

Bay Bridge Monitoring Committee
January 13, 2020
Meeting Summary

The Kent County Bay Bridge Monitoring Committee (BBMC) met on Monday, January 13, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. in the County Commissioners' Hearing Room in the R. Clayton Mitchell, Jr. Government Center in Chestertown, Maryland. The following committee members attended the meeting: Ralph Dolinger, Torr Howell, William Sutton, and Thomas Tontarski. BBMC Kent County staff included Bill Mackey, Person of Contact/Planning Director; Jim Wright, County Engineer; and Sandy Adams who clerked the meeting.

The meeting summaries for February 27, 2019, and March 27, 2019, were accepted by the Committee.

The members discussed the Bay Crossing Study Open House Meetings that were conducted by the State in various locations, and they provided the following feedback:

- Mr. Mackey said he attended the meeting at the high school, and he thought it was a very noncontentious meeting. He thinks it was basically due to the Governor's announcement prior to the meeting. Mr. Mackey said while at MACO, the County was given the opportunity to meet, one-on-one, with the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT). He said at that meeting, he had the opportunity to go through the entire study with them, but there was not any new information available.
- Tom Tontarski said he attended both meetings, and he felt the first meeting was a "passive" experience. He said the State was there to answer questions, but they did not volunteer information unless it was brought up. He said he found the second meeting to be more informative than the first and he left feeling a little better, with the exception of Rock Hall still being in the mix.
- Bill Mackey commented that in all the criteria available, Kent County was always ranked Number 3 and the lowest on the list of choices for a third span.
- Ralph Dolinger said he believes the pressure to be off Kent County.
- Torr Howell commented that he believes the general angst is over, and it is now just a waiting game. He said since the Governor's announcement, the public seems to be more at ease.
- The overall consensus of the Committee is that since the Governor's announcement, things have quieted down.
- Mr. Mackey asked the Committee if there is anything new that they want staff to forward to the County Commissioners.
 - Mr. Tontarski said that Kent County has been very outspoken, and he thinks that MDOT is going in the right direction.
 - Mr. Howell said that everyone has had access to the NEPA study and currently there is no further information available to the Committee. He said if any new dates have been released, he would be interested in obtaining an updated schedule. Mr. Mackey agreed to contact state representatives to determine if there are any updates to the schedule.

Committee Business:

- The members discussed the frequency of meetings moving forward. The members agreed to meet quarterly, or as new information becomes available. Sandy Adams will contact the members in April for determining the next meeting date.

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- Mr. Mackey will contact members whose terms have expired to determine if they wish to continue serving on the Committee.

The Committee heard public comments from Mr. Mike Waal.

Mr. Waal recalled the mission of the prior monitoring committee that preceded the current committee. Mr. Wall encouraged the current committee members to approach the Kent County Commissioners, in order to change the current mission of the committee to be more like the previous committee. As part his request, Mr. Waal reviewed the history and accomplishments of the previous committee on which he had served and played a major role. Mr. Waal concluded his comments with a call for action.

Next Meeting:

To be announced as scheduled.

The meeting concluded at 2:03 p.m.