
STATE OF MARYLAND
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
GOVERNOR'S RECEPTION ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, STATE HOUSE
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10:05 a.m.

PRESENT

HONORABLE LARRY HOGAN

Governor

HONORABLE NANCY KOPP

Treasurer

HONORABLE PETER FRANCHOT

Comptroller

SHEILA C. MCDONALD

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Department of General Services

DAVID BRINKLEY

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PETE RAHN

Secretary, Department of Transportation

MARK BELTON

Secretary, Department of Natural Resources

STEPHEN KOLBE

Assistant Secretary, Department of Information Technology

JIMMY RHEE

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Office of Small, Minority and Women Business Affairs

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Recording Secretary, Board of Public Works

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PROCEEDINGS

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Good morning, everyone.

ALL: Good morning.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Welcome to the Board of Public Works.

I'm very pleased and proud to announce today that the Maryland Coastal Bays Program has just given our coastal bays the highest grade ever reported in the entire history of the program. It's really great news and it comes after the previous good news about our greatest natural asset, the Chesapeake Bay, has its highest score for water quality in 33 years, since they have been keeping track of those records as well. And a key indicator that water quality is improving is the underwater Bay grasses which are, you know, resurgent, surpassing 100,000 acres for the first time in history. We now actually have dolphins swimming in the Chesapeake Bay, is that right, Secretary Belton?

MR. BELTON: Absolutely. Many. There's countless.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: We have fully funded all coastal and Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts three years in a row, including fully funding the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund for the very first time in history. And we fully funded Program Open Space for the first time in more than a decade. In total we've invested \$4 billion toward wide ranging Bay initiatives and we've made tremendous progress. And all the hard work is really paying off

and this latest achievement and this incredible improvement we're seeing in the quality of the coastal bays is really the result of a tremendous combined effort from a lot of people. I want to thank our Bay Cabinet and their whole teams, and just the many dedicated stewards of the environment all across Maryland. And we just want to say to everyone who has been involved in any way in this great accomplishment, we say thank you and congratulations.

With that, I want to turn it over --

MR. BELTON: Could I add something to that, Governor?

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Absolutely, Admiral.

MR. BELTON: I just want to point out it really is a tremendous achievement to have the coastal bays in the B range now for health. And it goes to show you that when Marylanders work together, they can really accomplish great things. In this case it was not only the State agencies that were heavily involved but also Worcester County, the Town of Ocean City, and the University of Maryland System Center for Environmental Science in particular who does the grading and has tracked this for many years. I can't be prouder of that group of folks and bringing their combined efforts together to make this happen.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Thank you, and thank you for your leadership.

TREASURER KOPP: Not to sound like a broken record, but of course it was based on significant legislation enacted by the Maryland General

Assembly over the years and supported starting, going back to Harry Hughes, and those folks. I mean, it takes generations to get where we are.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Absolutely. I just saw Governor Hughes not too long ago. He's doing well.

With that, I'll turn it over to my colleagues. Madam Treasurer?

TREASURER KOPP: Yeah, let me just say I don't usually take any time but a couple of minutes. I just got back from a meeting of the National Association of State Treasurers in Phoenix, which was very interesting for a number of reasons. One of which was that the speaker I introduced before I left Phoenix was Lindene Patton, who is working with the Secretary and the Climate Change Academy --

MR. BELTON: Yes.

TREASURER KOPP: -- to help set up a new academy for officers around the State to come together to learn the same things at the same time, to learn lessons from each other about enforcement, both coastal and more broadly across the State. And there she was, talking to the rest of the nation --

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Wonderful.

MR. BELTON: Great stuff.

TREASURER KOPP: -- about -- it was very exciting. And we also had an opportunity to brag about the AAA bond rating and a number of other things. So left feeling great. But then, Mr. Secretary --

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GOVERNOR HOGAN: There's a but.

MR. BELTON: Yeah, there's a but.

TREASURER KOPP: -- I have a question. Yes. This is the Secretary sitting next to you, the Secretary of the Airport, right? So I was supposed to get in at 1:03 this morning. And I did, which was great. And then we learned, we were told by the pilot, that the FAA had been concerned about weather north of us and so grounded a bunch of planes, most of which were now empty and were occupying all of the gates at BWI. Okay? So the air traffic controllers brought them down. But the reason we sat on the tarmac for two and a half to three hours this morning, yes, was because all the gates were occupied and finally at about quarter after three they towed one of those planes and let this plane full of passengers from Dallas, Texas to the gate.

Now I don't know what happened between 1:15 and 3:15 to allow them to tow something away from a gate. I know it wasn't the air traffic controllers. It might have been the airlines. It might have been our Airport. But can you find out?

(Laughter.)

GOVERNOR HOGAN: You know, the Treasurer is a little cranky after sitting out on that --

(Laughter.)

GOVERNOR HOGAN: -- get an answer.

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TREASURER KOPP: I don't do with getting to the hotel at four in the morning very well.

MR. RAHN: I was -- so do you get cranky when you're tired? I don't know --

(Laughter.)

GOVERNOR HOGAN: I think she's doing really well.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Yeah.

MR. RAHN: Yes. There weren't even any cuss words in that one so --

TREASURER KOPP: No.

MR. RAHN: Well, I'm sorry you experienced that. But that is actually the airline. It's the airline that controls what aircraft they have at their gates. And I would say someone dropped the ball with the airline.

TREASURER KOPP: Yes. And it wasn't the pilot, who was, who came on the air -- another editorial. He came four times to explain to people what was happening, and how they are, and he had nothing to do with it.

MR. RAHN: Right.

TREASURER KOPP: I mean, he had no control. You read things in the newspaper about people have done things and never apologized for them, which is very interesting.

MR. RAHN: Well, again, I'm sorry that --

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TREASURER KOPP: But that was the question, whether it's the airline --

MR. RAHN: Yeah.

TREASURER KOPP: -- or the Airport. And I assured people it couldn't possibly be our Airport.

MR. RAHN: No, that is the airline.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Well let's call Gary Kelly and let him know --

MR. RAHN: Yeah. Was that Southwest?

GOVERNOR HOGAN: -- they've got the Treasurer out there on --

TREASURER KOPP: No, it wasn't. It was not. It would have -- it probably wouldn't have happened with Southwest.

MR. RAHN: Yeah.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: One of those other airlines, right?

TREASURER KOPP: It was one of the other airlines.

MR. RAHN: Yeah. Yeah.

(Laughter.)

GOVERNOR HOGAN: All right. Well, thank you.

MR. RAHN: But I do know for a fact, though, they control their gates and what planes they are going to take to their gates. And they dropped the ball.

TREASURER KOPP: Yes. Well we should let people know that.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Yeah. We should find out who it was and

--

TREASURER KOPP: Because people were not happy about --

MR. RAHN: Yeah. We, but we will pass along the displeasure of our passengers to have been subjected to a two and a half hour wait.

TREASURER KOPP: They were fortunate it was two in the morning instead of two in the afternoon because people would have not been sitting there sleeping at two in the afternoon.

MR. RAHN: Yeah.

TREASURER KOPP: And thank you, Governor.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Thank you. Mr. Comptroller?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Yeah. So I'm sorry that happened, Madam Treasurer.

TREASURER KOPP: Well it was interesting.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: And I'm sure it was, you know --

TREASURER KOPP: I had a good book.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: -- infuriating. I'm just glad you didn't call me.

(Laughter.)

TREASURER KOPP: I should have --

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COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Yeah.

(Laughter.)

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: So I appreciate all the comments the Governor made about environmental progress, because I really do believe that the public sees this issue, which is very partisan at the national level, as being a bipartisan priority here in the State of Maryland. And I salute the Governor and the Legislature and everyone else who is working together.

I happen to have something else on my mind today, and it's called a hockey game this evening. Yeah. The Stanley Cup Champion Washington Capitals, born to sorrow, finally after 44 years won the Stanley Cup and they are opening their season tonight against the big, bad Boston Bruins. So I just wanted to give a shout out to everybody that is interested in a spectacular team that is going to go and hopefully win the Stanley Cup once again, or if everybody is sick of the seasons that are going on with our baseball teams, we are open for business now with the Washington Capitals. Maybe the Governor will take me to a game sometime.

But I do have one issue that I want to address and that is a recent *Baltimore Sun* article that was published last Thursday about considerable maintenance issues that Baltimore City Public Schools are experiencing. Having sat on this Board for over a decade, and having reviewed thousands of school maintenance reports that were, used to be, part of this Board's jurisdiction, or our

constitutional duties, to provide appropriate oversight of the Public School Construction Program, that has now been moved elsewhere. But I happen to be very well aware of the maintenance issues and the challenges posed by the fact that for years they have gone unaddressed and the problems have only gotten worse. In fact, I recall that I believe it required the election of Governor Hogan to even get the maintenance reports produced.

TREASURER KOPP: No --

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Maybe I'm, maybe my recollection is faulty there. But a lot of their schools in Baltimore are decades old. But it certainly isn't unique to Baltimore City. Everybody has got old schools. Some people take care of them. How about Allegany High School? Ninety-three years old. Spectacularly maintained. You could eat your lunch off the corridors in a 93-year-old school. It was the oldest school in the State. Despite its age the school was in very good shape. We didn't hear about any health concerns or structural concerns that we often hear about Baltimore City school facilities.

Over the last ten years Baltimore City has received more than half a billion dollars in State school construction dollars, yet only 17 percent of their school facilities were rated as superior or good. Seventeen percent. Many school systems had 80, 90 percent good or superior. And unsurprising to any of us on this Board, because this is a go to talking point that I hear all over the place and

was prominently mentioned in this unfortunate article, the CEO of the school system, Dr. Santelises, blamed this Board for deferral of critical projects.

Now that takes some majorly fact changing. Fire safety, roofs leaking, all because this Board held back \$5 million in funding to force them to put air conditioning. That's her claim, that many of these problems came from this Board forcing her and others to implement an air conditioning plan. I'm not sure what air conditioning plan she's referring to, since more than 70 schools had to close down due to lack of cooling during the first week of this school year. And we've gotten conflicting answers from the City over the last several years on the status of air conditioning projects and the reasons why they are reverted. \$40.2 million in State funding for HVAC projects between 2004 and 2017 have been reverted back to the State. And those fire safety and roof projects that are blazing out now with saying let's, gee, we have \$3 billion in deferred maintenance needs up in Baltimore City, well, we really need to take care of that. They didn't just pop out of nowhere. It's been deferred and deferred and deferred for year after year and decade after decade by the very people that should be responsible for fixing the problem.

I can talk about this for hours, Governor, but everybody is in a happy mood here. So for the sake of the Board's time and the overall karma of the month before the election, I just want to set the record straight because the citizens of Baltimore and Maryland taxpayers deserve transparency and

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accountability about what's going on in that school system. Thank you, Governor.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Thank you, Comptroller.

TREASURER KOPP: Governor could I -- we are all concerned about maintenance of the school buildings, obviously, around the State, including the City. And of our State buildings. I understand from DBM that unmet requests for State facilities is \$3.5 billion, most of which is for deferred maintenance and that's just the generally funded buildings. It's a serious problem. That's one of the reasons the 21st Century Schools bill, which you all supported and which has a couple of schools being approved today, incorporates requirements for maintenance in the CIP and the City is working with the IAC, which approved them. They have plans now. Obviously there is not enough money to go around. Obviously maintenance was not helped by cutting \$5 million, although I understand the intent to have all the rooms with room air conditioners. But I think it's very important to note that we are purposely holding our debt down, as the Secretary knows. And in doing that, obviously, work on both the State buildings and the local schools is being slowed down. Those are numbers. I mean, there's numbers. You can look at them.

We had this discussion last week. We don't have to go through it again. But at some point, the State is going to have to look at the crumbling infrastructure. You never hear the term infrastructure without the adjective

crumbling these days. And at deferred maintenance across the State in both the schools and the State buildings. It's something we're going to have to deal with.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Well there certainly was a lot of funding cut from the schools in the previous administration. We have now record funded schools four years in a row, \$25 billion, record school construction money --

TREASURER KOPP: That's what mandates will do for you.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: -- and you know, it's used as an excuse that they didn't fix the hearing and air conditioning, that's why they can't now fix the other things. It's ludicrous. Baltimore City is the fourth highest funded large school system in America. They receive three times the funds that the average school system does. And we've got to figure out how to make them more accountable for spending the money and not fixing the problems. With that, I'm going to turn it over to the Secretary --

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: I just want to add one other comment. If they put me in charge of that system for six weeks, I would have every classroom air conditioned and heated this winter. And I would do it within the existing budget. And as far as the fire safety and roof and crumbling infrastructure, you know, we would address that in a way which other jurisdictions have done. Which is getting the job done and stop this bureaucratic blaming of the Board of Public Works for what they have failed to do. I mean, come on, guys. This is, you know, this is just basic honest, open, transparent,

accountable government. Do your job. And I understand the Superintendent backed off of her claim, I guess, when she testified here at one point. But to have a bunch of bureaucrats who have failed their jobs blaming this Board for that mess I find to be offensive.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Let's get started with the Secretary's Agenda.

SECRETARY MCDONALD: Good morning, Governor, Madam Treasurer, Mr. Comptroller. If you'd permit me for one moment to share a piece of Maryland constitutional trivia with the audience, some people were interested when I told them this morning that the Constitution requires the Board of Public Works to hold regular sessions in the City of Annapolis on the first Wednesday of October. And that is why you are here, because you are required to sit here on the first Wednesday in October.

So to start off the first Wednesday in October meeting, I would like to tell you that there are nine items on the Secretary's Agenda. There are two reports of emergency procurements.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Any questions on the Secretary's Agenda?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Item 2.

SECRETARY MCDONALD: Item 2 is Public Safety. I do believe Mr. Bezanson is here. This is the Chesapeake Detention Facility --

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: A2, I'm sorry.

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SECRETARY MCDONALD: Oh, A2?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: A2.

SECRETARY MCDONALD: I'm sorry. This is not Public Safety. They are A1. I do believe that Mr. Dembrow is here to talk, yes, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner --

MR. DEMBROW: Good morning. May it please the Board, my name is Dana Dembrow appearing on behalf of the Department of Health.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: What is this item?

MR. DEMBROW: This is a gas chromatograph mass spectrometer -- I'm sorry I butchered that. Because it's one of my favorite words. It's probably the coolest name of any machine I ever heard, the gas chromatograph mass spectrometer. And what it does, it has the enormous capability of identifying substances. In this case, it's going to be used for a Fentanyl derivative analysis to identify the cause of death of about five Marylanders a day during the opioid crisis.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Good. I just want to compliment you and your agency, but also the Governor and the Legislature, for Maryland's ongoing efforts to combat the devastating opiate epidemic that has touched the lives of millions of Americans across the nation. It's an epidemic. And I'm glad that, Governor, under your leadership and local governments across Maryland we are investing in programs and initiatives to expand access to treatment sites and

services for our friends and our neighbors who need a helping hand as they battle this deadly addiction. I guess Fentanyl is the main culprit these days. But it's an ongoing battle that our communities are facing. It's endemic from Western Maryland to the Eastern Shore and the Baltimore region, Southern Maryland, my area around Washington. Everybody is alarmed. So I want to salute you, Governor, and our colleagues in the General Assembly and local governments, for working together to save lives and help our fellow citizens overcome their addiction to opiates.

MR. DEMBROW: Thank you, Mr. Comptroller, on behalf of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. And I will say that in the course of internal discussions at the Department of Health, I specifically said the Governor has called this an emergency. That means it's an emergency. We will make this emergency acquisition. This was done with 100 percent federal funding because we were allowed to do that. And I'm very pleased that it didn't cost the State taxpayer a dime out of the general revenue fund, only out of our federal tax dollars. And the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner is very pleased to have this new incredible device at its disposal.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Thank you, Mr. Dembrow.

TREASURER KOPP: Could I just say, just reading the item, Dana, the emergency was declared August 1st. The contract awarded August 22nd.

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MR. DEMBROW: That's correct.

TREASURER KOPP: That's fast. We so often see emergencies that go on for months and is now reported in the month of September. That's really the way it should be done. I congratulate you.

MR. DEMBROW: Thank you very much. It's called doing our job. It's what we do.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Thank you. Any other questions on the Secretary's Agenda? Is there a motion?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Move approval.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Second?

TREASURER KOPP: Second.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Three-nothing on the Secretary's Agenda.

SECRETARY MCDONALD: Thank you.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: We're going to move on to the DNR Real Property Agenda.

MR. BELTON: Good morning, Governor --

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Good morning.

MR. BELTON: -- Mr. Comptroller, Madam Treasurer. For the record, I'm Mark Belton, the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and we have 14 items on our Real Property Agenda for your review this morning.

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GOVERNOR HOGAN: Any questions for Secretary Belton?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: No.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Motion?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Move approval.

TREASURER KOPP: Second.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Three-nothing.

MR. BELTON: Thank you.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: We're going to move on to the -- hey, there's no DBM Agenda.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Yeah.

MR. BRINKLEY: Governor, I'm here because the Constitution said I had --

(Laughter.)

GOVERNOR HOGAN: When's the last time we didn't have a DBM Agenda?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Yeah.

MR. BRINKLEY: WE cleared our decks before we came in.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Wow. Good job. You're off the hook. We're going to move to the University System.

MR. EVANS: Good morning. Joe Evans representing the University System of Maryland. We have three items on the Agenda. We're here to answer any questions.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Any questions?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Yes. Item 1-C.

MR. OLEN: Good morning. Bill Olen, Executive Director, College Park Service Center. Comptroller Franchot?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Yeah. Yeah, I understand this item is to provide compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act at one of your, I guess the Student Union Building. That's terrific. I'm very supportive of that. But I wanted to ask about the troubling reports that have been well documented about a shortage of comfortable and healthy on campus housing for students. These are students whose parents pay a lot in tuition and apparently the *Baltimore Sun* reported that students in Elkton Hall and other residence halls had to be housed in College Park hotels after several reports of mold were made by residents, some reports from students that the mold made them sick. Last month, the *Diamondback* published an article highlighting the impact that the heat wave that closed schools in the Baltimore region had on the students who live in several dorms. I find this to be absolutely incomprehensible at your fine flagship university, that there's no air conditioning. Several parents have contacted me and said their kids were in 95-degree temperatures.

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The University's response apparently was to offer more fans to the students and allowed them to sleep in common areas in air-conditioned residence halls, which certainly raises some security questions. And speaking of sleeping in common areas, the *Baltimore Sun* reported in August that due to a higher than expected number of students who were admitted to the University of Maryland, lounges in dorms have been converted into dorm rooms, and they added additional beds in already cramped dorm rooms to accommodate the increase in demand.

So I just wanted to get your comment on these serious issues that affect residential life and making sure the students are safe and healthy and comfortable. Apparently the lowest cost to live on campus, \$6,122, you know, if that gets you a bed in a triple or quad room that's not air conditioned, I certainly hope that you're going to modernize those facilities or have some plans. And the student debt that's being accrued just to pay for their dorm rooms, I for one believe they have the right to expect dorms that are air-conditioned, free of mold, and have adequate living spaces.

So I guess I'll ask a general question regarding what plans are in the works to address this issue going forward? And specifically I know that a few years ago the University was looking very closely at the possibility of using public-private partnerships to address residential capacity challenges. Has there

been any consideration of creating new P3s using private sector money to alleviate these issues?

MR. OLEN: I will start to answer your question. You have many. Along with me this morning is Mary Hummel, she's Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs.

As far as the air conditioning, I'll just remind the Board that earlier this year in the February time frame, you awarded or approved a contract for a new dorm. Actually we're going to end up with two dorms with 900 beds. So those will be air conditioned. Those are in design. We're hoping to break ground right after commencement this May and have those beds in place using the design build methodology as quick as possible. So that will ultimately allow us to take some of the older dorms offline. At least three of them on the south side of campus are un-air-conditioned and problematic because of some of the concerns you said. So as far as the move forward, yes, we have responded. We are moving forward. We did award or come to this meeting for an approval to award that contract and we're moving forward as quick as we can.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: So are the new dormitories being built with University and taxpayer funds or with private sector funds?

MR. OLEN: University funds. So it's institutionally funded from student fees. It's an auxiliary service. So whether it's cash or a combination of

cash and auxiliary revenue bonds, I don't have that, I didn't bring that information with me this morning. I can get that if you're interested.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Yeah I'm --

MR. OLEN: The triple, the triple, your question about public-private partnerships? There has been considerable construction in the College Park area, primarily for upperclassmen, juniors, seniors, where considerable growth, and actually there's been a little bit of vacancy issues. But the continued growth for student housing, faculty, staff housing just on the edge of campuses, and that's really being driven by the market. We have not done a PPP in a while just because of interest rates and the cost for us to self, to go through the financing. At this point it's easier for us to do PPP. But every project we look at that and that's really guidance we get from the system. But the one that you, that was approved by the Board in February was a direct debt to the University System.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Thank you, Governor.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Thank you. Is there a motion on the University System?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Move approval.

TREASURER KOPP: I have --

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Oh, sorry.

TREASURER KOPP: -- not a question but just to point out the deferred maintenance, \$10 million, Towson. Just an example of the sort of thing that every State agency, the University, the Highways, we all have to deal. And I hope, Secretary Churchill, that your work on deferred maintenance and the new system you're putting in place, Governor, will bring all of the agencies together so that at last we can have a picture of what the State really is facing. I look forward to seeing that.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Is there a motion on the System's --

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Move approval.

TREASURER KOPP: Second. Mm-hmm.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Three-nothing. We move to Information Technology.

MR. KOLBE: Good morning, Governor, Madam Treasurer, and Mr. Comptroller. For the record, I'm Steve Kolbe, Assistant Secretary of the Department of Information Technology, in for Secretary Leahy. Today we have four items on the Agenda. There are agency representatives here to answer any questions you may have.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Questions on Information Technology?
Motion?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Move approval.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Three-nothing. Now we're going to move on to the Department of Transportation. And I want to start out by wishing happy birthday to Secretary Rahn.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Really?

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Yeah.

MR. RAHN: Thank you, Governor.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: He's 30 years old today.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Yeah.

(Laughter.)

MR. RAHN: Thirty-two times two.

(Laughter.)

MR. RAHN: We are in the midst of our CTP tours that occur annually in which we visit all 24 jurisdictions. And yesterday we were in Worcester County. And they were addressing the need of additional transit for senior citizens 65 and older so they can get to grocery stores and doctors' appointments. And I'm having a hard time thinking about it.

(Laughter.)

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Did you get a ride?

MR. RAHN: Yeah, that's --

(Laughter.)

MR. RAHN: And Governor, if I may, I did during the State Medical Investigator's presentation, I did want to add a point to it and the issue of opioids. And that is we have had now for the last three years an unexplained increase in fatalities on our roadways. And things that have worked in previous years are not working now. And the State Medical Investigator doctor had shown us this increase in fatalities due to opioids and it tracks amazingly with the fatalities that we are having on our roadways. As an additional step, we've gone back and looked at 400 fatalities in which there were blood samples going back to 2013. And amazingly of those samples nearly 40 percent had at least one drug in their system. And 20 percent of those had at least two drugs in their system. So the issue of drunk driving is morphing into, from an impaired standpoint, drugged driving as well. And it is causing innocent lives as well as those that are taking the drugs in that we're losing those. We are, with the help of the State Medical Examiner, has really presented data to us that says, here's your problem. We don't know how to address it yet. But we now have, we have a known problem now that we can work on. But it's discouraging to see the number of fatalities that are occurring on our roadways and discover that drugs are such a big part of that problem.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: This is a good issue to bring up with Clay Stamp in the Opioid Operational Command Center, and their team should be working together with you.

MR. RAHN: Yes.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Thank you.

MR. RAHN: Thank you, Governor. So good morning, Governor, Madam Treasurer, Mr. Comptroller. For the record, my name is Pete Rahn, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Transportation. MDOT has 11 issues before you today and stand ready for any questions.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Any questions?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Yes, Item 4-C. Thank you, Mr. Secretary. I don't know whether this question is for you or if someone from the MTA is here. But I believe this is a contract for reconstruction of the Metro SubwayLink tracks near Johns Hopkins Metro Station. I'm very supportive of the item. But obviously we need to ensure the safety of passengers and efficiency and reliability. But I did have a question about the background material saying that the work is going to be completed during a full shutdown for 19 days. And I'm just wondering whether MTA has notified the public? And will there be bus services offered to passengers? Or how are you handling the 19-day shutdown.

MR. RAHN: I, let me start --

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Sure.

MR. RAHN: -- and that is, so first I apologize that that information is now outdated. We have made the decision and in fact we will continue to work going forward to avoid full shutdowns however we can. And so

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we'll be single tracking this and the work will go on so that we can continue the services to our customers. And going forward Administrator Quinn has actually taken the position that we will avoid full shutdowns whenever possible. And so it increases our cost slightly but it ensures that we continue to provide good service to Marylanders who are using that system.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Good.

MR. RAHN: What did I miss, Joe?

MR. SEDITAL: Not a thing, nailed it.

MR. RAHN: All right.

(Laughter.)

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Yeah. But you're communicating with the citizens about what's necessary to improve the efficiency and safety and of the lines?

MR. RAHN: Yes.

MR. SEDITAL: Absolutely.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Excellent, thank you.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Thank you.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Thank you for the update.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Is there a motion?

TREASURER KOPP: Could I just point out, as the Secretary knows, while it might cost a little more, it's probably cost beneficial to the

economy in the area all together because people can get around and can get to work.

MR. RAHN: The user cost.

TREASURER KOPP: It's a good investment.

MR. RAHN: Right? There's user costs --

TREASURER KOPP: Right.

MR. RAHN: -- that are avoided when we can avoid full shutdowns. Full shutdowns really in my opinion are only justified with whatever we're working on if, number one, that it's just totally avoidable, I mean, not avoidable. And then also if doing something very quickly --

TREASURER KOPP: Yes.

MR. RAHN: -- over a much shorter period of time can mean that overall the customers have continued service at a better level. So that decision about shutdowns is something that all of our business units are very much aware of and cognizant of. And we do consider customers at every point that we can.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Thank you. Any other questions on Transportation?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Move approval.

TREASURER KOPP: Second?

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Second? Three-nothing on Transportation, which brings us to the Department of General Services.

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MR. CHURCHILL: Good morning, Governor, Madam Treasurer, and Mr. Comptroller. For the record, I'm Ellington Churchill, Secretary for the Department of General Services. The department has six items on our Agenda today and we are ready to answer any questions.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Any questions on DGS?

TREASURER KOPP: I have a question, which you can get back on. But on 5-E, it's DJS at Hickey. I would just like assurance --

MR. CHURCHILL: Secretary Abed is here.

TREASURER KOPP: -- from the Secretary that this modular unit is still in good shape and is, I remember the years past, the problems at Hickey and the problems with the buildings particularly. And that we're on top of all that?

MR. ABED: Yes. Good morning. Sam Abed, Secretary of the Department of Juvenile Services. Madam Treasurer, Mr. Comptroller, Governor, these modular leases also include maintenance. And so they do have responsibility of the continued maintenance. There has been significant maintenance work done, including air conditioning units that were recently installed. We will be installing carpeting and some other items within those units. But they are in good shape and --

TREASURER KOPP: And you keep an eye on those, all the campuses, what used to be called campuses and cottages and know that if the feds or somebody came in that our buildings would make --

MR. ABED: I personally visit all of our campuses, all of our facilities.

TREASURER KOPP: This is a straight question.

MR. ABED: And yes, we have obviously dedicated folks, a facility maintenance staff that regularly visit and inspect. It's also part of our quality assurance. It's, you cannot operate facilities that are in poor repair because you can't deliver services, whether they be treatment services or education services.

TREASURER KOPP: But quite candidly in years past we have.

MR. ABED: That has happened in the past. But it hasn't happened since I've been here. We have invested tremendously in the maintenance of our facilities. I would invite you to visit any of our campuses. You can come unannounced, if you'd like, to do a spot inspection. We do this all the time.

TREASURER KOPP: That's very good news.

MR. ABED: They are in good condition.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

MR. ABED: Thank you.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Any other DGS --

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: No. Move approval.

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GOVERNOR HOGAN: Move approval, second?

TREASURER KOPP: Second.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: That concludes the Board of Public Works.

(Whereupon, at 10:42 a.m., the meeting was concluded.)