

MINUTES OF THE MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

September 2, 2026

I. Call to Order

Chair Justin Towles called the Maryland Transportation Commission meeting to order on Wednesday, September 2, 2026, at 10:30 AM.

II. Roll Call

The following individuals were present:

Justin Towles, Chair
Diane Baker, Member
Rudy de Leon Dinglass, Member
Debra Farrar-Dyke, Member
George Littrell, Jr., Member
Barbara Richman-Kahn, Member
Lisa Liu, Member
Todd Nock, Member
Rizwan Siddiqui, Member
Gary Simpson, Member
Greg Snook, Member
Mario VillaSanta, Member
MTA Administrator Bridges
MTA Staff Minilla Malhotra
MTA Staff Joy Thomas
MVA Staff Cheryl Sparks
MDOT Staff Drew Morrison
MDOT Staff Nora Corasaniti
MDOT Staff Geoff Anderson
MDOT Staff Matt Winkler
MDOT Staff Kenneth Good
MDOT Staff Brittany Brothers

III. Roll and Approval of Minutes

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

IV. Opening Remarks from MDOT Leadership

Mr. Geoff Anderson noted that MDOT has now released the draft Consolidated Transportation Plan (CTP), which includes planning investments for the next year. He also noted that MDOT is facing ongoing fiscal constraints, and that decisions in the CTP on based leveraging existing assets for redevelopment and state of good repair improvements. He also noted that Purple Line construction is currently at 90%, that MDOT is moving forward with I-81 improvements, and requests members review the CTP.

V. MTC's Role in the MTA Hiring Process

MTA Administrator Tony Bridges thanked the members who volunteered to participate in the MTA subcommittee of the MTC. He noted that over the last couple weeks, he's met with legislative officials, including those who drafted the role of the MTC in HB1081. Administrator Bridges stated that MTA is currently recruiting top talent from around the county to join the MTA team.

Administrator Bridges noted for the commission that he's recommended a change to the previously exhibited list of twelve key MTA positions, which would be subject to MTC approval. He noted that MTA will continue to work with the commission as decisions progress.

MTA Chief Administrative Officer Mini Malhotra noted that MTA is trying to progress the job posting for the two Deputy Administrator positions shown in the previous MTC meeting. She also asked Chair, Justin Towles, how he would prefer MTA communicate with the newly formed subcommittee.

Chair Justin Towles stated that, as the process develops, the MTC will work with MTA however best makes sense. He expressed the desire for the MTC to not become overly prescriptive. The subcommittee is intended to complete a preliminary review of any MTA submissions and will then make a recommendation to the rest of the commission.

VI. FSK Update

Cheryl Sparks, with MDTA, provided an update on progress toward rebuilding the Key Bridge. She noted that crews are currently driving permanent piles, the contractor is constructing a work platform and, when the new contracts are in place, the work will be able to continue as seamlessly as possible. Ms. Sparks also reminded the commission that the new contract is broken into three phases, all of which are expected to receive notice to proceed by the summer of 2027. MDTA is still targeting a completion date of 2030 but won't be able to estimate in more detail until the three contracts are in place.

VII. Other Business

Mr. George Littrell inquired about planned improvements to Maryland Route 115. Mr. Geoff Anderson noted that the project is included in the CTP.

Ms. Richman cited a recent article that spoke to the amount of unpaid toll debt in the State and asked how MDOT plans to recoup the unpaid amount. Ms. Cheryl Sparks responded that the toll payment rate is approximately 95% to 97%, and that Maryland is actively working to establish reciprocity agreements with other states that would enable MDOT to more strictly enforce payment. She also noted that revenues and budgets are never based on the assumed recouping of unpaid toll debt, and that MDOT is doing well compared to other states.

Mr. Todd Nock noted that, for people on the Eastern Shore who travel through tolls often, remembering to pay tolls can be difficult. Ms. Sparks noted that most of the unpaid toll debt is among non-EZ Pass users. In July, MDTA began sending second notices of toll invoices, in an effort to remind people about unpaid tolls.

Chair Justin Towles noted that articles are reporting that there is a total of \$800 to \$900 million in unpaid toll debt. He asked if Ms. Sparks knows what timeframe they are referring to. Ms. Sparks responded that she doesn't know what time period the articles are referring to, but assumes the total is accumulative, over a period of many years.

Mr. Greg Snook noted that he'd prefer to see the actual cumulative amount of unpaid toll debt. Ms. Sparks responded that she'll investigate the matter and report back to the commission.

Mr. Justin Towles asked if MDOT is working on policy regarding Flock cameras. Mr. Geoff Anderson responded that MDOT does not have an official policy as of yet but will investigate the matter and report back to the commission.

VIII. Adjournment

Chair Justin Towles requested a motion to adjourn the meeting, and to resume at the next regularly scheduled MTC meeting on October 7, 2026. Ms. Barbara Richman made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Mario VillaSanta.