

## **Joint Kent-Queen Anne's Task Force**

**July 15, 2016**

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

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

**Also in attendance:** Ginger Gregg, Emergency Planner, Office of Emergency Services; Bob Rager, Community Liaison, State Highway Administration; Jamie Williams, Coordinator, Economic Development; Kay MacIntosh, Economic Development & Marketing Coordinator, Chestertown Arts and Entertainment District/Chestertown Main Street; Dr. Karen Couch, Superintendent, and Tammy Hall, Support Supervisor for Transportation, Kent County Public Schools.

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

Mr. Holsey and Mr. Roby provided an update on behalf of the State Highway Administration (SHA). SHA has been working with the Contractor and proposed a solution. SHA proposes to begin painting on September 7, 2016 through October 30, 2016. Both lanes of traffic would remain open from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and begin flagging operations from 9:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m., seven days a week. The bridge will need to be closed completely for up to five days, with a detour, from 9:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m., in order to paint difficult and hard to reach areas. The paint lifespan will not change but there will be an increase in cost from the original contract due to the additional time it will take to complete the project.

Mr. Roby stated that the channel will be blocked with barges and the bridge will remain in the closed position during the painting process.

Commissioner Short inquired as to whether Comptroller Peter Franchot was supportive of the proposal. Mr. Holsey stated that he spoke with Secretary Pete Rahn, Maryland Department of Transportation, who said that "he spoke with the people he needed to speak to" and gave Mr. Holsey permission to present the proposal to the Task Force.

Ms. Bowman expressed her concern regarding two events planned in Chestertown in September and October that will take place on the water; RiverFest and Downrigging. Mr. Roby does not think painting will interfere with the events but SHA and the Contractor will try and work with the Tourism Departments. Mr. Roby requested that Ms. Bowman and Ms. MacIntosh submit to Mr. Rager, the exact dates and times for when the events are scheduled to begin and end.

In order to act on the proposed painting schedule, SHA needs to provide advance notice to the Coast Guard and the Contractor needs thirty days' notice. Mr. Beach questioned where the equipment would be stored during the painting process. Mr. Roby stated that a location has not been finalized but some equipment would be stored on the barges.

Ms. Gregg inquired as to whether bad weather had been taken into account. Mr. Roby stated that the projected days did take into account inclement weather.

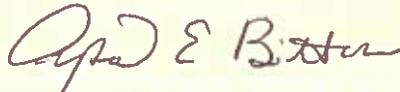
The Task Force agreed to move forward.

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 9:25 a.m. The Joint Kent-Queen Anne's Task Force agreed to meet again on September 16, 2016, in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

Respectfully submitted,



April E. Bitter, Deputy Clerk



Approved.

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