

# Chesapeake Bay Bridge Reconstruction Advisory Group (BBRAG)

## MEETING MINUTES

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Wednesday, October 6, 2021

Regular Meeting  
OPEN SESSION  
Tracy Schulz, Chair

### **Members in Attendance**

Jack Broderick  
Hamilton Chaney  
Brad Cole  
Nicholas Deoudes  
Barbara Hitchings  
Jim Moran  
Jim Ports

Sean Powell  
Kurt Riegel  
Donald Schloss  
Tracy Schulz  
Tim Smith  
Steve Wilson

### **Staff in Attendance**

Melissa Bogdan  
Jamie Cornelius  
Jim Harkness  
Richard Jaramillo  
Charles Kenny  
Kim Millender  
Megan Mohan  
Mary O'Keeffe

Will Pines  
Robert Rager  
Mike Rice  
Joseph Sagal  
John Sales  
Melissa Williams

### **Others in Attendance**

Pat Lynch, Broadneck  
Lori Rhodes, Anne Arundel County Executive's Office  
Brian Ulrich, Anne Arundel County DOT  
Delegate Heather Bagnall, District 33  
Todd Mohn (County Administrator, Queen Anne's Co.)  
George Harvey (QACTV)  
Ted McNeil (QACTV)

At 6:05 p.m. Chair Tracy Schulz called the meeting of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Reconstruction Advisory Group (BBRAG) to order.

## Introductions

Chair Schulz welcomed Brad Cole to the Advisory Group as the replacement for Michael Lord and will serve the remainder of Mr. Lord's term. Members then introduced themselves and the communities or organizations they represent.

## Approval – Minutes of July 7, 2021 Meeting

Chair Schulz asked if there were any amendments to the draft minutes of the July 7, 2021 meeting that were distributed to members with none being put forward.

Member Moran motioned to approve the minutes of the July 7 meeting with second from Member Deoudes. The minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

## Report – Quarterly Group Activities and Recommendations

Chair Schulz stated that per House Bill 56, the BBRAG must report on the group's activities since the last meeting and provide any recommendations they have based on those activities.

Chair Schulz reminded BBRAG members to submit their quarterly activity report to Melissa Bogdan for tracking and use in next year's annual report.

Member Schulz stated that he attended a meeting on the renewal of the MD 18 (Kent Island) incident plan at which the current plan was updated.

Member Hitchings stated that she has an email group that she shares information and updates from BBRAG with. She is also a member of the Broadneck Council of Communities and shares information with them.

Member Riegel stated that he is the chairman of the Annapolis Transportation Board and informs the group of activities relating to the Bay Bridge. He added that he also sits on the Anne Arundel County Transportation Commission.

Member Cole attended the recent Broadneck Council of Communities meeting where report was given by MDTA Executive Director Jim Ports. He added that he has been in contact with the Anne Arundel County Council Dist. 5 representative Amanda Fiedler and will be coordinating with her after these meetings to help communicate info.

Member Schloss stated that this is his second meeting and that he is continuing to bring himself up to speed on the work of the BBRAG.

Member Moran stated that since the last meeting in July, the Queen Anne's County Council passed a resolution calling for new bridge. He also testified at a recent meeting of the Anne Arundel County Council for their similar resolution.

Member Deoudes stated that he communicates with the Queen Anne's County commissioners in addition to fielding calls from community members and sharing information on Facebook.

Member Broderick states that he shares info gleaned from BBRAG and subsequently providing feedback to the BBRAG. He added that he receives feedback from the heritage, tourism, and

community perspectives and added that the effort to improve communications on the part of the MDTA has been very well received.

## MDTA & MDOT SHA Updates

MDTA Acting Chief Engineer Jim Harkness provided the BBRAG a status update on the 11 active projects at the Bay Bridge in the Capital Program.

### Bay Bridge Capital Projects - September 2021 Update

Pin	Contract No.	Description	AD	NTP	Budget (Thousands \$)	Anticipated Completion	Percent Complete (Construction)	Design (D), Procurement (P), or Construction (C) Phase
2329	BB-2757R	Replace 5KV Feeder on EB Span & Redundant Cable	4/16/19	10/15/19	50,229	Fall 2022	57	C
2369	BB-2819	Deck Rehabilitation and Miscellaneous Modifications	3/6/19	9/9/19	33,248	Spring 2022	73	C
2412	BB-3002	Priority Structural Repairs and Miscellaneous Modifications	7/18/16	4/17/17	28,821	Fall 2021	93	C
2459	BB-3007	Rehabilitate Maintenance Facilities of Eastbound and Westbound Spans	12/20/19	9/1/20	6,197	Winter 2021/22	68	C
2476	BB-3008	Bay Bridge Crossover Automated Lane Closure System	5/24/19	2/3/20	18,249	Fall 2022	68	C
2481	BB-3009	Police Building Generator Replacement	6/26/19	4/6/20	1,027	Summer 2021	100	C
2516	BB-3014	Bay Bridge Emergency All Electronic Toll (AET) Conversion	9/25/20	1/11/21	51,456	Fall 2022	38	C
2501	BB-3013R	On-Call Structural Repairs and Miscellaneous Modifications for Bay Bridge	1/28/21	8/16/21	14,638	Summer 2024	0	C
2317	BB-2726	Rehabilitate Decks of Eastbound Span - Phase I Deck Widening and Replacement of Deck Truss Spans (Eng. Only)	9/26/19	7/12/21	12,050	Fall 2022 (CMAR) Design Phase 1	N/A	D
2470	BB-3004	Construct Project Management Office and Maintenance Equipment Storage Building	3/9/22	9/5/22	8,500	Spring 2025	N/A	D
2504	BB-3012	Queue Detection System	N/A	N/A	2,045	Spring 2023	N/A	D - SHA Coord

In response to a question from Member Broderick, Mr. Harkness stated that paving for BB-2819 will occur at night.

In response to a question from Member Moran, Mr. Harkness responded that the paving occurring as part of BB-3014 will include areas that have been disturbed due to the project.

In response to a question from Member Broderick, Mr. Harkness stated that BB-2726 will use the same construction process as for WB span. Member Deoudes stated that work will not occur on the suspension span and Mr. Harkness concurred, stating that only the deck on truss sections will be replaced. Member Moran inquired as to the cost of the project and whether it is included in cost for foreseeable maintenance. Mr. Harkness responded that the estimated cost is \$200m. MDTA Chief Operating Office Will Pines added the Bay Bridge Life Cycle Cost Analysis study determined that \$3.25 billion would be needed for maintenance on both bridge structures through 2065. This project was identified by the study as a major rehabilitation project and its cost is included in that estimate.

MDOT SHA Administrator Tim Smith stated this year, MDOT SHA handled 1,100 incidents or motorist assists.

Member Deoudes asked if the average volume traversing the bridge this year is lower due to the construction. Mr. Pines stated that construction does impact lane capacities localized to specific times and locations. He added that the studies that MDTA publishes feature the capacity information that would be most useful to the public.

## Unfinished Business

### Community Inquiries and Requests

Will Pines provided an update on the various requests that the MDTA has received related to the Bay Bridge. Previous requests that have been closed out were presented before new and outstanding requests were presented.

Status	Requests	Requestor	Outcomes
✓	Support return of Across the Bay 10K	QAC Commissioners	COMPLETE – Event planned for Halloween
✓	Provide Legal info on Restricting Ramp Access to Local Traffic	BBRAG	COMPLETE – Correspondence from the Maryland Attorney General, MDOT Secretary, and MDOT SHA Administrator describing the legal restrictions on restricting ramp access to certain users distributed to BBRAG members.
✓	Old Ferry Slip Road Cones	Curtis Coates (community member)	COMPLETE – Richard Jaramillo contacted Mr. Coates to resolve the concern and also discussed the matter with the facilities manager at Northrup Grumman.
✓	Automated Gates Project Graphic Request	Member Deoudes	COMPLETE – Graphics posted to the website at <a href="https://mdta.maryland.gov/Bay-Bridge">https://mdta.maryland.gov/Bay-Bridge</a>
✓	Contraflow Lane Tractor Trailer Restriction	Member Moran	COMPLETE – Messages displayed on variable message signs on US-50 with increased vigilance and enforcement from MDTA Police.
✓	Participate in Broadneck Council Meeting	Pat Lynch	COMPLETE – On 9/23/21, MDTA provided a briefing and Q&A to the Broadneck Council and Elected officials in attendance.
⌘	“Stay-On-50” messaging on BAYSPAN	Member Moran	PENDING – New system is still in progress in procurement but is anticipated to be in place prior to the 2022 summer season and will include ‘Stay on 50’ message.
⌘	Request for a FHWA expert to present to the group on federal involvement in US 50 for a corridor analysis.	Jack Broderick	PENDING – Request with MDOT SHA
⌘	Requesting to restrict large commercial trucks from using St. Margaret’s Road, as well as the north and south service roads, except for local delivery.	Senator Reilly	PENDING – Evaluating legal and trucking industry implications.
⌘	“Stay-On-50” signage on Route 50	Delegate Bagnall	PENDING – Signing concepts are being evaluated by MDTA and MDOT SHA.

Member Deoudes asked how right lane restriction for trucks was determined and Mr. Harkness responded that it is based on the vehicle's registration.

Member Broderick stated that the request for an FHWA expert was connected to the side roads. Tim Smith stated that the side roads on the Anne Arundel County side are eligible for federal funding but that those on the Queen Anne's County side are not. He added that MDOT SHA is continuing to look at ways those roads could be made eligible for federal funding.

## New Business

### **Bay Bridge Run**

Bay Bridge Administrator Richard Jaramillo stated a new organizer, Corrigan Sports, will run the event this year. The event will run on October 31<sup>st</sup> and begin at 6:45am and the bridge reopening by 2pm. He also provided an overview of the event including the route over which it will take place.

Member Riegel asked if the event had an impact on tolls and Mr. Jaramillo responded that because travelers are asked to adjust their travel times, there is some impact, but it is minimal.

## Public Comments

Ms. Pat Lynch representing the Broadneck Peninsula expressed thanks to Member Ports and Will Pines for their efforts regarding contra-flow and that there has been a significant improvement this year.

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There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting of the BBRAG was made by Member Moran at 7:25 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on January 5, 2022 at 6:00p.m.