

MINUTES OF THE MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
August 7, 2024

I. Call to Order

Chair Justin Towles called the Maryland Transportation Commission meeting to order on Wednesday, August 7, 2024, at 10:33 AM via Teams meeting.

II. Roll Call

The following individuals were present:

Justin Towles, Chair
Diane Baker, Member
Debra Carter, Member
Rudolf-Victor De Leon Dinglas, Member
Debra Farrar-Dyke, Member
Jennifer Hill-Leineweber, 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 Brittany Brothers

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chair Towles asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the July 10, 2024, meeting. Mr. Littrell made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Lunn seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. Dedications of MDOT Facilities

Chair Towles re-introduced the MD 210 victims' dedication request for review. He reviewed the members' previous concerns, including the recognition being too broad and editorial changes needed. Last month, the request was declined. He informed the members that there have been conversations between MTC and the MD 210 Traffic Safety Committee since the July meeting.

The MD 210 Committee was advised to resubmit the request with changes. Mr. Ron Weiss, Chair of the MD 210 Committee provided members with background information on the request.

The new sign language proposed: This Interchange Dedicated; In Honor of the People; Who Sacrificed to Make MD 210 Safer.

Members still expressed concerns with the safety aspect of the dedication sign, as well as the use of “honor.”

Chair Towles suggested alternative text: Dedicated in memory of the those who have made MD 210 safer. Ms. Richman-Kahn suggested adding the verbiage “those who strive to make MD 210 safer.”

Chair Towles asked for a motion to approve the dedication request with the newly proposed language: Dedicated to those who strive to make MD 210 safer. Mr. Snook made the motion to approve this request and Mr. Villa Santa seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

V. FSK Memorial

Chair Towles provided members with an update on the call he had with the Governor’s Office regarding a FSK memorial and event. The Governor’s Office feels it is too far off to consider at the moment. Chair Towles has a follow up meeting with them in September, but for the time being, this initiative is on hold. He noted that the Maryland Department of Planning is responsible for the planning of the physical memorial.

VI. Solutions for the Key Bridge

Last month, Mr. Villa Santa led a discussion about strategies to expedite the repair/ rebuild of the bridge and alleviate traffic congestion. Mr. Villa Santa noted that he is ready to draft a recommendation to the MDOT Secretary.

Chair Towles asked for a motion to approve Mr. Villa Santa taking the lead to draft a recommendation letter to the MDOT Secretary on the issue of repairing the current bridge to alleviate congestion. Mr. Villa Santa made the motion to approve this request and Mr. Nock seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. Other Business

Chair Towles informed members that MDOT is working on developing a shared folder and will need all members’ business emails in order to gain them access. He asked that all members send their email addresses, along with an updated electronic signature to Ms. Brothers and himself as their earliest convenience.

Ms. Carter informed members of a call she received from regarding a backlog in MDOT's processing for MBE/DBE certifications. She noted that she has been in contact with Assistant Secretary Tony Bridges and MDOT is working to streamline the process now that they have a new Director.

VIII. Upcoming Events

No noteworthy events this month.

IV. Adjournment

Chair Towles asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting and reconvene for the next quarterly MTC meeting virtually, on September 4, 2024. Ms. Richman-Kahn made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Villa Santa seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned.