

Bay Bridge Monitoring Committee
April 25, 2018
Meeting Summary

The Kent County Bay Bridge Monitoring Committee (BBMC) met on Wednesday, April 25, 2018 at 10:00 a.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: Gary DiVito, Ralph Dolinger, Torr Howell, Thomas Tontarski, and William Sutton. BBMC Kent County staff included Amy Moredock, Person of Contact/Planning Director; Jim Wright, County Engineer; and Sandy Adams who clerked the meeting.

The meeting summaries for February 26, 2018 and March 28, 2018 were accepted by the Committee.

Stop the Span – Save Kent County:

Kate Livie, moderator for the public group on Facebook, said the group is a “grassroots community effort” and talked about its purpose. She said the possibility of selecting Kent County as the area for the new span brings the following active concerns among young professionals within the community:

- There is a concern about becoming a Baltimore bedroom community;
- Kent County could be absorbing the crime from Baltimore City and Baltimore County;
- There is a perceived benefit for commuters to Baltimore;
- This location is perceived by those in support of the span as a silver bullet for economic development in the County; and
- There is a distrust of corporations; we would like to see economic development come from entities that we can trust.

To access the “Stop the Span – Save Kent County” public group, log into Facebook at: www.facebook.com. Ms. Livie agreed to send a presentation for the Committee’s website.

Kent Conservation and Preservation Alliance :

Janet Christensen-Lewis, Chair, Board of Directors, and Elizabeth Watson, Consulting Community Planner, Board of Directors, addressed the following topics:

Ms. Christensen-Lewis shared the letter the County Commissioners wrote to Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh requesting clarification of Maryland Transportation Article 4-407. She wanted to make the Committee aware of Article 4-407 and the need for a clear interpretation of the statute as it relates to toll roads and to the affected counties charged with giving consent.

She commented that neither the Maryland Department of Agriculture nor the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) have commented during the scoping process as was required. She asked the Committee to reach out to both agencies for comments. Ms. Christensen-Lewis also talked about Farmland Preservation and provided a document titled “Overview of Regulations” pertaining to code regulations specific to Farmland and the Farmland Protection Policy Act.

Ms. Watson talked about the Historic Preservation Act and the National Registry of Historic Places. Ms. Watson said, “what gets mapped, gets managed” and said there is not enough mapping of historic

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resources. She said this is one of the problems with the system. She said the information the State will use for studying the corridors will be older information based on desktop GIS rather than historic inventories and surveys. Ms. Watson said the Alliance is working with Washington College to create more updated information.

Ms. Watson talked about Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966 and provided the Committee a pertinent document. She said the Act specifies that you must prove there is no prudent or feasible alternative for going through historic sites.

Ms. Watson suggested the Committee invite a representative from the Maryland Historical Trust and the Maryland Department of Planning. She commented that it is very important to continue sending questions and comments to the Maryland Department of Transportation so that answers can be provided.

Ms. Christensen-Lewis and Ms. Watson answered questions from the audience.

Updates:

- Staff informed the committee and audience members that the Committee's website has been updated and will include all meeting agendas, summaries (upon acceptance), presentation documents, and pertinent resources and links.

Committee Business:

- The Committee heard public comments and suggestions.
- Ms. Moredock said the letter that the County Commissioners wrote to The Honorable Attorney General Brian E. Frosh requesting clarification of Maryland Transportation Article 4-407 will be posted on the Committee's website; she demonstrated the Committee's new and improved website;
- Ms. Moredock went over the dates and locations for the upcoming Public Meetings; she commented that it is important for the Committee to be represented at the local meeting; and
- Ms. Moredock commented that as the Committee continues to gather information, it will be conveyed to the County Commissioners.

Next Step(s):

- Ms. Moredock suggested the Committee invite representatives from an advocacy group that wish to speak in support of the span, in order to hear every angle for accurately presenting back to the County Commissioners;
- Ms. Moredock, as directed by the Committee, will invite representatives from the following three agencies to discuss their department's role in the NEPA process and their relationship and contribution to the Study: Maryland Department of Agriculture; Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); and Maryland Historic Trust;
- Ms. Moredock will follow-up with MDOT to learn how participating agencies are truly functioning, as she has not participated in meetings with the MDOT since being appointed; and
- Ms. Moredock will follow-up with the State regarding the Purpose and Need document.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 23, 2018 from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

The meeting concluded at 11:50 a.m.