

years, that you were going to be able to announce today, April 1st, that a lot of the work had been completed -- not all of it, there's still going to be some inconveniences -- I would have just said you're crazy, that's it's an April Fool's joke. In fact, it's reality. So thank you, on behalf of the great State of Maryland. I compared you to John Porcari, one of the legendary Transportation Secretaries in the past. And I completely support that comparison. And thank you very much for what you accomplished.

MR. SLATER: Well, you're very kind and I will credit the whole team for really coming together and working hard on this. Warm weather helped us a little bit. Light traffic helped us a little bit. But I credit the whole team for coming together on this.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: I will, though, defend Secretary Rahn for a moment. He, you know, a lot of the success that we're seeing today was put in place by him. He didn't want to promise, you know, that we would be able to get everything done so soon. No one wanted to make that a public promise. But we felt that with the efforts that Secretary Rahn was putting in place that we might be able to get to this point. And the Secretary, Secretary Slater has picked up that ball and has been able to move, like you said, along with Director Ports and his efforts, and then the grace of having warmer weather. Or maybe a curse, Madam Treasurer. But we were able to get this done. But you know, maybe Secretary Rahn didn't deliver his message in a way that

was reassuring. But the plans were put in place when he was here. And he left because his wife threatened him that he needed to come back to New Mexico or stay here forever. And so it had nothing to do with his performance. So, thank you.

MR. SLATER: Absolutely, Lieutenant Governor Rutherford. Secretary Rahn did put a lot of measures in place. Certainly the team came together really behind the scenes and took advantage of every opportunity.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Okay. You're breaking up a little bit. But any questions on the Transportation Agenda?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Move approval, if not.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: I do want to, I'm not going to -- these aren't questions. I just want to point out the good work that Transportation is doing at Aviation, at MDTA, at MTA by utilizing the Small Business Reserve Program. Aviation is utilizing both the Small Business Reserve Program and certified minority businesses as prime contractors. And so you all are definitely a model agency for the rest of the State agencies with regard to utilizing small businesses and minority businesses. And so, and Motor Vehicles as well. I want to point that out. So thank you, and thank all of your team and all the modes with regard to the work that they are doing.

MR. SLATER: We will.

TREASURER KOPP: Governor, could I --

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Yes.

TREASURER KOPP: -- could I suggest it might be useful for all of the agencies, and certainly for us who are sitting here learning week by week, on how MDOT with its own system has been able to move ahead with MBEs and subs, but also bringing in primes. Because it seems to me that some agencies have more difficulty doing that. And I think it would be worthwhile for us to all hear at the same time how it can be done.

MR. SLATER: Sure. We've put a significant amount of effort into mentoring MBE firms, mentoring DBE firms, mentoring our small business firms.

TREASURER KOPP: I didn't mean this very moment.

MR. SLATER: Oh, okay. Sure. Certainly. I can put some material together for you.

TREASURER KOPP: I think it really would be very helpful. Because this question of primes has been an ongoing one, how you count, how they count.

MR. SLATER: I will highlight that in this challenging time right now we are actually holding a virtual town hall for our MBE and DBE community to learn and our small businesses to learn how they can take advantage of some of the programs out there.

TREASURER KOPP: That's terrific. We should learn more and then people have to make decisions and other agencies should learn more, too.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Well if, you know, as he said and as, you know, the University, Joe was talking about what they are doing at the University, is that it does start with the leadership, you know, sending down the message to their program managers and procurement officials that you need to look for these, you know, opportunities to work with small businesses. And sometimes it means changing, unbundling a large contract, taking a piece of it out, changing of mind set. And that's what Joe was talking about previously in terms of how much work in terms of volume that a small business can do. And so sometimes it takes a little more research on the part of our procurement personnel. And so, you know, Transportation has done a very good job. And I think as we continue to further professionalize our procurement staff, which includes compensation and training --

TREASURER KOPP: Right. Right.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: -- that they will be able to perform just as well. So thank you.

TREASURER KOPP: Great message.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Okay. Now we have a, we do have a motion on the able for the Transportation Agenda. Do we have a second?

TREASURER KOPP: Second.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Okay. I think we're all in favor. Thank you, Secretary Slater. General Services?

MR. REICHART: Good morning, Lieutenant Governor, Madam Treasurer, Comptroller. For the record, I'm Nelson Reichart, the Deputy Secretary of the Department of General Services. If I can stick a word in from the Department of General Services, Happy Birthday, Lieutenant Governor.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Thank you.

MR. REICHART: We hope you enjoy the day.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Thank you.

MR. REICHART: Today we are presenting 23 items including two supplementals for your consideration. Provisions have been made, have been submitted for Items 1-CGL, 6-CGL, 7-S, 8-S, 13-T, 14-T-MOD, 16-IT, 28-LL, and 23-IT. We do have representatives available to answer any questions that you might have.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Okay. I have a quick question on 8-S. I don't know if (indiscernible). Nelson, do you have a cell phone on that's near you or in the area of the speaker? There's something that's, it seemed when you popped on it started getting feedback.

MR. REICHART: I don't believe there is anything else in here that would --

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Okay. All right.

Okay. On 8-S, this is just a quick question. The contract I guess is going to go C.B. Richard Ellis. Does that include the title services?

MR. REICHART: I have Wendy Napier here, our Assistant Secretary for Real Estate, to answer that, if you would.

MS. NAPIER: Good morning.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Good morning.

MS. NAPIER: I can confirm that broker services contract does not include title services. Our title services RFP is actually closing today and --

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Oh.

MS. NAPIER: -- we typically bring that to the Board in June of each year.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Okay. Very good. Thank you. I'm going to jump to Item 15-IT, unless the Treasurer or the Comptroller have questions before that.

TREASURER KOPP: I had one about Item 2, the hospital.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Oh, the University --

TREASURER KOPP: Which I support strongly. No question, we need the hospital, and to see progress being made. But the Lieutenant Governor brought up the question of MBEs. And this raised in my mind and in the mind of

some legislators a question of how we work MBE goals into these sorts of what are essentially grant programs. And I just want to put sort of a stake in the ground saying I think we should come back and look at this. I'd like to understand better the process and how, I mean, this is a \$56 million, this is a large grant.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Right.

TREASURER KOPP: How these issues are worked into different types of programs like this.

MR. REICHART: All right --

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: -- very good point. Yeah, because you know, this, particularly like this one going to the University System, or the University of Maryland Medical System, we're doing, I know there is an emergency contract that the University of Maryland Medical is doing with regard to Laurel Hospital, getting that up and operational. And so there are concerns about, you know, both emergency contracts, but just where we're providing the funding in this case, like the Treasurer said, a \$56.2 million project, to making sure that there is MBE participation.

TREASURER KOPP: And I believe that there is. And that the University and the departments and everyone has the right goals in mind, the end in mind. But to understand how, when it's not a typical procurement, those ends are gained, I think is really important. Isn't that right?

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Yes.

MS. KENNEDY: Good morning. I'm Shirley Terrell, or Shirley Kennedy, and I'd just like to say good morning. I am the Director of the Capital Grants Program. And with respect to your questions about the capital grantees --

TREASURER KOPP: Right.

MS. KENNEDY: -- because the individual grantees, like UMMS, conduct their own procurements, we are not involved in the procurement at all as far as MBEs or SBRs are concerned in setting goals. But what we do is to encourage them to use the process and encourage them to also use our MBEs and SBRs and provide them a listing of contractors that can work on these large capital grant projects.

TREASURER KOPP: And then are there reports? Do you then find out what has been done?

MS. KENNEDY: What we do, as they actually submit their contracts for review by our office, we do a checklist to determine whether or not MBEs and SBRs are involved. And so we have that, we have that, you know, for each of the contracts that the grantees have awarded. So we do have the data. But there are no goals. There are no goals that we set. But we do have the data for all of the contractors.

TREASURER KOPP: All right. Well, as I said, I just wanted to put the issue on the table. I think we could all learn, I at least, could learn more about and to understand and see if there is a way we can assure everybody that the

State's goals are being met. Even though I understand this is a grant program and it's different than a typical procurement. And I do believe the Lieutenant Governor and the Governor and the Comptroller share this concern.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Yeah. And this is something we can explore and we can talk to General Services about this in terms of couldn't we put into the grant agreement, you know, some goals or utilize best efforts and something of that nature. So we can look into that. I would think if you are accepting the money, you know there's always strings attached. So at least --

MS. KENNEDY: Yeah.

TREASURER KOPP: Well, and we have no reason to think they don't want to do --

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Yeah. Right.

TREASURER KOPP: -- what they can.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Okay.

MR. REICHART: We will look into it --

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Can I just, this is Item 2?

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Yes.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: No, I strongly support it. And yesterday apparently the President of the United States announced that we, at best case scenario are looking at 100,000 to 240,000 deaths from the coronavirus.

That's under the best circumstances. And I believe he also mentioned it could go as high as 2.2 million Americans who die from this horrible virus. So I just want to thank the first responders and the healthcare workers who apparently have all sorts of concerns about equipment, etcetera, being made available. But I want to applaud them for their courage. Many of them are walking into obviously suffering from this horrible virus in order to save their patients. And it means a lot to me and I think they are true heroes.

TREASURER KOPP: And we can't afford to lose them.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Right.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Right. They are --

TREASURER KOPP: -- we cannot afford to lose them.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: They are definitely heroes every day, not just in this situation. 15-IT, I have --

MR. REICHART: 15-IT? Yes, Linda Lamone and Nikki Charlson are available.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Okay. It's more regarding, my question has to do more to do with the special election that is going to take place at the end of this month, and then the primary election that has been pushed to June. I know that there has been discussions -- well first of all, for the special election, it's going to be done via mail for the 7th District. And but there is still questions in terms of how do you handle those with disabilities who may

have difficulties with regard to a mail-in special election, as well as the primary. I understand your board has voted to go all mail for the primary also. But I don't, I'm not sure it addresses all the issues associated with those that may have disabilities.

MS. LAMONE: Good morning, Governor. Linda Lamone, State Board of Elections, and with me on another line is Nikki Charlson, my deputy. And as everyone has said, I wish you a Happy Birthday.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Thank you very much.

MS. LAMONE: And I would like if I could to express publicly my immense gratitude to not only my staff, but the staff at all the local boards who have been working to prepare for the upcoming elections and just putting in yeoman's time and work.

The Board of Elections at its meeting last Thursday discussed the issue of how to best accommodate folks that needed assistance. And they noted that we have an online ballot delivery system with an accessible ballot marking tool. And it is a tool that has been tested by the National Federation of the Blind and the University of Baltimore Usability Testing Lab. And we have used it successfully since 2012. And the system is also designed to work with the voter's own accessibility features and tools on their home computers. So there's nothing new for them to learn in order to use it. And the Board felt that under the

circumstances with the virus at the time, and now even more a dire situation, that we needed to minimize any person to person contact. So they felt that the tool was available and should help mitigate the issue.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Has that satisfied those advocates, and I don't know what the Assistant Attorney General has said with regard to any of this, does that satisfy the advocates who have been concerned about a mail only ballot?

MS. LAMONE: Governor, I have not heard from them so I can't answer your question.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Okay. All right. Well, there seems to be some concerns out there. I noticed that one of the senators, Senator Kagan, had some concerns about, you know, just the idea of the confidentiality associated with the ballot being something that is private, and how we address that as well. But it sounds like you are working on it. With --

MS. LAMONE: We are --

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Okay. I'm sorry, go ahead.

MS. LAMONE: I would just like to add that part of the problem with having person to person voting is the availability, or now the non-availability of public transportation, especially in the urban areas. You all don't want and I

wouldn't want my folks either to be riding around on buses and so forth. So I think we all need to keep that in mind as we keep designing what we are doing.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Well, yeah. I think even probably more so is getting the workers to the locations, because often they are retirees who might be a little older or might be in the high risk categories, them getting --

MS. LAMONE: Absolutely.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: -- there. With regard to the April special election, what type of activities have you put on so far, particularly as it relates to reaching the communities in the 7th Congressional District to make sure that they know, first of all, that it's going to be mail in, that they are not going to their polling place? And then even with that, having mailed out ballots, given that we're three weeks away, at this point, from the election.

MS. LAMONE: Right. I'd like, if you don't mind, Governor, I'd like to ask Nikki if she could please lay out some of the outreach that we've been doing and that we plan to do.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Okay. Thank you.

MS. CHARLSON: Good morning. This is Nikki Charlson, Deputy Administrator. Thank you, Linda, for the opportunity to talk about the voter outreach efforts and the schedule for mailing ballots. I'm pleased to report that the first batch of ballots will go in the mail today, with continuing through

Friday. So by Friday, all of the voters in the 7th Congressional District will have ballots en route.

We are working with, we have a contract for some PR support and are looking to expand that to provide much greater voter education about the change of the way we're delivering the election and the important deadlines that are coming up. Our first focus of course will be on the 7th Congressional District and making sure that we are targeting voters in that district. And then we will, depending on the Board's action tomorrow, at tomorrow's meeting, we will then start focusing very quickly on any changes to the June 2nd presidential primary election.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Okay. Now, with regard to the PR support, I'll get to the ballot mailing in a moment, but the PR support, are you utilizing entities that can reach into the urban community? I'm not sure who, and it's not important who you are using. But, you know, sometimes utilizing large PR entities don't necessarily always speak the language or are able to reach the communities that may not necessarily follow on, you know, the typical ways that we reach people. Have you looked at how you are going to reach primarily an urban community?

MS. CHARLSON: So we were fortunate in that our PR team includes people that are familiar with Maryland and have access to those advocacy groups. We also through the Assistant Attorney General have been

talking with the advocacy groups to see about how they might also help us spread the message to their constituencies. So at this point, we're going to welcome any and all help that we can get getting to as many voters in Congressional District 7 first, and then statewide for June if that's necessary.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Okay. Well, sometimes groups that are familiar with Maryland doesn't mean that they are familiar with, you know, what happens at the grassroots level. And despite what sometimes they will tell you, it doesn't mean that they, you know, are right there.

Now with regard to the mailing of the ballots, you're mailing them out today, but I think many of us, and all of us sitting on the Board today, have been in campaigns and know that sometimes when you mail out to people, their addresses change, things are different. So mailing at this point, and particularly mailing ballots, to me seems as though you are going to get a lot of those coming back, where people have changed addresses in the last year or so and have not, you know, notified the local Boards of Elections. Just in my mind as kind of a layperson, I would have thought that once the decision was made to go to a mail ballot for the April special election, that if nothing else a postcard maybe should have gone out, and then that outreach effort to say if you have not received a postcard check with your local Board of Elections with regard to, you know, whether your address is correct. So, because you will be receiving a mail ballot in the coming weeks. So, I think at this point mailing out ballots, I mean, you have

to do it. But I don't think, I think you are going to miss a lot of people who may have moved, you know, maybe someplace else, in the hospital, or whatever the case may be. But I would have hoped that you would have gotten to this a little sooner than now. How are you going to address, the question is how are you going to address those that come back, those ballots?

MS. CHARLSON: Sure. So, a couple of things. So, we have, one of our primary sources of information is the MVA and understanding that they are closed for in person transactions, we are still receiving hundreds of electronic transactions from them a day. And over the last year, we have been receiving thousands of transactions, many of which are changes of address.

As soon as the Governor's proclamation was issued on March 17th, we did start pushing out messaging about make sure your address is up to date and how to do that. So we have started, we started on that immediately after the Governor's proclamation on March 17th was issued.

We, you know, as you said, we need to get the ballots out, and that's what's happening. Giving us four weeks, getting them out four weeks before the election gives us time to receive them back and try to find the voter, as well as we're getting calls from voters and requests to change addresses as they have been hearing about this change and understand, oh, I'm at college but now I'm home, I need to change that. And so people seem to be aware. There's

TREASURER KOPP: Second.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Okay. All in favor. Thank you. We've had another, as far as I know, another successful virtual Board of Public Works. Thank you very much.

TREASURER KOPP: Thank you. It's been a pleasure.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Thank you.

(Whereupon, at 11:43 a.m., the meeting was concluded.)