

**MINUTES OF THE MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**  
**July 10, 2024**

**I. Call to Order**

Chair Justin Towles called the Maryland Transportation Commission meeting to order on Wednesday, July 10, 2024, at 10:32 AM at MDOT TSO and via Teams meeting.

**II. Roll Call**

The following individuals were present:

Justin Towles, Chair  
Diane Baker, Member  
Debra Carter, Member  
Debra Farrar-Dyke, Member  
Jennifer Hill-Leineweber, Member  
Natasha Iheme, Member  
Barbara Richman-Kahn, Member  
George Littrell, Jr., Member  
Lisa Weimin Liu, Member  
John Lunn, Member  
Todd Nock, Member  
Rizwan Siddiqi, Member  
Gary Simpson, Member  
Greg Snook, Member  
Mario VillaSanta, Member  
MDOT Staff Geoff Anderson  
MDOT Staff Brittany Brothers  
MDOT Staff Nora Corasaniti  
MDOT Staff Matthew Mickler  
MDOT Staff Cheryl Sparks

**III. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Chair Towles asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 5, 2024, meeting. Mr. VillaSanta made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Simpson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **IV. Dedications of MDOT Facilities**

Chair Towles provided members with an update on the status of previously approved dedications.

Chair Towles introduced the first dedication request for review. The request is for PFC Donald Selby, a Korean War veteran, on Maryland junction Route 13 and Route 363 Deal Island Road. Members discussed the support letters submitted, as well as the timing of this dedication request. Chair Towles asked for a motion to approve this dedication. Ms. Hill-Leineweber made the motion to approve the dedication request. Mr. Siddiqi seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Towles introduced the next dedication request for review. The request is for Senator Douglas J.J. Peters on Maryland Route 450 in Prince George's County. Chair Towles asked for a motion to approve this dedication. Mr. Siddiqi made the motion to approve the dedication request. Ms. Carter seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Towles introduced the last dedication request for review. The request is for the victims for the MD 210 crash. Members discussed what would be on the dedication sign; the dangers of MD 210; legislation and criteria; MD 210 safety enhancements; and how this could open the door for any crash to receive a dedication sign. Ms. Hill-Leineweber suggested looking at other ways to do the sign (a safety reminder vs. a dedication). Mr. VillaSanta made a motion to table this dedication until next month's meeting. No second. The motion did not carry. Members discussed how and if safety has improved on MD 210 and how to eliminate motorcycle crashes from this request. Ms. Carter made a motion to table this dedication until next month's meeting. Mr. Nock seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Richman-Kahn made a motion to further discuss the tabled dedication request. Mr. Siddiqi seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Members discussed tabling vs. declining this dedication. Chair Towles asked members what information and research are needed to reevaluate this request. Members felt the dedication as is, is not the way to move forward. A safety sign with different language might be more appropriate. Chair Towles asked for a motion to decline this dedication request. Ms. Hill-Leineweber made the motion to decline this request as is. Mr. VillaSanta seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Chair Towles asked for a motion to approach MD 210 committee about alternative ways to encourage continued safety and resubmit this request. Ms. Hill-Leineweber made the motion to move forward. Mr. Nock seconded the motion. Mr. VillaSanta abstained. The rest of the members approved and the motion carried. Ms. Carter agreed to follow up with Senator Muse and Chair Towles agreed to reach out to MD 210 committee.

#### **V. MTC Role and Logistics**

Chair Towles led a discussion about the future of MTC and where he sees the Commission going strategically. He highlighted his meetings with MDOT Assistant Secretaries McAndrews, Bridges and Greene. He is working with Assistant Secretary Greene and the Governor's Office to get approval on the Key Bridge memorial and event.

Chair Towles discussed utilizing MDOT staff and lightening their lift monthly. Moving forward, MTC meetings will still occur monthly due to legislation. MDOT leadership would like to see this move towards less frequent meetings but until legislation changes, meetings will remain on the same schedule. All meetings will go back to virtual Teams meetings, except for twice a year (June and December). The website and calendar invitation will reflect the meeting locations of the two in person meetings. Each quarter, MDOT leadership will join the MTC meeting (March, June, September and December). The Chair will also be meeting with MDOT leadership separately every other month to bridge any gaps.

Chair Towles mentioned that he would like to create a dedications subcommittee that will be responsible for tracking MTC dedications. He said he would like to streamline the process without elongating it. Ms. Hill-Leineweber said she would like to be a part of that subcommittee.

Chair Towles mentioned the next meeting will be on July 3. He asked members if they wanted to push it back a week due to the holiday. Members agreed to move the next meeting to July 10, in person at MDOT TSO.

## **VI. CTP/ Project Prioritization/ Fiscal Outlook**

Chair Towles introduced MDOT Chief Geoff Anderson who provided members with various updates on the MDOT side. He informed members that the fiscal outlook is negative, which MDOT is working through. The Consolidated Transportation Plan is currently in development and outline budget constraints and reflect priorities. This offers MDOT the challenge of making tough choices, which is where project prioritization comes in. Members discussed the process for prioritizing projects. Mr. Anderson informed them that there will be collaboration with MDOT leadership and the MTC Chair regarding prioritization moving forward.

## **VII. FSK Memorial**

Chair Towles introduced MDTA Chief Strategy Officer Cheryl Sparks who provided members with background information on MDOT's work regarding the collapse of the Key Bridge, as well as the preparations for a memorial. Ms. Sparks and the Chair agreed to talk offline with Assistant Secretary Greene to further discuss a memorial event around the 1-year anniversary. Chair Towles reminded members that Mr. Nock chairs the FSK subcommittee.

## **VIII. Upcoming Events**

No noteworthy events this month.

#### **IV. Other Business**

Mr. VillaSanta led a discussion about strategies to expedite the repair/ rebuild of the bridge and alleviate traffic congestion. He suggested the use of Chubb coverage. Members discussed the possibilities, as well as the research needed to provide a recommendation to the MDOT Secretary. Chair Towles informed members that he will work with Mr. VillaSanta to provide recommendations at next month's meeting.

#### **V. Adjournment**

Chair Towles asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting and reconvene for the next virtually, on August 7, 2024. Ms. Farrar-Dyke made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. VillaSanta seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned.