

Bay Bridge Monitoring Committee

February 26, 2018

Meeting Summary

The Kent County Bay Bridge Monitoring Committee (BBMC) met on Monday, February 26, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. in the County Commissioners' Hearing Room in the R. Clayton Mitchell, Jr. Government Center in Chestertown, Maryland for the initial organizational meeting. The following committee members attended the meeting: Ralph Dolinger, William Sutton, and Mike Waal; Gary DiVito attended the meeting via teleconference. BBMC Kent County staff included Amy Moredock, Person of Contact/Planning Director; Jim Wright, County Engineer; and Sandy Adams who clerked the meeting.

Guest Speakers: Heather Lowe, Project Manager, and Melissa Williams, Director, Division of Planning & Program Development, Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA). A "Chesapeake Bay Bridge Crossing Tier I Study" PowerPoint presentation was shared with the committee, and they discussed the following:

- The purpose of this study is to identify a preferred corridor, evaluate financial viability, and address congestion on the existing bridge;
- The area being studied is the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland, an approximate span of 100 miles consisting of 6 subareas. In the spring, we will discuss screening criteria where we will identify both good and bad ideas for crossing within each of the subareas; this information will be shared with the public;
- Tier 1 – is a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Study containing corridor level decisions and overall corridor issues;
- There will be 4 public meetings (including the November 2017 meeting); the next public meeting will take place in Spring 2018. At this meeting, screening criteria will be shared;
- In Tier 2, more specific alignments and development will be addressed in the preferred corridor/subarea;
- The Coordination Plan is available on the State website and the Scoping Report will be uploaded to the project website next month; and
- In year 2020, the end of the 4-year study, the State will reach a location decision within a one-mile wide corridor.

Ms. Lowe and Ms. Williams answered questions from the audience which consisted of approximately 20 attendees.

Committee Business:

- Ms. Moredock led the discussion regarding the committee's charge. The charge is very specific which is to follow the activities of the State and report those activities back to the County Commissioners;
- The members agreed to meet monthly; they decided to meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioner's Hearing Room so that each meeting may be livestreamed; the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 28 at 10:00 a.m. in the County Commissioners Hearing Room;

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- The committee's initial area of concentration will be on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); and
- The committee will recommend ideas and/or guest speakers to Ms. Moredock or Mr. Wright to arrange.

Next Step(s):

- Mr. Dolinger to contact Carl Gallegos, a NEPA expert and County resident, to see if he would be interested in serving on the committee. If Mr. Gallegos is interested, staff will make a recommendation to the County Commissioners for appointing him for the vacant position;
- Amy Moredock, the County participant at State meetings, to report on State activity as it becomes available;
- The Committee to try and pull together a comprehensive list of surrounding counties' citizens groups and meetings; and
- Mr. Waal to continue to attend the Bay Bridge Reconstruction Advisory Group (BBRAG) meetings and report significant and relevant findings via providing a bulleted summary of highlights.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 28, 2018 from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

The meeting concluded at 12:14 p.m.