

**Maryland Port Commission**  
**Open Session Minutes**  
**April 6, 2021**

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The Three Hundred and Seventy Fifth Session of the Maryland Port Commission was called to order at 9:02 am by Secretary Gregory Slater via teleconferencing. The Commission met in Open Session from 9:02 am until 9:45 am.

**Present:** Secretary Slater and Commissioners Dandy, Dean, Huber, Lunn, McDonald, and Richardson

**Staff:** William Doyle (Executive Director), Brian Miller (Deputy Executive Director), Bob Munroe (MPA Principal Counsel), Christina Nichols (Chief of Staff), Richard Scher (Director of Communications), Rick Powers (Director of Marketing), Wonza Spann-Nicholas (Director of Finance), Kristen Fidler (Director of Harbor Development), David Espie (Director of Security), Ryan Barry (Director of Operations), Dominic Scurti (Director of Planning), Steve Johnson (Director of Engineering), Brad Smith (General Manager of Strategic Initiatives), Jennifer Guthrie (Legislative Manager), John Thornton (Manager of Procurement), and Bill Richardson (General Manager, Environment)

**Minutes of the Three Hundred and Seventy Fourth Open Session Meeting**

Commissioner McDonald moved to approve the Open Session Minutes of the Three Hundred and Seventy Fourth Port Commission. Commissioner Huber seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously without discussion.

**Business Update, William P. Doyle, Executive Director**

Executive Director Doyle stated that efforts at the Port of Baltimore are ongoing to remain vigilant in the advocacy of COVID-19 safety, hygiene, and overall cleanliness. Longshore workers are adhering to strict protocols and receiving vaccinations. He reported that cargo continues to make impressive strides over last years' COVID-19 lows including year over year gains compared to pre-pandemic numbers in February 2020 with containers up 2.8% and general cargo up 6.2%. February auto and light trucks units totaled 30,183; a significant increase of over 72% from May 2020 lows. The February 2020 Metsa contract has resulted in a year over year gain of 102% in rolled paper.

Mr. Doyle provided an update on the following projects:

- Dundalk Marine Terminal (DMT) Berth 3 Construction

DMT Berth 3 construction remains on schedule with no vessel delays due to the diligence of the MPA operations team. The demolition of Shed 3A is complete and the demolition of the railroad tracks is on schedule. Two cranes have been delivered.

- Howard Street Tunnel

The Environmental Assessment (EA) comment period has been extended two weeks to April 14 at the request of the Charles Village Civic Association. This delay will not affect the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) final draft. Approximately 10 comments have been received, the video released in conjunction with the comment period has received over 520 views.

The MPA is working closely with the Maryland Department of General Services (DGS), Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS), and CSX on the property transfer in Jessup, Maryland. On March 31 the deed was delivered by DGS to Howard County Land Records to indicate transfer from DPSCS to MPA. The next step will be on April 21, 2021, MPA will request BPW approval of the sale of the Jessup property to CSX for \$32,500,000, the formal sale will not take place until June 1, 2021 when the current lease with CSX ends.

- Seagirt Berth 3

The Seagirt Loop Draft Feasibility Study has been approved and signed.

Seagirt Berth 3 dredging progress is now 93% complete and the project is 85% through the contract period, completion date remains April 20, 2021.

#### Cruise Baltimore

The CDC issued guidance for cruise travel on April 2nd. The document issued applies to phase 2 and covers voyage preparation requirements prior to conducting simulated cruises. Simulated cruises are scheduled to begin in Miami, Port Canaveral, and Galveston. The policies will apply to all ports and a contractual agreement will be required with signatories to the agreement including the cruise ship company's CEO, Compliance Officer, Medical Officer, the local public health authority and U.S. port authority. A CDC checklist will be provided for these agreements. Cruise lines are working on passenger embarkation and debarkation flow to comply with CDC guidelines. Details regarding testing and vaccinations for passengers and crew are being determined by the cruise lines.

#### Suez Canal/Ever Given

The Suez Canal backlog of ships has cleared (as of Saturday, April 3, 2021). There were several Baltimore-bound or scheduled ships impacted during the 6-day closing. The Suez Canal was expanded in 2014-15 to allow up to 100 ships per day to transit. The average number of ships per day pre-incident was 50, based on demand. At its height, there were more than 400 ships delayed.

In closing Mr. Doyle commented the majority of MPA employees continue to telework with a skeleton crew of Operations and Security personnel reporting to the terminals each day.

## **Dray Trucks and Air Presentation, Bill Richardson, General Manager, SERM**

Mr. Richardson, General Manager, Environment, presented on the MPA Dray Truck and Emission Reduction Program. Highlights of this presentation included:

- The MPA/MDE agreement has been highly productive in identifying air pollutant sources and air pollution reduction technologies, prioritizing actions and projects that could improve air quality for communities near Port operations and expanding stakeholder engagement and awareness.
- Maryland's ozone problem has been shrinking since 1998.
- Statewide, sources of NO<sub>x</sub> (Nitrogen Oxide) have also decreased since 2005.
- The MDOT MPA conducts an emissions inventory every four years, focusing on modernizing the CHA and drayage trucks fleets, and coordinates DERA grant applications for tenants and Port partners.
- The Dray Truck Replacement program offers up to \$30,000 to assist truck owners upgrade their older model vehicles, helps the owners secure financing for the newer truck, and removes the old truck from service.
- 251 dray trucks have been replaced.
- The Port's dray truck replacement program received \$2M from the VW settlement.
- Even as cargo volumes increased by 10%, air emissions have decreased by 19%.
- Next steps to improve air quality and energy efficiency at the terminals include a feasibility study of Microgrid technology at Dundalk marine Terminal, advance electric vehicle infrastructure in the Mid-Atlantic region, and participation in the secretary's Zero Emissions Vehicle (ZEV) Working Group

## **Move into Closed Session**

At 9:46 am, in accordance with State Government Article, Section 10-508 (a)(4), Annotated Code of Maryland, Commissioner McDonald moved that the Commission meet in Closed Session, and Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. See attached Closing Statement. The Commission met in Closed Session from 9:46 am until 10:03 am. Secretary Slater and Commissioners Dandy, Dean, Huber, Lunn, McDonald, and Richardson, Bill Doyle (Executive Director), Brian Miller (Deputy Executive Director) Bob Munroe (Principal Counsel), Dominic Scurti (Deputy Director of Planning), Brad Smith (General Manager of Strategic Initiatives), Steve Johnson (Director of Engineering) and Christina Nichols (Chief of Staff) were present. The Closed Session ended at 10:03 am and the meeting returned to Open Session.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Dandy and seconded by Commissioner Lunn. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:06 am.