

# May/June 2020 GreenPort Newsletter - Correction

MDOT Maryland Port Administration sent this bulletin at 06/18/2020 01:08 PM EDT



**May/June 2020**

## PORT

### Port of Baltimore: Open for Business

As our state, nation, and the world contend with the COVID-19 global pandemic, the Port of Baltimore has remained open for business. The maritime industry supply chain is critically important to restocking our shelves and helping to deliver medicines and medical supplies. The Port's dedicated, professional transportation workers are essential and remain on the front lines at work to ensure our basic needs are met, and the economy can begin to recover.

Ports all over the world are seeing the impacts of this health crisis, and the Port of Baltimore is no different. "Under Maryland Governor Larry Hogan's leadership, measures are in place to control the spread of the virus and protect human lives. Social distancing and safety precautions are being strictly practiced. Extra daily cleaning has become the new normal to keep people safe and business moving. Our security partners, [U.S. Coast Guard](#) and [U.S. Department of Homeland Security Customs and Border Protection](#), are focused on screening vessels and crews to keep us all safe while giving clearance priorities to legitimate medical and safety supplies, while dutifully inspecting and intercepting illegal shipments coming into our port. The [Steamship Trade Association of Baltimore](#) and [Ports America Chesapeake](#) have instituted temperature screening procedures at the Seagirt Marine Terminal," said [Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Port Administration's](#) (MDOT MPA) General Manager of Safety, Environment & Risk Management (SERM) Bill Richardson.

Dredging operations continue to assure that navigational safety standards are maintained. "Keeping the Port of Baltimore open for business by ensuring shipping channels are deep enough to accommodate cargo ships and providing safe passage for vessels through the Chesapeake Bay has always been vitally important, and this work has continued during the pandemic," said MDOT MPA's Director of the Office of Harbor Development Kristen Fidler. "Now we sense a spotlight shining on this work as consumers are realizing with gratitude the dedicated workers and efforts that make possible the flow of important goods."



**Photo:** While many employees are able to telecommute, other transportation employees are deemed essential and are on the frontline ensuring the flow of goods Credit: MDOT MPA

# Check Out Port's 2019 Achievements

MDOT MPA recently published its [2019 GreenPort Annual Review](#). The retrospective takes a look at some of the Port's many accomplishments during 2019, including environmental, economic, and community outreach milestones.

"The Port has never been more productive, and this record breaking year [2019] shows its tremendous value as a regional economic engine creating good paying, family supporting jobs for tens of thousands of Marylanders," said Maryland Governor Larry Hogan.

2019 highlights included:

- A record 43.6 million tons of cargo was handled, including more than 11 million tons of general cargo at the state-owned public terminals.
- Innovative stormwater restoration projects through a partnership between MDOT MPA and [The Maryland Zoo](#) to stop erosion, provide habitat for local wildlife, and improve the quality of water that flows into the Jones Falls and ultimately into the Chesapeake Bay.



- A new living shoreline at the [Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center](#), the headquarters of [Anne Arundel County Public School's](#) (AACPS) Environmental Literacy and Outdoor Education Office, thanks to a partnership with the Maryland Environmental Service (MES), AACPS, and the [Chesapeake Bay Trust](#).
- A \$500,000 grant from MDOT MPA to support Fleming Park, in the neighboring community of Turner Station for improvements such as public recreation areas with open fields, walking trails that will allow visitors to observe birds and other wildlife, and a boardwalk that will provide access to the Patapsco River.
- The celebration of a "Decade of Dedication" by [Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center](#) and partners which included extending evening hours once a month in 2019, hosting special weekend events, and offering activities such as yoga night and night hikes.

Read the full report [here](#).

## EDUCATION

### Sharing Poplar Island's Story with Tilghman Island Youth

During this past winter, MES partnered with the [Tilghman Elementary](#) After School Kids Program on a four-part series enrichment program. Educators developed and presented lessons focusing on environmental issues and MDOT MPA's restoration work at the nearby [Paul S. Sarbanes Ecosystem Restoration Project at Poplar Island](#).

The interactive STEM lessons in the program included building a cargo ship with recycled materials and testing how much cargo it could hold, restoring an island using natural materials to prevent erosion, and learning the positive impacts of terrapin and bird populations associated with the restoration of Poplar Island.

"Poplar Island is roughly 5 miles northwest of Tilghman Island. In the mid-1800s, Poplar Island boasted more than 1,100 acres, but by the 1920s residents began leaving the island as more and more of its landmass fell victim to erosion," said MES Senior Environmental Specialist Kristina Motley. "We are grateful for the partnership with Tilghman Elementary. It is important to share the story of Poplar Island's environmental lessons and achievements with area youth."



**Photo:** Students in the Tilghman Elementary After School Program participate in a hands-on interactive lesson about using dredged material to restore their neighboring island to the northwest, Poplar Island. (photo pre-dates COVID-19) Credit: MES

# Masonville Cove Staff Steps Up For School Children During the Pandemic

As schools across Maryland shut their doors and shifted to e-learning to help stop the spread of COVID-19, [Living Classrooms Foundation](#) staff at [Masonville Cove](#) stepped up to find creative ways to continue to provide educational opportunities for Baltimore City students.



The team prepared 1,000 “STEAM To-Go” boxes for [Baltimore City Public Schools](#) students. Each box contains 5 activity kits, one for each letter of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math), with directions and all the supplies needed to complete the projects from home. The boxes were delivered to Maree G. Farring Elementary, Cherry Hill Elementary, Lakeland Elementary, among others, for distribution to the students.

The Masonville education team is also helping virtually by posting new lesson plans every Monday for students learning at home as a part of #MasonvilleMonday. Green Tip Tuesdays bring interesting environmental facts and suggestions of small things that each person can choose to weave into their lives and make a positive difference in the environment. Both can be accessed from the [Friends of Masonville Cove Facebook page](#).



**Top Photo:** Proudly posing with 250 completed kits are (from left to right) Valerie B., Lorraine W., and Lily S. (leaning against the wall). **Bottom Photo:** Pictured here working on assembling the kits are from left to right are Tiffany C., educator; Valerie B., environmental education supervisor (standing in the back); Lorraine W., director Masonville Cove Campus; and Lily S., volunteer coordinator. Credit: Living Classroom Foundation

## ENVIRONMENT

### Interagency Workgroup Releases Report on Clean Air Efforts

Maryland state agencies, community leaders, businesses, and non-governmental organizations are all pitching in to improve air quality. Through a unique voluntary agreement signed in 2015 between [MDOT](#), MDOT MPA, and the [Maryland Department of the Environment](#) (MDE), the agencies formally committed to develop and implement projects that reduce emissions or increase energy efficiency. The help and support of citizens, businesses, and stakeholders are an important part of this effort.

Recently, the interagency workgroup published a summary of 2019 accomplishments, which included \$1.8 million (a total of \$11 million since 2008) in [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#) grants for the Port of Baltimore to upgrade and buy new diesel equipment and vehicles with lower emissions to achieve better air quality. Additionally, in 2019 the workgroup helped facilitate [Volkswagen Diesel Emissions Environmental Mitigation Trust](#) funding for potential emission reducing projects at the Port and nearby locations such as [Canton Railroad](#), Ports America Chesapeake, [T. Parker Host](#), the [Baltimore Compost Collective](#), and [Marshall's Trash Removal](#).

Read more [here](#).



**Photo:** MDE Secretary Ben Grumbles speaks at the event held for the signing of the voluntary agreement in 2015. Credit: MDE

# Help Green the Fleet! Funding for New Trucks Available

The graphic features the Port of Baltimore logo at the top left. The main title is 'DRAY TRUCK REPLACEMENT PROGRAM' with a '\$2 MILLION FEDERAL GRANT FUNDING' badge. Below, it states 'GIVING QUALIFYING DRAY TRUCK DRIVERS WHO SERVE THE PORT UP TO \$30,000 TOWARD A NEWER TRUCK PURCHASE'. A quote from Howard Smith says 'THEY PAID FOR HALF AND I PAID FOR HALF.' It also mentions 'FUNDING CURRENTLY AVAILABLE FOR 63 NEW TRUCKS' and '217 TRUCKS PURCHASED TO DATE'. An 'ELIGIBILITY' section lists three criteria: 1. Dray truck owners who serve the Port of Baltimore; 2. Requiring truck models 2010 or older that have been owned for at least one year and are 'clean title'; 3. Replacement truck engines must be 2013 or newer. At the bottom, it says 'DOLLARS for DRAYS' and 'dieselupgrades.org'.

To date, grants from the EPA through the [Diesel Emissions Reduction Act \(DERA\)](#) and [Maryland's Volkswagen Mitigation Plan](#) funding have helped replace 217 older dray trucks that serve the Port with newer, cleaner burning engines with emission reduction technologies.

"This program has been enormously successful and is a win-win situation for the truck owner, the port, and the environment," said MDOT MPA Environmental Manager Shawn Kiernan. "Grant funding up to \$30,000 per truck remains available to assist with the purchase of a newer truck."

To participate, owner-operators must currently provide drayage truck services to the Port of Baltimore. Replacement trucks must be 2013 model year or newer certified engine (this will generally be a 2014 or newer model year truck.) For more information, visit [www.dieselupgrades.org](http://www.dieselupgrades.org).

## Virtual Terrapin Release Party

A popular and successful program that engages Maryland students and teachers in conservation by giving terrapins a "head start" in classrooms typically ends with a field trip for students to help release their terrapins on [Poplar Island](#). During this time of physical distancing, MES helped the partnership take the terrapin release virtual.

For the first time, MES, MDOT MPA, [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers \(USACE\)](#), the [National Aquarium](#), AACPS's Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center, and [CHESPAX](#) (the environmental education program for [Calvert County Public Schools](#)) shared the release with students who were e-learning from home via video.

"It certainly wasn't quite the same, and we were sad the children could not explore Poplar Island and see their turtles released in person, but the environmental education team did a great job demonstrating some behind-the-scenes activities associated with the program and providing a virtual opportunity for students to experience the release," said MDOT MPA's Outreach Coordinator for Harbor Development Katrina Jones.

During their time in the classroom, the turtles grow to the size of a 3- to 5-year-old wild terrapin. By giving the hatchlings a head start, the students hope to give them a better chance of survival once they are released back into the wild on Poplar Island.

Since 2005, a total of 2,950 terrapins have been head-started. This academic year there were 141 terrapins in the program. Brighten your day by watching the video [here](#).



## OUTREACH

### Joint Meeting Held Virtually

On May 13, 2020, the [Citizens Advisory Committee](#) and [Harbor Team](#) held a joint virtual meeting. Nearly 50 people participated.

Guest presenters included [South Baltimore Gateway Partnership](#) Executive Director Brad Rogers who shared an update on the Middle Branch redesign, an effort to reconnect the South Baltimore community with the Middle Branch. "We want to connect the South Baltimore neighborhood with the waterfront they've been divided from for so long. The Inner Harbor has a hard edge and the Middle Branch will have lots of beautifully landscaped common space right at the water's edge."

MDOT MPA General Manager Strategic Initiatives Brad Smith also provided an update on the Howard Street Tunnel expansion project which will address a long-standing bottleneck and create a double-stack rail network to and from the Port of Baltimore and along the entire I-95 Rail Corridor.

Additionally, there was discussion regarding the innovative reuse program. Currently, proposals for new innovative reuse projects are being submitted and reviewed. MDOT MPA is also working closely with the [Turner Station Conservation Teams](#) on the implementation of the first phase of the Fleming Park Restoration project.

## DREDGING

# Mid-Bay Update

Funding was included in the USACE federal fiscal year 2020 work plan for the [Mid-Chesapeake Bay Island Project](#), which will restore two eroding Chesapeake Bay islands, James and Barren. Sediment dredged from shipping channels will create more wildlife habitat and restore the ecosystem of these islands, providing protection from erosion by reducing wave heights.

"Keeping the community engaged and informed about this exciting project to restore James and Barren islands is our top priority. MDOT MPA is working closely with USACE, area residents, and community groups in Dorchester County to provide information and updates on the Mid-Bay project," said MDOT MPA Chief of Outreach, Policy, and Programs David Blazer.

To help reach community members during this time of physical distancing, MDOT MPA produced a [video](#) providing an overview of the project.

The federal workplan funding provides an additional \$500,000 to continue planning and design. Surveys and geotechnical investigations to aid in the project design began in March and will continue over the next few months.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Harbor Safety Meeting - June 10th at 10:00 AM**

Virtual

*For questions or to confirm attendance please contact [Greenport](#).*

**DMMP Management Committee Meeting - June 24th at 10:00AM**

Virtual

*For questions or to confirm attendance please contact [Greenport](#).*

**Cox Creek Citizens Oversight Committee - July 7th at 5:30PM**

Virtual

*For questions or to confirm attendance please contact [Greenport](#).*

**Harbor Team - July 23rd at 6:00PM (Tentative)**

Virtual

*For questions or to confirm attendance please contact [Greenport](#).*

[MDOT MPA Website](#)

[Port of Baltimore Magazine](#)

[GreenPort Website](#)



*GreenPort Newsletter is the Maryland Department of Transportation's Maryland Port Administration's bi-monthly update of projects and programs that help the agency contribute to a thriving economy, environmental stewardship, and community partnerships. As always, we thank the many private sector businesses, government leaders, communities, and individual citizens who have helped make these achievements a reality.*



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