

**County Council of Dorchester County
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 3, 2014**

The County Council of Dorchester County met in regular session on November 3, 2014 with the following members present: Present were Jay L. Newcomb, President; William V. Nichols, Vice President; Ricky Travers; Rick Price and Tom Bradshaw. Also present were E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney, and Donna Lane, Executive Administrative Specialist.

REGULAR SESSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Council adjourned from a Regular Session and convened in a closed Executive Session pursuant to State Government Article pursuant to §10-508(A)(1) to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction and pursuant to §10-508(A)(7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter.

Voting in favor of the closed Executive Session were all Council members.

REGULAR SESSION

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Bradshaw led the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

CALL FOR ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- OCTOBER 21, 2014

The Council approved the minutes of October 21, 2014.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS

The Council approved the vouchers as presented and the release of a payment to Roy Bradshaw Body Shop, LLC in the amount of \$1,049.23.

FINANCIAL REPORT: CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Councilman Newcomb reported total cash and investments as \$13,003,357.49.

CAPITAL PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION-BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Council approved the Capital Payment Authorization request of Dr. Henry Wagner, Superintendent of Schools, in the amount of \$200,000 for FY15 capital costs relating to roof projects at Hurlock Elementary School and South Dorchester K-8.

EXECUTIVE SESSION SUMMARY

The County Council of Dorchester County convened in an Executive Session at 5:00 p.m. on November, 2014 in a closed session at Room 110, County Office Building, 501 Court Lane, Cambridge, Maryland, pursuant to the State Government Article pursuant to §10-508(A)(1) to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction and pursuant to §10-508(A)(7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter.

Motion made, seconded and carried to conduct a closed session pursuant to the above. All members of the Council voted in the affirmative to conduct the closed session for the purposes stated above and to discuss the topics listed below.

Councilman Newcomb announced that the Council convened into Executive Session at 5:00 p.m. on October 28, 2014 to conduct interviews for the County Manager position. He further announced that the Council will be conducting additional interviews on November 10, 2014.

Action taken at the November 3, 2014 closed session: 1) confirmed the hiring by the Sheriff of an individual to fill a vacant Patrol Deputy position by a 4 to 0 vote; 2) approved the request of the Planning and Zoning Director to hire an individual to fill a vacant Planning Technician Position by a 4 to 0 vote; and 3) discussed with legal counsel an item relating to Emergency Services-requested additional information.

The above information is being provided to the public pursuant to and in compliance with Section 10-509(b) and (c) of the State Government Article.

REGULAR SESSION

COMMENDATION-RETIREMENT-NELLIE HARRIS

The Council presented a Commendation to Nellie Harris recognizing her 31 years of service to Dorchester County and congratulating her on her retirement.

PROCLAMATION-NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

The Council presented a Proclamation declaring November 2014 as Native American Heritage Month. Donna Abbott from the Nause-Waiwash Band of Indians tribe accepted the proclamation. Councilman Bradshaw remembered Chief Sewell Fitzhugh Winterhawk and his dedication to the preservation and celebration of the heritage of Dorchester County's native people.

DONATION-HISTORICAL PORTRAITS-DR. CARL BARHAM

Dr. Carl Barham presented to the Council two large historical portraits to the Council for placement in Room 110, of the County Office Building, also known as the Council's meeting room. He explained that one of the portraits depicts the ten local individuals who sought voting equity in the mid-1980s, which resulted in the division of Dorchester County into five voting districts, and the other shows the Freedom Shrine monument which is located on Route 16 outside of the Beulah Landfill. He commended the Council for presenting a proclamation at its November 19, 2013 meeting recognizing the actions taken by these individuals.

Rudolph Cane, Delegate, who assisted Dr. Barham in presenting the portraits, thanked the Council for their assistance during his 16 years of service as a Delegate for District 37A. Councilman Nichols recognized Delegate Cane's tireless efforts for securing funding for the construction of the Choptank River Lighthouse at Long Wharf Park in Cambridge. He explained that even though Delegate Cane received resistance from other legislators, he introduced legislation on Council's behalf at its request. The Council members thanked Delegate Cane for his years of service and the assistance he provided them.

TOURIST AREA & CORRIDOR SIGNING PROGRAM-DORCHESTER COUNTY-STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

Amanda Fenstermaker, Tourism Director, introduced Stephen M. Hollie Jr., Tourist Area & Corridor Signing Program (TAC) Coordinator, Consultant to the State Highway Administration, Office of Traffic & Safety and Nataliya Schroeder, P.E., Traffic Engineer, RK&K.

Mr. Hollie explained that State Highway Administration personnel have been working with Tourism staff to solicit new applications for the TAC Signing Program which has been in effect in Dorchester County since 2004. He said after reviewing applications nine new approved attractions have been identified by SHA staff for the installation of 23 new signs - nine signs on State roads 10 on County roads and four on local roads. He stated that he is seeking Council's endorsement of the TAC signing concept and approval of the installation of planned signs along county roadways as well as a collaborative maintenance plan. Mr. Hollie explained that: 1) design and construction will be performed by an SHA contractor and/or SHA forces; 2) the program is implemented with funding from SHA at no cost to the county or local jurisdictions; 3) TAC participants do not have to pay a fee for the signing of initial implementation and ongoing maintenance; 4) in event of damaged or missing signs replacement of signs located along local roads will be a shared responsibility between the SHA and the county or local jurisdiction as appropriate; and 5) SHA will provide replacement signs and Dorchester County will provide sign support(s) and labor.

Ms. Schroeder provided each Council member a map showing the proposed sign locations. Mr. Hollie said signs will be erected on Maryland Route 16 to direct motorists to Taylors Island and to Malone Church, a historical site and on U.S. Route 50 as follows: the addition of a golf logo for the Hyatt River Marsh Golf Club; the upgrade of the Layton's Chance Vineyards and Winery sign; new signs for Harriet Tubman sites;

new signs to direct motorists to Taylors Island; and a new sign for Handsell, a historical site. Mr. Hollie explained that after receiving feedback from residents, signs directing motorists to Ocean Gateway will instead reference U.S. Route 50. He noted that signs will also be placed in the City of Cambridge for the Dorchester Center for the Arts and the question mark on the Visitor Center logo sign will be changed to “info.”

In response to a question from Councilman Newcomb, Tom Moore, Public Works Director, said he is amicable with the Council approving the signing concept, the installation of planned signs and collaborative maintenance, noting that SHA funding will be utilized. Councilman Nichols questioned whether additional signs will be erected in the near future. Mr. Hollis said the potential placement of new or replacement signage will be revisited in 18 to 24 months. Councilman Nichols said he will contact Mr. Hollie to provide him with a list of signs he believes should be considered.

Councilman Newcomb explained that the sign in front of the ballpark in the Town of Church Creek notes that there are 24 miles to Hooper’s Island while a sign on Maryland Route 335 one mile down the road indicates it is 19 miles. Mr. Hollie said he believes the replacement of that sign with the correct mileage can be expedited.

Council authorized Councilman Newcomb to execute correspondence approving the TAC signing concept, the installation of planned signs along county roadways and a collaborative maintenance plan.

SAFE STREETS PRESENTATION-LOCAL MANAGEMENT BOARD-STATE’S ATTORNEY

Nancy Shockley, Director, Dorchester Community Partnership for Children, noted that in the spring of 2014 the Council approved her request to submit a Governor’s Office of Crime Control & Prevention grant application under the Safe Streets Program for funds to address high incidents of crime in the City of Cambridge and Dorchester County. She said Safe Streets is an offender based model established to institute seamless coordination, consistent interagency collaboration and information sharing. She explained that Dorchester County was chosen to receive funding under this program based on 2012 statistics that indicated there has been an increase in total crime consistently for three years in a row, with a 16.2% increase in violent crime. She said to implement the goals of the Safe Street program a committee of local and state partners was established, including the Local Management Board, which is the project coordinator, the State’s Attorney’s Office, the City of Cambridge Police Department, the Town of Hurlock Police Department, the Dorchester County Sheriff’s Office, Maryland State Police, the Maryland State Police Warrant Task Force, Division of Parole and Probation, Dorchester County Detention Center, Emergency Services and the Department of Juvenile Services.

The following team members introduced themselves: Steve Mills, Warden; Lieutenant Ryan K. Bricker, Commander, Easton Barrack, Maryland State Police; Jeff Zubak, Chief, Policy, Research & Training, Governor’s Office of Crime Control & Prevention (GOCCP); Gregory Coster, Director, Maryland Statistical Analysis Center, GOCCP; Cindy Smith, Grant Monitor; and Jeremy Goldman, Emergency Services Director. She

said Don Keyes, Information Technology Director, and Marshall Kjar, Information Technology Communication Specialist, are also team members.

Ms. Shockley explained that the following goals were established by GOCCP for the Safe Streets Program: 1) identify and prioritize offenders; 2) supervise and contain those priority offenders; 3) identify and prioritize warrants; 4) establish a watch center model; 5) train officers on Safe Street strategies; 6) establish a prosecuting strategy; 7) track prosecution of priority offenders; 8) identify and enforce suspended and truant children; 9) nuisance abatement and code enforcement; and 10) technology. She further explained that the three goals the committee is currently focusing on are: identifying and prioritizing offenders; identifying and prioritizing warrants, and establishing a prosecution strategy.

Ms. Shockley noted that Dorchester County received a \$148,920 grant award from GOCCP to support the following: 1) a part time coordinator; 2) overtime for a crime analyst who gathers information from all agencies and compiles them to one report; 3) part time State prosecutor; 4) overtime for law enforcement agencies; and 5) equipment and software. She said William Jones, State's Attorney, who was unable to attend this meeting, is in the process of hiring the part time State prosecutor.

Ms. Shockley advised that the involved law enforcement agencies, as part of the identification and prioritization process, have reviewed a list of offenders and open warrants, identified the top 25 offenders and have prepared a draft list. She said they are also actively seeking a reduction in the open warrant list. She advised that a City of Cambridge police representative told her earlier today that they had 800 open warrants prior to the grant award and with GOCCP Safe Streets funding have reduced those by 100. She explained that offenders who have been identified under a violent crime prevention initiative are on intensive supervision and require weekly contact from either Division of Parole and Probation staff or law enforcement agents.

Ms. Shockley said it is her intention to provide the Council an update on the Safe Streets Program in Dorchester County at the end of the year.

In response to an inquiry from Councilman Bradshaw, Mr. Zubak said there was not a particular criminal activity that attributed to the increase in crime in the County. Mr. Zubak explained that in order for a local jurisdiction to qualify for the Safe Streets program, its violent crime rate must be significantly higher than the statewide average. Mr. Zubak stated that eight areas in the State of Maryland have been established as Safe Streets sites, including Annapolis, a six year participant, which has experienced a 70% drop in crime and Salisbury, a four year participant, which has seen a decrease of 55%. He noted that it usually takes two years to see an impact. He said he is looking forward to continue his collaboration in Dorchester County with a goal of reducing the crime rate.

Ms. Shockley stated that in the grant application Maryland State Police and the Dorchester County Sheriff's Office highlighted drug use, and in particular heroin use, as reasons for the increase in the crime rate in the County and across the region.

The Council thanked Ms. Shockley for providing an update on the Safe Streets Program in Dorchester County.

HOUSING STUDY SUMMARY-GRANT MONITOR

Cindy Smith, Grant Monitor, provided a summary of the housing study process to the Council and the public. She explained that she is working in conjunction with Ms. Shockley and the Safe Streets Program since the quality of housing in the community directly impacts citizens. She said poor quality housing also affects children's ability to learn and their health as well as senior citizens and their health and safety. She noted that the study is being conducted to determine the housing needs of the County.

Ms. Smith advised that the study will be conducted by Salisbury University Center for Housing and Community Life representatives in two phases. She noted that the first phase is a drive through inspection of the single family housing units in the County, which will be evaluated based on their exterior condition, including the roof, siding and grounds and will be assigned a score. She explained that once houses have been identified and photographed the data gathered will be processed by Salisbury University Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative representatives who will produce a map. She noted that the surveyors will then attempt to ascertain whether or not the house is occupied. She further explained that once the data has been compiled, interviews will be conducted with residents of housing units that score seven points or more. Ms. Smith stressed that the interviews are for informational purposes only and that any information obtained will be used to develop a plan to assist property owners in upgrading their homes. She encouraged the public to contact her with any questions regarding this study.

In response a question from Councilman Price, Ms. Smith said the inspection will include single family housing units in the municipalities. Pursuant to another question posed by Councilman Price, she explained that she is hopeful that the information obtained will be used to assist County staff in identifying funding sources such as grants or low interest loans for residents whose houses are in need of repair.

The Council thanked Ms. Smith for providing a summary of the housing study process of Dorchester County.

2015 MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEGISLATIVE SESSION DISCUSSION

Councilman Newcomb said Council was scheduled to meet with legislators on December 2, 2014 regarding legislative proposals for the 2015 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session; however, they are unable to attend that meeting. The Council agreed to not reschedule that meeting and instead send the legislators its legislative proposals and topics, via regular or electronic email. Councilman Newcomb said a final discussion on potential legislative initiatives will be held at the Council's November 18, 2014 meeting.

The Council approved a list of topics to provide to the legislators. In response to a question from Bruce Coulson, Councilman Newcomb said the Council has agreed to pursue

the restoration of highway user fund distributions and to express concern about the following: the cost of the shifting by the State of a portion of pensions for teachers to counties; the new maintenance of effort funding calculations and the rise in commercial fishing licenses and new permit and registration fees.

MANAGERS COMMENTS

MARYLAND AVIATION ADMINISTRATION GRANT AWARD-ENGINEERING SERVICES-ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT-AIRPORT

The Council approved the request of Tom Moore, Public Works Director, and Bob Tenanty, Airport Manager, to accept a Maryland Aviation Administration Grant award in the amount of \$6,600 for the Cambridge-Dorchester Regional Airport Environmental Assessment Study. The Council acknowledged that the estimated total project cost of the study is \$132,000 with a Federal Aviation Administration share of \$118,800, and a local share of \$6,600, which is included in the FY14 Capital Budget under Airport Expansion.

REQUEST TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS-CAPPING OF OLD BEULAH-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Mr. Moore to advertise for bids for the capping of Old Beulah utilizing contract documents prepared by Maryland Environmental Services (MES). The Council acknowledged that MES will solicit bids on behalf of the County and the contract will be awarded by the County.

BID AWARD-PETROLEUM-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the recommendation of Mr. Moore to award bids to the lowest bidders for the purchase of the following fuels: 1) unleaded gasoline to Cato Gas & Oil, Inc. for the delivery and markup cost of \$0.0145 per gallon; 2) ultra low sulfur diesel to Cato Gas & Oil, Inc. for the delivery and markup cost of \$0.0175 per gallon; 3) propane to Cato Gas & Oil, Inc. for the delivery and markup cost of \$0.4325 per gallon; 4) #2 fuel oil (heating oil), delivered by tank wagon, to Mid-Atlantic Cooperative Solutions, Inc., doing business as AERO Energy, for the delivery and markup cost of \$0.1442 per gallon. The Council also approved Mr. Moore's recommendation to award the purchase of #2 fuel oil by transport to Cato Gas & Oil, Inc. for the delivery and markup cost of \$0.0175 with the understanding that the Board of Education will be responsible for deciding whether they wish to purchase the single transport delivery from Cato Gas & Oil or if it is more cost effective to continue to utilize AERO Energy.

REQUEST TO PROVIDE DUMPSTER-NECK DISTRICT FIRE COMPANY AUCTION-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Bill Rock, on behalf of the Neck District Fire Company, for the County to provide a large dumpster the weekend of November 8, 2014 at no cost so that they may discard any remaining items from the company's auction, which was held on November 1, 2014. The Council recognized that the fire company

members allow the County the use of its parking lot for the Neck District Transfer Station without compensation.

GRANT AWARD-FY15 MARYLAND HERITAGE AREA AUTHORITY "WATER MOVES US" MARKETING GRANT-TOURISM

The Council approved the request of Amanda Fenstermaker, Tourism Director, to accept a FY15 Maryland Heritage Area Authority (MHAA) "Water Moves Us" Marketing Grant award in the amount of \$25,000 to support the marketing efforts of the Heart of Chesapeake Country Heritage Area under the Dorchester County Tourism Department. The Council acknowledged that there is a cash match of \$17,500 from FY15 Dorchester County Budget, Tourism Advertising & Promotions Budget line item and an in-kind match of donated services from a public relations company of \$7,500. Additionally the Council acknowledged that the grant term will be effective as of the date the agreement is executed by MHAA and shall terminate the later of 24 months following the effective date or MHAA's receipt and approval of the Final Report as set forth in Exhibit A of the grant agreement.

REQUEST TO SOLICIT BIDS-RECREATION AND PARKS

The Council approved the request of Scott Eberspacher, Recreation and Parks Director, to solicit bids to purchase two mid-mount mowers. The Council acknowledged that funds in the amount of \$21,000 for this equipment are in the County's FY 2015 Capital Budget.

REQUEST TO WAIVE BID PROCESS-DORCHESTER COUNTY ADDITIONS PROGRAM OFFICE RELOCATION-HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Council approved the request of Roger Harrell, Health Officer, Dorchester County Health Department, to waive the County's formal bidding process for renovations to 524 Race Street, Cambridge. The Council acknowledged that the Dorchester County Additions Program offices will be relocated from 310 Gay Street to 524 Race Street. The Council further acknowledged that no County funds will be utilized for this project.

REQUEST TO USE SPRING VALLEY BANDSTAND-CIRCUIT COURT HOUSE-CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

The Council approved the request of Amy Craig to use the Spring Valley Bandstand and Court House property for a Christmas tree lighting. The Council acknowledged that the tree will be placed on the bandstand on November 22, 2014 and a tree lighting will be held on November 29th.

REGULAR SESSION

ANNUAL TRANSPORTATION MEETING-MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Councilman Newcomb said the next item on the agenda is the Annual Transportation meeting with Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) Officials.

Wilson Parran, Deputy Secretary, Maryland Department of Transportation, and other MDOT officials joined the meeting. Mr. Parran introduced the following individuals: Melinda Peters, Administrator, State Highway Administration; Donnie Drewer, District #1 Engineer, State Highway Administration; Beth Kreider, Director of Local Transit Support, Motor Transit Administration; Virginia Colon, District Manager, Motor Vehicle Administration; Ashish Solanki, Director, Regional Aviation Assistance, Maryland Aviation Administration; Dave Blazer, Deputy Director, Harbor Development, Maryland Port Administration. He commended them for their efforts in improving transportation for State residents. He thanked the Council for inviting them to provide an overview of the FY 2015 to FY 2020 Consolidated Transportation Program. He explained that MDOT's goal is to utilize funding generated from the Transportation Investment Act to move projects forward expeditiously.

Mr. Parran said currently there are over \$1 billion in projects underway statewide, including the following Eastern Shore projects: \$49.9 million for the construction of a new interchange at U.S. 301 and the MD. Rt. 304 in Queen Anne's County which begins in the fall; \$30 million for Maryland 404 widening construction project from MD Rt. 309 to Cemetery Road in Queen Anne's County and Caroline Counties which began in May; \$64.6 million for the replacement of the Dover Road Bridge for which there was a groundbreaking in October 2014; and \$4.4 million for the construction of the MD Rt. 822 roundabout construction at the gateway to the University of Maryland Eastern Shore in Somerset County, which began in April.

Mr. Parran provided an update on the Sailwinds Park project. He explained that the Maryland Port Administration recently transferred the property to the City of Cambridge. He further explained that MDOT staff is working with municipal representatives to finalize a grant agreement to provide \$4 million in State funds for the reconstruction of the wharf. He said MDOT personnel have been working on several rail projects including the demolition of the old Hurlock Station building in September 2014. He announced that the Maryland Transit Administration has awarded the construction project for the Delaware Avenue grade crossing, Maryland 392, which should be completed by the end of year. He explained that in 2015 MTA plans to replace three additional grade crossings in Hurlock, at Railroad Avenue A, Railroad Avenue B and Charles Street. Mr. Parran advised that MDOT staff is working towards the development of a trail user agreement with North Dorchester Railroad representatives who intend to rehabilitate an inactive rail road track and operate a rail passenger service for tourism purposes between the Towns of Hurlock and Preston.

Mr. Parran attributed the second year increase in transportation funding to the passage of the Transportation Infrastructure Investment Act (the Act). He said the Maryland Department of Transportation Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP) budget for FY 2015 to FY 2020 is nearly \$16 billion. He explained that included in this budget is an increase in construction spending for all modes of transportation by 67% or \$6.1 billion over the next six years. He explained that the CTP includes improvements to the BWI Marshall Airport to support additional international flights and the Port of Baltimore to accommodate larger marine vessels. He said together these two economic engines generate and support more than 100,000 jobs and provide more than \$6 billion in personal wages and salary annually.

He noted that Mr. Solanki is present in case the Council members have any questions regarding aviation and that Mr. Blazer can answer any questions they may have regarding the Port and the Mid Bay Island restoration projects.

Mr. Parran explained that over the next next six years MDOT will invest \$165,000 in the locally operated transit system which provides services to approximately 41 million riders annually. He said the majority of the riders in rural areas depend on this method of travel for access to their places of employment and for medical appointments. He noted that Ms. Kreider will provide more details.

Mr. Parran explained that over the next six years more than \$750 million will be used to fund a variety of projects to improve air and water quality in addition to nearly \$200 million to make walking and cycling more attractive as a transportation alternative. He said in every project MDOT remains committed to ensuring that safety is a priority and in furthering its progress of reducing the number of traffic fatalities. He stated that these types of fatalities are at the lowest level in more than five decades.

Mr. Parran said while Maryland made the decision last year to raise transportation revenues, the federal government has taken no permanent action to sustain the Federal Highway Trust Fund. He noted that Congress recently signed a bill to extend the Trust Fund to cover the current level of funding through May 30, 2015. Mr. Parran explained that MDOT staff continue to work with Senators Barbara Mikulski and Benjamin Cardin and members of Congress in seeking the passage of a multi-year reauthorization of the federal surface transportation program to ensure that funding will be available for MDOT's capital program. He stated that he would appreciate any assistance the Council can provide to encourage the federal government to pursue this reauthorization.

Mr. Parran thanked the Council for allowing him and the other MDOT officials to provide an update on the CTP. He said he is looking forward to working with the Council to complete key transportation projects on the Eastern Shore.

Ms. Kreider explained MTA has a statewide role in providing support for local transit in the form of funding, technical assistance and oversight in 24 jurisdictions. She noted that the current MTA capital program focuses on system preservation. She stated that there is additional funding available due to the passage of the Act. She said Delmarva Community Transit was provided additional funding in the amount of \$59,000 to expand its service in the City of Cambridge and the Towns of Hurlock and Preston; almost \$600,000 in operating assistance for transit services in the County and \$59,000 in capital support to be used for preventive maintenance and to purchase shop equipment. She noted that out of the 41 million riders who use transit services annually, 100,000 of those were generated in Dorchester County. Ms. Krieder recognized the efforts of Santo Grande, President/CEO, Delmarva Community Services, and Jerome Stanley, Transportation Manager, in ensuring residents have access to transportation and commended the Council for supporting Delmarva Community Transit.

Ms. Colon advised the Council that Debra Seward, Branch Manager, Easton Motor Vehicle Administration Office, is present in case Council has any specific questions

relating to that branch office. She said MVA's focus is on customer service. She explained that in an effort to reduce wait times at MVA branch offices new programs and service delivery options have been implemented. She noted that the statewide average wait time is currently 20 minutes or less. Ms. Colon explained that during FY14 MVA processed 12.7 million transactions, serviced over 7.6 customers visiting MVA facilities and contributed over \$1.5 billion to the Transportation Trust Fund.

She said to increase customer satisfaction and to reduce the need for residents to visit Motor Vehicle Administration facilities several initiatives have been introduced including alternative service deliveries which are available online or by mail. She explained that eligible residents under 40 years of age can renew their driver's license and residents can obtain duplicates or correct items on their driver's license, other than a name change, online and at kiosks.

Ms. Colon explained that individuals can obtain the following by utilizing kiosks: identification cards, corrected or duplicate vehicle registrations or titles, substitute tag stickers, appointments for all re-tests and one year vehicle registrations. She further explained that customers can also make appointments. She said a new system called Program Core is being installed and will provide full customer account management and allow customers access to their account information. She advised that they will be able to renew their license and vehicle tags and pay traffic tickets in a single online transaction.

Ms. Colon said safety continues to be a priority, noting in 2013 Maryland had the lowest number of fatalities since 1966 (466 traffic deaths compared to 511 in 2012). She explained that their goal is to reach zero deaths in Maryland. Ms. Colon introduced Karen Bishop, Maryland Safety Regional Coordinator, who provided the Council with documentation showing the County's traffic history.

Ms. Peters acknowledged that Mr. Drewer and Regional Planners, Ted Yurek and Peter Sutherland, are present. She expressed her belief that engineering, education and enforcement are the key to lowering traffic fatalities. She noted there is one particularly area that needs improvement, work zone fatalities, which have increased. She explained that they lost one State Highway Administration worker last November who was working on the Baltimore Beltway and six contractors have had employees who lost their lives across the State. She referenced an accident that occurred earlier this year on MD Rt. 404 in which a State Highway Administration maintenance worker was injured because a motorist veered into the median. She said he survived, however he has a long recovery.

Ms. Peters referenced the State law that requires drivers to "move over" for emergency responders and police working on roadsides, if possible, that took effect October 1, 2014 and has been extended to include tow truck drivers. She encouraged the public to extend the same courtesy to State Highway Administration workers and stranded motorists and if not possible, decrease their speed. She noted that one major State Highway Administration project is the replacement of the maintenance facility in Cambridge.

Mr. Drewer advised that the following were completed in FY14: 1) the paving of U.S. 50 from Choptank River to Bucktown Road, 2.14 miles; 2) the paving of U.S. 50 westbound from the Town of Vienna to East of Big Mill Pond, 1.42 miles; 3) the upgrading of

sidewalks on U.S. 50 to meet American Disabilities Act standards; 4) the construction of sidewalks from Woods Road to Bucktown Road on east bound U.S. 50; 5) the build-up of three locations on MD Rt. 335 for a total of 1.43 miles and from Gootees Marina south for a quarter of a mile; 6) the paving of MD Rt. 392 from Eldorado Road to MD Rt. 313 to the Delaware State line, 3.5 miles; and 7) the paving of MD Rt. 331 north of Indiantown Road in Vienna and to MD Rt. 14, 5.4 miles.

Mr. Drewer stated that a future enhancement project is the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor's Center project, which consists of a 15,600 square feet visitor's center on 17.3 acres, and will cost approximately \$20.9 million. He said current activity includes building slabs and final grading of the parking lot and that utility conduits have been installed. He explained that the State Highway Administration is participating in this project through a transportation enhancement grant in the amount of \$800,500.

He said future projects include: 1) the paving of Skeet Club Road westbound to MD Rt. 331, approximately 2.5 miles; 2) the completion of U.S. 50 from Chateau Road to Linkwood Drive, which is currently under construction; 3) the paving of MD Rt. 331 in the Town of Hurlock from Skeet Club Road to Mapletown Street after the installation of sidewalks in that area has been completed; 4) installation of a round-a-bout at MD Rt. 16 at Woods Road for which the design of the project is expected to be completed by next summer; and 5) drainage and pedestrian improvements and roadway construction on Church Creek Road within Church Creek, formerly known as the Streetscape project, which is currently on hold until a new design is prepared that meets current policies and new Maryland Department of Environment storm water management regulations.

Mr. Drewer referenced the list of topics he received from the Council prior to the meeting which included the potential replacement of the Brookview Bridge which is narrow and in disrepair and an update of the status of the MD Rt. 392 and MD Rt. 331 intersection in the Town of Hurlock.

He advised that a contract will be advertised in the fall of 2015 for repairs to the Brookview Bridge, including painting the span, repairing concrete girders and performing steel retrofits. Councilman Bradshaw expressed concern about the width of the bridge, particularly when two large vehicles, such as tractor trailers or school buses meet.

Mr. Drewer said he met with the Town of Hurlock Mayor and Town Council members regarding the MD Rt. 392 and MD Rt. 331 intersection, on February 24, 2014 and suggested that it be changed into a four way stop; however, they did not support his suggestion. He said an in-house review based on existing counts was conducted and it showed that a traffic signal is not warranted. He explained that the State Highway Administration now has a traffic consultant, who will seek new traffic counts and conduct another study on whether the intersection warrants the placement of a traffic signal. He said he is hopeful the results will be available by the end of year and once received he will share them with the Town officials.

Mr. Drewer noted that another topic of discussion was the boardwalk leading to the County's Visitor's Center and that MDOT staff are reviewing an engineering report regarding the possible replacement and/or renovation of the boardwalk.

He again referenced the correspondence Council sent to him prior to this meeting. Mr. Drewer said the installation of snow emergency signs within the Town of Secretary was completed on November 1, 2014 and that a light bulb will be replaced in the light pole on Route 392 at the Poplar Road intersection. He acknowledged that the Town of East New Market officials have expressed an interest in meeting to discuss the possible transfer of the State owned property located on the corner of the Town Park in that municipality and asked them to contact him. David Tolley, Town Council member said he will contact Mr. Drewer to schedule that meeting.

Councilman Price and Susan Dukes, Council Member, Town of Secretary, said the Town officials would like the speed reduced on Main Street, which is a State owned highway, from 30 mph to 25 mph. Mr. Drewer requested that the Town officials send correspondence to his office seeking that speed reduction. Ms. Dukes noted that the Town has requested this reduction for the past several years without success.

Mayor Henry Short, Town of Secretary, said there is blind spot at the intersection of Main Street and Willow Street and suggested that a mirror be placed on the other side of the street facing east or to eliminate parking in that area to improve visibility. Mr. Drewer said he will contact Mayor Short about this intersection.

Councilman Bradshaw said motorists, and more particularly farmers, are unable to view oncoming traffic at the intersection of Route 50 and Vincent Road due a curve in the highway. Mr. Drewer explained that flashing lights were installed at the intersection, noting that the crossover is directly across from the County Road. He stated that he will contact Councilman Bradshaw to schedule a time to view the area from a motorist's standpoint.

Councilman Newcomb advised that residents have expressed concern that the Church Creek Streetscape project is being redesigned despite having been planned since 2007. Ms. Peters explained that a large majority of 2007 and 2008 projects were placed on hold due to a downturn in the economy. She said they are now focusing on drainage, sidewalks and pavement instead of streetscapes, noting that funding may not be readily available once the design has been completed. In response to a question from Councilman Newcomb, Mr. Drewer explained that construction of a round-a-bout on Route 16 and Route 335 in Church Creek, which was part of the 2007 streetscape plan, is no longer being considered.

Councilman Travers said Dorchester County also attracts cyclists, noting that several triathlons have been conducted in the County, including the IronMan Maryland September 2014 event. He referenced correspondence the Council sent to the State Highway Administration requesting the installation of bicycle lanes on MD Rt. 335, from south of Key Wallace Drive to Gootee's Marina. Mr. Drewer said "Share the Road" signs were installed in that area. He explained that a consultant has been asked to conduct a feasibility study. Mr. Drewer said it may also be difficult and time consuming to obtain permits from the Maryland Department of Environment to widen the roads since wetlands are located on both sides of the roads in that area. Councilman Travers suggested using a raised boardwalk concept and installing a bridge over the wetland area.

Councilman Newcomb said since State law was amended to allow cyclists use of the traveling portion of roadways, they are traveling by the yellow line which is disrupting traffic. Councilmen Travers and Newcomb expressed their understanding that cyclists use MD Route 335 daily. Delegate Eckardt stressed the need to accommodate cyclists in the County particularly since the Maryland Route 335 road has been utilized as a triathlon route several times in the past.

Councilman Newcomb expressed appreciation for the raising of the roads in the southern part of the County. He advised Ms. Seward that several residents have advised him that they prefer to patronize the Salisbury MVA branch office instead of the Easton Office, due to poor customer service. Councilman Travers said he is pleased that outside agencies can issue vehicle tags, noting that there is one such facility in the City of Cambridge. In response to a question from Ms. Colon, Councilman Newcomb said one individual who expressed concern about the Easton Office had scheduled to take a driving test and when he arrived for his appointment was advised that the individual who administered the driving test was out sick and there was no one else available. Ms. Colon expressed her understanding that at each branch office there are several individuals who are trained to conduct driving tests. Ms. Seward encouraged the Council to direct individuals to her if they have any concerns or questions regarding the Easton MVA branch office.

In response to an inquiry from Councilman Newcomb, Mr. Blazer explained that the Mid Bay Island restoration project was authorized in the Water Development Resource Act of 2014 and that funding will need to be obtained to construct this and the other authorized projects. He said he is hopeful that the design of the Poplar Island restoration project will be completed and construction will begin in FY16 and that the Mid Bay Island project will be initiated within the next five to seven years.

The Council agreed to send a letter to the federal delegation supporting MDOT's efforts in seeking the passage of a multi-year reauthorization of the federal surface transportation program to ensure that funding will be available for MDOT's capital program.

Mr. Parran expressed appreciation to the County Council and the Town of Hurlock Mayor and Town Council for assisting the State in identifying a solution to allow the North Dorchester Railroad Group to utilize a portion of the State rail between the Towns of Hurlock and Preston as a scenic railroad. In response to a question posed by Councilman Price, Mr. Parran said as a result of a meeting hosted by Senator Richard Colburn, which Town of Hurlock representatives and Councilmen Price and Bradshaw attended, MDOT officials conducted research and learned that an organization can enter into a trail user agreement with the State. He said the group would be considered the sponsor and the agreement will allow the use of rail line for a certain number of years provided the sponsor accepts liability. Mr. Parran advised that staff members from the Freight Division will meet with North Dorchester Railroad Group representatives to discuss the agreement and the process which must be followed.

Councilman Newcomb advised that the sign depicting the mileage to Hoopers Island by the ball park in Church Creek reads 24 miles and then one mile down the road another sign says 19 miles. Mr. Parran said the sign can be changed.

Mr. Grande said he enjoys his partnership with the Maryland Transit Administration and the Council and extended his appreciation for the Council's, Delegate Eckardt's and Ms. Krieder's support for Delmarva Community Transit.

Councilman Newcomb, on behalf of the Council, thanked the representatives from the Towns of Hurlock, Secretary and East New Market for attending this meeting.

Councilman Newcomb stressed the need for the restoration of highway user revenue distributions. Ms. Dukes concurred, noting that the funds the Town of Secretary receives barely covers the cost of the street lights on Main Street. Mayor Short said that cost is \$14,000 and the revenues equal \$12,000.

Mr. Parran said legislative action is required in order to increase highway user revenue distributions to counties and municipalities. He stated that the distributions to municipalities was increased last year and that he believes those funds are secured for another year. Ms. Dukes explained that the increase was not substantial, noting that additional funding is needed for road maintenance and repair and snow removal.

Delegate Eckardt noted that several local jurisdictions, including Dorchester County, are labeled disparity counties since they do not receive adequate tax revenue to meet expenses and perhaps legislation can be sought to provide those counties additional highway user revenues.

The Council thanked Mr. Parran and the MDOT officials for meeting with the Council.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Dukes recognized that the Council agreed to establish a committee, whose members will be mandated with developing a reasonable and equitable funding plan for volunteer ambulances, for the Council's consideration during FY16 budget deliberations. She asked the Council to provide the Town Council Members with the names of those individuals who were selected to serve on that committee and for a status.

Ms. Craig thanked the Council for allowing the use of the bandstand in Spring Valley at the Court House to place a Christmas tree and invited the Council for the tree lighting to be held on November 29, 2014.

COUNCIL'S COMMENTS/ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Price said a public meeting on the vertical expansion of New Beulah Landfill will be at the Hurlock Elementary School on November 19, 2014 at 6 p.m.

Councilman Bradshaw said at the last minute the phosphorus management tool economic study was delayed. He expressed concern that Governor Martin O'Malley will sign an executive order to require the use of the tool prior to the release of that study, particularly in light of his belief that it will significantly impact farmers. Councilman Bradshaw said he learned at a forum in Chestertown that the Maryland Policy Institute has published a

study that supports the Council's belief that the nutrient and sediment charges from the Conowingo Dam must be addressed and that it will address pollution in the Chesapeake Bay better than any of the policy actions currently being implemented in Maryland and expected in other states.

The Council agreed to seek legislative action to move the early Primary Election forward.

With no further business to discuss, the Council adjourned.

ATTEST:



Donna F. Lane
Executive Administrative
Specialist

DORCHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL:



Jay L. Newcomb, President



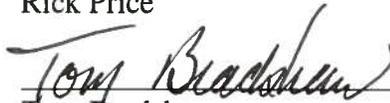
William V. Nichols, Vice President



Ricky Travers



Rick Price



Tom Bradshaw

Approved the 18th day of November, 2014.