

STATE FREIGHT ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Freight Summit and State Freight Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2026 | Time: 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. EDT

Attendees

- Axel Carrion, UPS
- Bihui Xu, Maryland Department of Planning
- Brian Hammock, CSX
- Chris Smith, Specialized Carrier and Rigging Association
- Dan Blevins, WILMAPCO
- Gena Elias, Delaware DOT
- Janie Nham, Metropolitan Council of Governments
- Jasmine Champion, US DOT/FHWA
- John Ashbridge, Carload Express
- Keith Kucharek, Baltimore Metropolitan Council
- Kipp Snow, Community College of Baltimore County
- Mike Tetler, Carload Express
- Anthony Tangorra, MDOT (MAA)
- Aubrei Barton, MDOT (TSO)
- Aviva Klugh, MDOT (TSO)
- Brett Ripkin, MDOT (TSO) (c)
- Brian Miller, MDOT (MPA)
- Dominic Scurti, MDOT (MPA)
- Geoff Anderson, MDOT (TSO)
- George Chen, MDOT (TSO)
- Jacqueline Thorne, MDOT (TSO)
- Jason Stolicny, MDOT (MDTA)
- Joe McAndrew, MDOT (TSO)
- Kevin Clarke, MDOT (MAA)
- Lisa Shemer, MDOT (SHA)
- L'Kiesha Markley, MDOT (SHA)
- Marissa Brown, MDOT (TSO) (c)
- Melissa Bogdan, MDOT (MDTA)
- Michelle Martin, MDOT (TSO)
- Rana Shams, MDOT (SHA)
- Vinn White, MDOT (TSO)
- Harry Romano, TTI
- L.D. White, TTI
- Nanette Schieke, TTI
- Ryan Iacarus, MDOT (TSO) (c)
- William Hwang, TTI

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Minutes

Welcome

Joe McAndrew & Vinn White, MDOT The Secretary's Office (MDOT TSO). Joe McAndrew gave opening remarks to kick off the Maryland State Freight Advisory Committee Spring meeting. He welcomed those in the room and those online for the hybrid meeting. He discussed the agenda and passed it over to Vinn White for introductions of the SFAC members and the presenters.

SFAC & Maryland State Freight Plan

Aviva Klugh, MDOT TSO Strategic Planning Manager. Aviva explained that federal law requires consultation with the State Freight Advisory Committee as part of the State Freight Plan update. The discussion emphasized that the success of the freight plan depends on collaboration and meaningful stakeholder input. Staff noted that freight conditions have changed significantly in recent years, especially due to the COVID-19 pandemic, supply chain disruptions, and the Key Bridge collapse. These changes make stakeholder feedback especially important as MDOT plans for freight needs over the next several years.

The updates included a discussion of freight performance, bottlenecks, truck parking, and freight investment planning. MDOT-SHA presented information on how freight issues relate to the Annual Attainment Report, the Consolidated Transportation Program, and the National Highway Freight Program. Staff also discussed the need for better truck parking data, real-time information, and strategies to address different freight needs in rural and urban areas. Current initiatives include the MDOT park-and-ride strategic plan, annual freight network truck parking studies, and emergency truck parking efforts.

Francis Scott Key Bridge Rebuild

Jason Stolicny, MDTA Deputy Director of Project Development. Jason provided an update on the Francis Scott Key Bridge replacement project. The new bridge is planned as a cable-stayed bridge with two lanes in each direction, a main span over the navigation channel, and clearance for marine traffic. The update included information on demolition, test pile work, and trestle installation. Staff explained that the trestle functions as a temporary bridge to support construction access to the piles. The discussion also noted that some harbor access impacts are expected during construction, and notices have already been shared with affected users.

AASHTO Washington Briefing- Maryland's Truck Parking Collaboration Activities

Ray Moravec, SHA Deputy Chief Engineer for Planning, Programming, and Preliminary Engineering. MDOT-SHA provided an update on statewide truck parking needs. Staff noted that Maryland continues to face a shortage of safe and legal truck parking, with demand increasing since earlier studies. The discussion highlighted that more trucks are parking in unauthorized areas, and district offices are receiving more concerns about the issue. MDOT is working on a truck parking program to identify, evaluate, and prioritize potential projects across the state. The study includes a needs assessment, identification of expansion opportunities, strategy development, and a phased implementation roadmap.

Truck Parking and Jason's Law

L'Kiesha Markley, SHA Assistant Division Chief Innovative Performance Planning. L'Kiesha focused the Jason's Law discussion on the national shortage of safe long-term parking for commercial vehicles. The federal initiative requires states to evaluate the adequacy of truck parking and rest facilities, assess freight vehicle demand, and develop metrics to measure parking needs. She stated that staff noted that truck drivers continue to have trouble finding safe parking, which can lead to unsafe or unauthorized parking conditions. This work will help inform Maryland's broader truck parking strategy.

Port of Baltimore Activities

Brian Miller, MPA Deputy Executive Director, Operations & Logistics. Brian highlighted major freight, infrastructure, and resiliency projects. Staff discussed the Howard Street Tunnel project, which will allow double-stack rail access and improve freight movement to the Midwest. Other updates included climate resiliency improvements at Dundalk Marine Terminal, public-private investments at Seagirt Marine Terminal, reconstruction work at Fairfield Pier 4, and continued dredged material management efforts. These efforts support port operations, improve freight capacity, and contribute to environmental restoration projects such as wetland creation and island restoration.

Open Forum and Stakeholder Discussion

During the open forum, participants raised questions about truck parking capacity, regional coordination, MPO involvement, and how freight planning should address changing conditions. MDOT staff emphasized the importance of continued stakeholder engagement and noted that more meetings would be needed to gather input. Participants also discussed the importance of multimodal freight movement, e-commerce trends, data needs, and coordination with neighboring states and regional partners.

Closing Remarks and Next Steps

The meeting closed with MDOT staff emphasizing that the State Freight Plan update will require continued engagement from SFAC members and other stakeholders. Staff noted that future meetings should allow more time for discussion and feedback. The next meeting is expected around the June timeframe, with another opportunity later in the summer to review and refine plan content before the plan is finalized for federal submission.