechnical services, regulatory coordination and permitting, outreach support and stakeholder coordination, and environmental surveys and reviews.
- MES supports the planning and investigation of Innovative Reuse and Beneficial Use of dredged material .
- MES supports outreach for the dredged material program including planning and policy support services, community outreach and engagement services, development of printed and online outreach materials, and meeting planning, coordination facilitation, and support services.
- Environmental education including classroom presentations, lessons and hands on activities, field trips and site tours, community education programs, and professional development for teachers/educators are facilitated by MES.
- At Hawkins Point MES provides landfill post closure care services to MPA and Honeywell including groundwater sampling and reporting, leachate collection system and landfill cap monitoring and maintenance, and hazardous waste management.
- At Dundalk Marine terminal MES provides support services related to the chromium ore processing residue remediation.
- MES administers the Port of Baltimore Clean Diesel Program on behalf of MDOT MPA.

Contracts for Approval

Contract 221006-S – Alarm Monitoring Services; Techmark Corporation; Term: 9/01/2021 – 8/31/2026; \$457,000. Presented by: Trisha O'Neal

Motion to approve made by Commissioner Dandy, seconded by Commissioner Huber, and approved unanimously by the Commission.

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Richardson and seconded by Commissioner McDonald. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:55 am.