

MINUTES OF THE MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
April 3, 2024

I. Call to Order

Chair Justin Towles called the Maryland Transportation Commission meeting to order on Wednesday, April 3, 2024, at 10:34 AM via Teams meeting.

II. Roll Call

The following individuals were present:

Justin Towles, Chair
Debra Carter, Member
Rudolf-Victor De Leon Dinglas, Member
Debra Farrar-Dyke, Member
Natasha Iheme, Member
Jennifer Hill Leineweber, Member
George Littrell, Jr., Member
Lisa Weimin Liu, Member
John Lunn, Member
Barbara Richman-Kahn, Member
Todd Nock, Member
Rizwan Siddiqi, Member
Gary Simpson, Member
Mario VillaSanta, Member
MDOT Staff Brittany Brothers
MDOT Staff Tyson Byrne

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Towles asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the March 6, 2024 meeting. Mr. VillaSanta made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Siddiqi seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. Dedications of MDOT Facilities

Mr. Byrne presented members with a retirement dedication for Channon O. Green Sr for a sign at Patrice Perrier & McKee foods. This specific dedication was first presented to the members in December 2023 but did not have the appropriate letters of support.

Members discussed the dedication's support letters and recounted the reasons it was previously tabled. Members questioned if background checks should be included in the approval process for both living and deceased dedication requests. Other members asked if there is a precedent for approving dedication requests for people that are still living. There is currently no precedent.

Chairman Towles asked for a motion to approve this dedication request. Mr. Littrell made the motion. There was no second and the motion did not carry.

Members engaged in a discussion about the location of this dedication request and not having enough information on the location. Members were unsure if the requested location was a building or road.

Ms. Carter made a motion to table this dedication and reevaluate it at a future meeting. Mr. Simpson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Members agreed to discuss this dedication again at the next meeting once they receive clarification information about the location, as well as reach out to the Church along the requested road to get their input. Chairman Towles and Ms. Farrar-Dyke agreed to reach out to the requester to get more information.

Chairman Towles brought up a dedication from a year ago for Fire Chief James P. Seavey, Sr. Members discussed that this dedication has not been formally presented yet. Mr. Towles suggested a dedications tracking system and looking into the best way to utilize the MTC Dedications email address so that no request sits in a queue for a year.

V. Other Business

Chairman Towles led a discussion about recognizing and honoring the workers that lost their lives in the 695 work zone crash last year. Members asked if there is a way to track any fatality related to transportation within Maryland and if that is something MTC should recognize. Members discussed the possibility of a plaque in the MDOT TSO lobby.

Mr. Byrne noted that 695 falls under State Highway Administration's (SHA) jurisdiction; however, the Key Bridge falls under the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) and MTC cannot dedicate MDTA facilities. He added that it is likely possible to do a joint plaque in the MDOT TSO lobby.

Chairman Towles led a discussion about MTC's role moving forward regarding the Key Bridge collapse. The group brainstormed ideas about how to honor the bridge victims, those that helped build the bridge, and those who worked on the bridge. Mr. Towles stated he would like the Commission to take on the early stages of planning a memorial. Mr. Siddiqi endorsed the idea and suggested an updated SOP. Ms. Hill Leineweber suggested the MTC help create and promote best practices when building the new bridge. Ms. Carter mentioned thinking through how the MTC can best support the families of the workers that perished during the collapse.

The takeaway was the MTC members agreed to work on a Key Bridge memorial. Chairman Towles said he would run it up the ladder and discuss with MDOT staff.

VI. Adjournment

Mr. Towles asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting and reconvene for the in-person retreat and CHART tour at the SHA Hanover Complex on May 1, 2024. Mr. Simpson made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Richman-Kahn seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned.