

Joint Kent-Queen Anne's Task Force

June 17, 2016

Members Present: Margo Bailey, Foster Beach, Bernadette Bowman, Jack Brosius, Wayne Darrell, Shelley Heller, Greg Roby, Commissioner William A. Short, and Commissioner Jack Wilson

Members Absent: Commissioner Ronald H. Fithian, Mayor Chris Cerino, Ken Fry, Mark Glass, Paul Hanley, Greg Holsey, Joe Holt, Lainey Solomon, and Greg Todd

Also in attendance: Scott Burleson, Director, Shore Medical Center at Chestertown; Linda Kuiper, Council Member, Town of Chestertown; Ginger Gregg, Emergency Planner, Office of Emergency Services; Amy Moredock, Director, Planning, Housing, and Zoning; Jerry Roderick, Director of Public Safety, Washington College, on behalf of Joe Holt; James Culp, Chief Deputy, Kent County Sheriff's Office; Sergeant CJ Green, Queen Anne's County Sheriff's Office; Bob Rager, Community Liaison, State Highway Administration; and Jamie Williams, Coordinator, Economic Development

At 9:00 a.m. the meeting convened. Commissioner Short gave opening remarks.

On motion by Ms. Bailey, seconded by Mr. Beach, the minutes from the May 20, 2016, meeting were approved.

Mr. Roby provided an update on behalf of the State Highway Administration (SHA). SHA is moving forward and continuing to make repairs to the Bridge. The steel work should be finished in August. Ms. Bailey asked Mr. Roby to state for the record that the bridge is structurally safe. Mr. Roby confirmed.

Ms. Moredock reviewed the 2010 Chester River Crossing Study as it pertains to the Land Use Ordinance, zoning, and the Comprehensive Plan for Kent County. The areas where the crossing has been proposed are zoned Industrial, Intense Village, Commercial, Community Residential, and Rural Residential. Ms. Moredock stated that the Comprehensive Plan is supportive of the zoning adjacent to the Town of Chestertown. Ms. Bailey questioned whether the proposed annexation for the Town of Chestertown would put restrictions on a potential crossing. Ms. Moredock stated that the annexation area should not affect the crossing.

Mr. Brosius expressed his concerns and the potential impact to residents of Chester Harbor, especially with truck traffic.

Mr. Beach inquired as to what Queen Anne's County's position is on the crossing. The Queen Anne's County Commissioners signed Resolution 07-23 on December 4, 2007. The resolution memorialized the position of the Board concerning the Bypass and new Chester River

Crossing affecting Northern Queen Anne's County. Commissioner Wilson stated that with the new bypass project in Middletown, truck traffic on Route 213 may decrease.

Ms. Bailey expressed her concern that with Kent County's Fiber Buildout and Chestertown's annexation, which could potentially bring in more people, the Task Force needs to come up with a solution.

Mr. Brosius gave an overview of Queen Anne's County roadway projects that have outweighed the Chester River Crossing. Mr. Brosius stated that past discussions with SHA Engineers revealed that SHA would not maintain two bridges. If a new bridge is constructed, Kent and/or Queen Anne's County would have to assume responsibility for the maintenance of the draw span on the current bridge.

Commissioner Wilson will discuss the project with his fellow Queen Anne's County Commissioners and report back to the Task Force. Both Kent and Queen Anne's County must jointly agree to move forward with the Chester River Crossing.

Mr. Rager will distribute copies of the January 2010 Chester River Crossing Feasibility Study to the Task Force.

In follow up to the May 20, 2016 meeting, Mr. Roby presented a PowerPoint Presentation regarding the possibility of installing a railing to run parallel with the sidewalk on the bridge. Recent discussions with representatives from Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) determined that a railing would not meet federal ADA standards. ADA standards require any sidewalk less than sixty inches wide to have a passing zone or break in the railing every two hundred feet which would not be possible over the draw span. The sidewalk is also too narrow. Commissioner Wilson inquired as to how many accidents have occurred on the bridge with pedestrians. Mr. Roby is awaiting results of study regarding this issue and will report back.

Mr. Roby reported that SHA has been discussing potential closure dates with the contractor. All scenarios are being discussed.

Ms. Heller announced that the Maryland Department of Transportation, Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP) Tour is scheduled for November 1, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Wilson announced that the CTP Tour is also scheduled for Queen Anne's County on the same date.

The Task Force will not meet on August 19, 2016, due to the Maryland Association of Counties Summer Conference.

On motion by Mr. Beach, seconded by Commissioner Short, the Task Force agreed to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:49 a.m. The Joint Kent-Queen Anne's Task Force agreed to meet again on July 15, 2016, in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

Respectfully submitted,



Sondra M. Blackiston, Clerk



Approved:

William A. Short, Member
The County Commissioners
Of Kent County, Maryland