

**The Chesapeake Bay Bridge
Reconstruction Advisory Committee
TR § 4-212(k)(2)**

**Maryland Department of Transportation
Maryland Transportation Authority**

July 2025

Introduction

The Chesapeake Bay Bridge Reconstruction Advisory Group (BBRAG) prepared this report in response to language contained in House Bill 56, Ch. 611, Acts of 2020, codified as Maryland Annotated Code, Transportation Article, §4-212(k)(2). The language states:

On or before July 1, 2021, and each July 1 thereafter, the Advisory Group shall report its activities and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

The BBRAG was established in 2020 for the purposes of providing the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) with an independent, citizen-informed perspective on the MDTA's operations at the William Preston Lane, Jr. Memorial Chesapeake Bay Bridge (Bay Bridge); to work collaboratively with the MDTA and provide pertinent input related to traffic and customer service issues; and assist the MDTA in:

1. Assessing potential concerns about activity relating to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge; and
2. Educating the general public about activity relating to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge

The MDTA engages in extensive outreach efforts to Bay Bridge users, stakeholders, elected officials, and local communities through the Bay Bridge website (www.baybridge.com), public relations, education efforts, grassroots marketing, and new technologies. The MDTA keeps customers informed on traffic and wind advisories, major incidents, and construction schedules through 1-877-BAYSPAN (229-7726), X (formerly Twitter) (twitter.com/TheMDTA), and via email alerts delivered through govdelivery.com. The MDTA also posts details regarding BBRAG meetings, agendas, meeting minutes, and livestream video archives on its website.

The MDTA provides staff to support the BBRAG.

Membership

Surname	First Name	Member	Term Expires
Bradley	Mr. Peter	Anne Arundel Co. Appt.	2025
Broderick	Mr. Jack	Governor Appt.	2025
Deoudes	Mr. Nicholas J.	Governor Appt.	2024*
Hitchings	Ms. Barbara	Governor Appt.	2023
Foster	Mr. John	Governor Appt.	2026
Gable	Mr. David	Queen Anne's Co. Appt.	2027
Lynch	Ms. Patricia	Governor Appt.	2025
Moran	Commissioner Jim	Queen Anne's Co. Appt.	2024
Arthur	Mr. David	Anne Arundel Co. Appt.	2026
Schloss	Mr. Donald A.	Governor Appt.	2024*
Schulz	Mr. Tracy	Governor Appt.	2026
Wilson	Mr. Steve	Queen Anne's Co. Appt.	2024 [†]
Farrow	MDOT Director of External Affairs Ms. Lynn	Ex officio, Secretary of Transportation Designee	-
Gartner	MDTA Executive Director Mr. Bruce	Ex officio	
Pines	Administrator, MDOT SHA Mr. Will	Ex officio	-

*Per HB 56, members continue to serve after their term expires until they are either reappointed or replaced.

[†]Mr. Wilson served until September 2024 when he was replaced by Mr. Gable.

Meetings

In advance of each meeting, Ms. Melissa Bogdan of the MDTA sends an email to BBAG members inviting them to the BBAG. Members are provided with draft minutes of the previous meeting to be approved and a meeting agenda.

For new members, Ms. Melissa Bogdan sends a welcome email inviting them to the next meeting of the BBAG. New members are provided with a meeting agenda, a directory of BBAG members and key MDTA staff, the text of House Bill 56 (2020), and the By-Laws of the BBAG.

Members are sent an agenda and materials to be presented before each meeting, in addition to being posted on the BBAG webpage, which is maintained by the MDTA.

July 10, 2024

At this first meeting of the BBRAG term for 2024-2025, members elected a new Chair and Vice-Chair as required per the BBRAG By-Laws; Member Schulz was returned as Chair and Member Broderick was elected as Vice-Chair. Members were informed that the annual report for 2023-2024 was submitted to the Governor and General Assembly on July 1. Members received construction updates from the MDTA, the MDOT SHA, and an update on the Bay Crossing Tier 2 NEPA Study. Member Smith was represented by MDOT SHA Deputy Administrator/Chief Engineer of Operations Terri Soos who provided an update of MDOT SHA's local projects. MDTA Director of Planning and Program Development, Melissa Williams, provided an update for the Bay Crossing Tier 2 NEPA study. MDTA Chief Operating Officer, Richard Jaramillo, provided an overview of current enforcement efforts for lane use control on the eastern shore.

Quarterly Group Report to the MDTA

Member Deoudes stated that he has attended various meetings on the Eastern Shore related to the recent House Bill regarding the planned hospital in Easton.

Member Broderick stated that he receives questions and comments from community members and is involved in a number of local organizations. He stated that unfortunately inclement weather forced the cancellation of Kent Island Day but that organizers appreciated SHA delaying the implementation of ramp closures by one day to accommodate the event.

Member Moran stated that Queen Anne's County held a town hall for the Eastern Shore ramp pilot program that was attended by about 250 people.

Member Wilson shared ongoing concerns about funding for local state roads on the Eastern Shore and stated that greater public awareness of limitations on funding at the state level is needed.

Member Bradley stated that the new traffic signal at Cape St. Claire Road and Martins Road has helped with traffic flow.

Member Lynch stated that the Broadneck Council of Communities (BCCC) received a presentation from the Director of the SHA Office of Maintenance of Traffic (OMT) for Anne Arundel County which conveyed the limited funding available for road projects.

Member Arthur stated that he continues to engage with the arts community in Annapolis and that they are in the height of festival season with related concerns about traffic backups impacting attendance at events.

Materials posted to webpage:

- Audiovisual recording of meeting
- Meeting Agenda
- Approved Minutes
- BBRAG 2024 Annual Report

October 2, 2024

Members received construction updates from the MDTA, the MDOT SHA, such as the Bay Bridge Deck Rehabilitation project, and an update on the Bay Crossing Tier 2 NEPA Study. Member Pines was represented by MDOT SHA Deputy Administrator/Chief Engineer of Operations Terri Soos, who provided an update on local projects, including the ramp management pilot programs on the western shore that operated from July to September, and the eastern shore that operated on three weekends in September and October.

Members were provided with details on the upcoming Bay Bridge Run to be held the following month. Members also discussed member terms and the rules that govern appointments.

Quarterly Group Report to the MDTA

Member Arthur stated that due to personal commitments he had nothing to report.

Member Deoudes stated he attended the visit on September 19th to the deck replacement project.

Member Broderick commented on the summer ramp closure pilot program stating that it worked well during the second part of the summer. Member Broderick closed his report stating that the visit to the deck replacement project was very helpful for sharing the work that goes on with the communities represented at the BBAG.

Member Moran stated that seeing the deck replacement process was “eye opening”. He added that Queen Anne’s TV (QATV) has expressed interest in also visiting the project site to take pictures and video of the process.

Member Lynch thanked Teri Soos for attending the recent Broadneck Council of Communities (BCCC) meeting and answering all the questions from attendees.

Member Gartner stated that a tour organized by a national organization was recently held for congressional staff and others to the deck replacement project where they were given a presentation on the project by the contractor.

Materials posted to webpage:

- Audiovisual recording of meeting
- Meeting Agenda
- Approved minutes
- Bay Bridge Summer 2024 traffic volumes presentation

January 8, 2025

Members received construction updates from the MDTA, MDOT SHA, and an update on the Bay Crossing Tier 2 NEPA Study. Members were shown a draft version of an information video for the eastbound span deck replacement project. MDOT SHA Deputy Administrator/Chief Engineer of Operations Terri Soos provided an update on local projects.

Members were provided with details on the recently held Bay Bridge Run. Members also discussed lane use controls on the eastern shore.

Quarterly Group Report to the MDTA

Member Deoudes stated that he attended a Chamber of Commerce event in November where other attendees asked about details regarding the new Bay Crossing.

Member Schulz attended the Queen Anne's County Bay Crossing Study (BCS) meeting and thought it was well attended. He offered his commendations to the staff who put it all together.

Member Broderick echoed the commendation on the BCS meeting adding that the displays were of good quality. Member Broderick stated that he has shared BCS graphics with people he knows.

Member Moran also commended the BCS meeting efforts adding that Queen Anne's County TV (QATV) was also present at the meeting interviewing people.

Member Gable stated that he also attended Queen Anne's County BCS meeting.

Member Bradley attended the Anne Arundel County BCS meeting and thought it was very well attended.

Member Arthur shared the recent BCS videos with his community and encouraged people to attend the virtual meeting and view the boards.

Member Lynch stated that she attended the Anne Arundel County BCS meeting, adding her commendations on the meeting's staff. She stated that there are still concerns about the proposed Chesapeake National Recreation Area (CNRA) and she is staying up to date on the status of the relevant bill in Congress which died with the previous session but is anticipated to return during the upcoming legislative session.

Materials posted to webpage:

- Audiovisual recording of meeting
- Meeting Agenda
- Approved minutes
- Bay Bridge Crossing Tier 2 NEPA Study presentation

April 2, 2025

At the time of this report, the minutes of this meeting are scheduled for consideration and approval at the upcoming BBRAG meeting on July 9, 2025 meeting.

At the fourth and final meeting of the 2022-2024 BBRAG term, members received construction updates from both the MDTA and the MDOT SHA and an update on the Bay Crossing Tier 2 NEPA Study.

Quarterly Group Report to the MDTA

Member Deoudes commented on recent wind events and their impact on Bridge traffic. He also attended various meetings where the concern most often raised is the age of the existing Bridge structures.

Member Broderick stated that the wind warnings issued for the Bridge instill confidence in the public that safety is a critical issue for the MDTA; adding that he has not received any complaints but rather that people are grateful that officials care about safety of the crossing.

Member Bradley stated that the concern most often raised with him is about the ramp closure programs during the summer.

Member Arthur shared updates from the Annapolis Planning and Zoning Commission.

Member Lynch stated that her community continues to be concerned about the ramp closure program and the Bay Crossing Tier 2 NEPA study.

Member Foster stated that he would like to know which communications are best for travelers to use when Bridge closures occur and to stay informed. Ms. Melissa Bogdan responded that travelers can go to BayBridge.com to sign up to receive alerts.

Member Gartner provided an update to the BBRAG on the NTSB report on the Key Bridge issued on March 20, 2025.

Materials posted to webpage:

- Audiovisual recording of meeting
- Meeting Agenda

Appendix

Agenda of July 10, 2024 BBRAG Meeting
Minutes of July 10, 2024 BBRAG Meeting

Agenda of October 2, 2024 BBRAG Meeting
Minutes of October 2, 2024 BBRAG Meeting

Agenda of January 8, 2025 BBRAG Meeting
Minutes of January 8, 2025 BBRAG Meeting

Agenda of April 2, 2025 BBRAG Meeting