

MINUTES OF THE MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

July 1, 2026

I. Call to Order

Chair Justin Towles called the Maryland Transportation Commission meeting to order on Wednesday, July 1, 2026, at 10:30 AM.

II. Roll Call

The following individuals were present:

Justin Towles, Chair
Diane Baker, Member
Debra Carter, Member
Debra Farrar-Dyke, Member
George Littrell, Jr., Member
Lisa Liu, Member
Todd Nock, Member
John Lunn, Member
Gary Simpson, Member
Greg Snook, Member
Mario VillaSanta, Member
MDOT Staff Nora Corasaniti
MDOT Staff Michelle Martin
MDOT Staff Geoff Anderson
MDOT Staff Matt Winkler
MDOT Staff Ryan Icaruso
MDOT Staff Brittany Brothers

III. Roll and Approval of Minutes

Chair Justin Towles asked for a motion to approve the June 2026 meeting minutes. Mr. Mario VillaSanta made a motion to approve the minutes, and Mr. George Littrell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. New Statutory Role of MTC

Ms. Nora Corasaniti noted that previously discussed consolidated plan legislation was not approved during the recent legislative session though HB 1081 was passed and adds the responsibilities of approving senior-level positions at MTA to the MTC.

Chair Justin Towles stated that MDOT is still working to advance project prioritization, and Ms. Nora Corasaniti noted that MDOT will move forward without legislation.

Chair Justin Towles noted that the commission will need to examine the requirements set forth in HB 1081 in the coming months, with the possibility of creating a sub-commission.

Ms. Debra Carter asked if there are currently any appointments that require review. Ms. Nora

Corasaniti noted there are no current appointments ready for review by the commission.

Chair Justin Towles asked if HB 1081 is the same piece of legislation that created a new board commission to oversee MTA, separate from MTC, to which Ms. Nora Corasaniti responded that the legislation enabled MTA to create two new boards, one of which oversees contracted services and the other that oversees core services.

V. Rental Vehicle Company Practices

Chair Justin Towles notes that he is still working with Consumer Protections to gather information on the issue.

VI. Other Business

During the July MTC meeting, Mr. Gary Simpson inquired about trends regarding the issuance of disabled veteran tags. MDOT Staff investigated the question and found that, as of June 14th, there were 43,489 active disabled veteran registration plates. MVA noted that veterans with a 100% disability rating from the US Department of Veteran Affairs are eligible for free registrations and are issued permanent cards and stickers. Since October 1, 2024, Maryland State Law has established new eligibility for disabled veterans with a 50%-99% disability, per the VA, enabling them to apply for, and receive, these disabled veteran plates. While veterans with a 50% to 99% disability rating are eligible under this expanded criterion, they are still responsible for paying registration fees based on the vehicles class and weight. Only disabled veterans with a 100% disability rating from the US Department of Veteran Affairs are exempt from paying registration fees.

MVA also noted that, due to system limitations, they are not able to track applications for – or instances of – individual plates being issued. Rather, they are only able to provide a snapshot of active, non-expired registrations at specific points in time.

Mr. Gary Simpson asked if veterans qualified with a 50% to 99% disability are relieved of property of taxes. MDOT Staff, and Chair Justin Towles, noted that only veterans with a 100% disability are relieved of property tax.

VII. Adjournment

Chair Justin Towles requested a motion to adjourn the meeting, and reconvene during the next scheduled MTC meeting, on August 5, 2026. Ms. Debra Farrar-Dyke made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. George Littrell.