

other counties did not have the best interests of Somerset County residents in mind. Nothing could be further from the truth. We are drowning on the Lower Shore, where sunny day flooding is a regular occurrence. Some people are having to elevate their homes because the flooding is so bad. We're losing our crop lands, gardens, and forests due to saltwater intrusion and they will never come back. In addition, once inhabited islands are falling into the sea and some cemeteries have been washed away. The situation is only going to get worse.

It's easy to see that you are trying to make the best possible decision for Somerset County residents, and we applaud you for that. However, we feel you may have been misled. Renewable energy is affordable and available now. The data about renewable energy in the company reports was based on information from 2012. The pipeline is going to put Somerset County at the tail end of energy innovation. As gas becomes a less preferred energy method, this pipeline will become obsolete.

The problem is that gas companies do not clean up after themselves. They leave behind pipes and other equipment when they leave. This often leads to methane leaks and this is a major concern of the residents of the Lower Shore.

You stated at the last hearing that you would just use the pipeline for a little while, until renewable energy comes up to speed, but you were relying

on the wrong data, we believe. Renewable energy is reliable now. Therefore, we respectfully request that you deny this permit. Thank you.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Thank you. I believe that's all the speakers we have. Are there any further questions from the Board on this topic?

TREASURER KOPP: I do have a question.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: We have a number of folks. We have, I know Secretary Grumbles is here with us and --

TREASURER KOPP: Yes --

GOVERNOR HOGAN: -- we've got Mary Beth Tung, Director of the Maryland Energy Administration. We have Dr. Charles Glass from the Maryland Environmental Service to address any questions anybody might have.

TREASURER KOPP: I just have a legal question, really. I mean, first of all, yes, we are only talking about this specific license, this small area. But in terms of the State government's purchase of natural gas for UMES or ECI over the next years, the State is not committed to a 30-year contract to purchase, the State, that is the taxpayers. I think there is a misunderstanding that we are committed to buying natural gas, at least that's what two of the folks said. And I believe that that's simply not true. And I just wonder if somebody could either confirm or tell me I'm wrong.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: I believe you are right, but I don't know who has the facts.

SECRETARY GONTRUM: Perhaps Ms. Tung from the Energy Administration or Dr. Glass from the Maryland Environmental Service can answer that question.

TREASURER KOPP: Surely someone must know.

SECRETARY GONTRUM: I will say that -- Ms. Tung, are you available?

DR. TUNG: Yes, I am.

SECRETARY GONTRUM: Yes, we can hear you.

DR. TUNG: And I think Dr. Glass -- good morning, by the way, Madam Treasurer, Mr. Comptroller, and Governor Hogan. For the record, my name is Mary Beth Tung. I'm the Director of the Maryland Energy Administration. I think Dr. Glass could probably confirm. I believe it's a ten-year contract for the two institutions.

DR. GLASS: Good morning. For the record, Charles Glass. Thank you, Governor Hogan, Madam Treasurer, Comptroller. It is a ten-year contract for purchasing the fuel, and there is a contract for the capital costs associated with getting to the facilities. There are actually two contracts.

TREASURER KOPP: And the capital comes from what?

DR. GLASS: It's similar to a mortgage. So it's appropriated for ten years.

TREASURER KOPP: Ten years, right.

DR. GLASS: Yes.

TREASURER KOPP: And --

DR. GLASS: And the fuel cost does not start until the fuel is being delivered, so --

TREASURER KOPP: Right.

DR. GLASS: -- and then it is a commodity.

TREASURER KOPP: People were concerned about a long term 30-year contract. And --

DR. GLASS: There is no 30-year contract.

TREASURER KOPP: Thank you.

DR. GLASS: Thank you.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: The other good news is we're not going to be burning that dirty oil and those wood chips anymore.

DR. GLASS: That's correct, sir.

DR. TUNG: The other thing, if I may, I'd like to add in is I know Madam Treasurer you had mentioned a little bit earlier about renewable natural gas. And these pipelines will, or the pipeline will allow for the renewable natural gas to

be offloaded. That's one of the problems we have had in trying to develop the renewable natural gas and I think the Planet Found installation was mentioned a little bit earlier. Governor Hogan is very familiar with that. I know he visited. I have visited several times. One of the issues is it can't offload that gas. Once it's made, it's either flared or they would have to truck it out. And that of course adds to pollution with diesel trucks on the road and the cost and what not. So that's another reason why this is really an important pipeline, is it does allow for offloading of that renewable natural gas into a pipeline instead of having to flare it off. Which obviously, nobody is going to build a plant that flares off natural gas, so or renewable natural gas.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: You know, I just want to touch on a couple of things. You know, I think you may have heard some of this at the last hearing and I don't want to drag this out any further. But you know, with the talk about some of these issues directed towards UMES and ECI, this project allows UMES to have a much cleaner source of energy than what they are currently using and it allows them to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 38 percent almost immediately while cutting their energy costs in half. ECI currently burns 50,000 tons of wood chips and converting to natural gas reduces their carbon dioxide emissions by 65 percent and particulates by 99 percent. So there are some really strong advantages along with, which we did talk about earlier, the anaerobic digesters that are going

to be burning, the utilization of fertilizer, which helps us clean the Bay is something we've been working towards. So it certainly is an interim step until we can get to totally clean energy sources later. It's much better than what we are doing right now.

Any other questions on this item, or otherwise are there questions on the remainder of the Secretary's Agenda?

TREASURER KOPP: I just have one, just to touch on briefly, not on this item, on --

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Sure.

TREASURER KOPP: -- I just want to point out A2, Item A2, the COVID testing in water systems, wastewater systems.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Yes.

TREASURER KOPP: And I --

GOVERNOR HOGAN: I think we have, we may have somebody on here to discuss that, if you have a question.

SECRETARY GONTRUM: We have Deputy Secretary Dorsey from the Department of the Environment, Dr. Suzanne Dorsey.

DR. DORSEY: I am here, thank you. For the record, my name is Suzanne Dorsey. I'm Assistant Secretary at Maryland Department of the Environment.

TREASURER KOPP: You look like Secretary Grumbles. It's amazing.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Yeah.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Yeah, it's like a ventriloquist. It almost sounded like she was talking, right, but his face, but it's a different voice.

TREASURER KOPP: You ventriloquist.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Yeah, go ahead. Did you want to just talk about the item, or did you have a specific question about the item?

TREASURER KOPP: No, I just find this a very intriguing item because it means that we can really trace the progress of COVID and I guess other viruses, too, at a relatively high level and know where to put our resources and where to take action just through testing wastewater.

MR. GRUMBLES: Madam Treasurer, I put my beautiful mug up on the screen just so that I could say that I could not be prouder of Suzanne Dorsey's leadership for MDE working with the Department of Health under Governor Hogan's direction to put in place this tool for early warning systems using wastewater and biomonitoring. I'll leave the rest of the conversation to Suzanne, who is really doing great work to help save lives and get a jump on potential hot buildings. And so that's all I wanted to add.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Thank you.

TREASURER KOPP: Thank you. No -- yes?

DR. DORSEY: Just thank you and recognition that the leadership required to take risks and apply cutting edge science, with a lot of strong Maryland representation to address vulnerable populations who have suffered the worst outcomes from this virus and may have difficulty with testing. Providing for resources to help inform them about how they can protect themselves and respond quickly. And that's been the purpose of this. And under Governor Hogan and Secretary Grumbles' leadership, we have been able to work very closely with the Baltimore Housing Authority, the Baltimore Health Department, and health departments, and of course our Maryland Department of Health throughout the State to detect and respond to outbreaks in vulnerable communities.

TREASURER KOPP: That's very exciting. I can't help but point out that the company that is doing the, not the testing but the analysis, CosmosID, was at least originally established by Dr. Rita Colwell, one of the most outstanding scientists in the world who also is a great citizen of Maryland. One of the few people, for instance, who holds title positions, academic positions at both the Hopkins and the University of Maryland, something that is very difficult to balance, as you know, Governor. But is just a great scientist, a member of the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame, and somebody who I take pleasure in mentioning.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Well thank you.

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MR. GRUMBLES: And an inspiration for us on this project, as our signal initiative was driven early on by Dr. Colwell. She was instrumental in this and continues to be.

TREASURER KOPP: Former Director of the National Science Foundation, AAAS, recipient of over 50 honorary degrees from all over the world, and the creator of the very simple practical system that has saved innumerable lives just in treating drinking water in India and other parts of the world, straining it properly. And just an outstanding Maryland citizen, and now she is helping the State of Maryland once again.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Thank you. Thank you all very much. Any other questions on the Secretary's Agenda?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: If I could just mention Item 5, this was one of the historic acts of non-compliance with very important environmental responsibilities that we on the Board have. We play a critical role in frankly safeguarding the environment and protecting the Chesapeake Bay, which is our most prized treasure. So I'm very pleased to see that finally Mr. Wagner is going to be forced to comply with the recommendations of not only the Board, but the Maryland Department of the Environment, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, all of whom he basically just turned his back on when he went and built a big estate out on Little Island on the Magothy River. And I just want to bring to everyone's

attention that we're not going to tolerate non-compliance with the laws and obviously this is justice delayed, I guess, but I think it's well worth, you know, paying attention to the fact that you can't let people go and do this because then everybody else who has to apply for a license says, hey, what about that guy? He built a whole house and a swimming pool and didn't comply with anything. So I'm very pleased to see the item there. And I don't know Secretary Grumbles if you were involved in that, but hats off.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Thank you for bringing that up.

MR. GRUMBLES: Thank you. We appreciate it. Thank you.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Thank you. Is there a motion to approve the Secretary's Agenda?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Move approval.

TREASURER KOPP: Second.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Three-nothing. Thank you. We're going to move on to the DNR Real Property Agenda.

MS. HADDAWAY-RICCIO: Hi, good morning, Governor, Madam Treasurer, Mr. Comptroller. For the record, Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. We have six items on our Real Property Agenda today for which we are seeking approval, and we are happy to answer any questions you may have.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Good morning. Are there any questions on the DNR Agenda?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Move approval, if the Treasurer doesn't have questions.

TREASURER KOPP: Good morning. Second.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Good morning and second, and good morning, three to nothing. Thank you, Madam Secretary.

MS. HADDAWAY-RICCIO: Thank you.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: The University System doesn't have any items today. They are off the hook. So we are going to move on to the Department of Transportation.

MR. SLATER: Good morning. Good morning, Governor, Madam Treasurer, Mr. Comptroller. For the record, my name is Greg Slater, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Transportation. The Maryland Department of Transportation is presenting 23 items for your consideration today, and representatives are here to answer any questions you may have.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Thank you, Mr. Secretary. I just want to highlight Items 4 and 5, because I'm thrilled to see, and I want to hear a little bit more about this, the two companies are looking into solutions to transform dredged materials into products that can aid in construction and boost our economy,

innovative uses for reuse for sediment that we're taking out of the Bay and turn it into a valuable resource for making bricks and concrete and even structural supports for shorelines. And I just want to compliment your team at MDOT and the Port and all these local businesses for working on these groundbreaking ideas. So with that, do you want to touch on that at all, Secretary?

MR. SLATER: Yes, sir, it's pretty exciting. First and foremost, I want to thank you, Governor Hogan, Comptroller Franchot, and Treasurer Kopp for your support in these items. They are really important to us. I also want to thank the dedicated men and women of the Port. They are really exciting and I think we have really found the right model for the businesses to pursue these types of things.

The Port of Baltimore has always been this national leader in using dredged material in ways that benefit the community and the environment. But you know, over the years we have used this sediment for rebuilding islands like Poplar Island in Talbot County and Hart-Miller Island in Baltimore County. And then we're able to go in there and create these wildlife habitats and reinforce shorelines. And so today, those islands are home to new wildlife and water fowl species. And Hart-Miller has really emerged as a popular recreation site for boaters. So you are absolutely right.

These new proposals in this model are leading to these new and smaller innovative companies coming in to pursue different types of uses and we really feel like we have gotten the right model. But it's through these contracts they are using this valuable resource for construction materials, barriers, retaining walls, and even barriers to help stabilize the shoreline. So we're excited about more and more of these moving forward. We had the Board a few months back about, with some brick pavers they were bringing in and those types of things, kind of spawning new industries and new businesses around the Port.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: That's great. Any questions on the Transportation Agenda?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Yes, on Items 1, 2, and 3 please.

MR. SLATER: Yes, sir. That's the next generation electronic tolling system that we were anticipating to go live on that one in late 2020, and at the request of MDTA the next generation vendor, TransCore, has kind of reorganized our project team. We have been having some challenges. I have Executive Director Jim Ports as well as our Chief Operating Officer Will Pines on the line for any specific questions you may have.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: So I guess my question is, we're being asked to approve up to \$39.6 million when you look at these three different contracts in additional costs, and I want to make sure that the company that we

chose, or you chose, that this is not, these are not new dollars, that I take it this is not being paid to TransCore. This is \$39.6 million that we would have paid them had they been able to do the work, but instead we're going to pay it to the Conduent, the losing bidder, to continue this. But we're not asking for new spending, I take it. Or have I got that wrong?

MR. SLATER: Let me make sure --

MR. PORTS: -- Comptroller.

MR. SLATER: Go ahead.

MR. PORTS: Mr. Comptroller, if you would like, first of all, Governor, good morning, Madam Treasurer, Mr. Comptroller, for the record, my name is Jim Ports, Executive Director for Maryland's Transportation Authority, MDTA. And you are correct in your assertion, Mr. Comptroller. So the \$38 million that we are talking about for Item 3, which is Mod 31 for Conduent, we are not paying twice for those services. TransCore has not been able to go live with those services, so what we are doing is we are asking our current contractor, Conduent, to pick up those services as they have done for the last ten years and continue those services until TransCore is up and running and able to take over those same services.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Okay. Mr. Ports, thank you for that. And we haven't seen you for a while, so I still don't see you. But that's okay.

I heard what you said. So is there in fact a difference between what Conduent is being paid, which is before us for our approval for operations and maintenance services, and what TransCore would have been paid had their contract actually started on time and they were able to do what they said they would do?

MR. PORTS: Yes, sir. Yes, sir. So that's a great question. So as you may recall from when we had the original contract for TransCore go into place, the difference between Conduent, the current service, and the TransCore service that we anticipated to go live, we were going to reap, if you will, a savings of about \$753,000 annually. As a matter of fact, I think when the contract was let it was estimated it would be \$710,000. But as we've been going through this process, it has now reached about \$753,000. And so that is the difference. However, as I mentioned, Conduent has been doing these services for about ten years now, or actually 15 years, I'm sorry. And what we're paying them is in line with what we had been paying them previously. What we have not been able to do is reap the benefits of the lesser payment to TransCore once they go live.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Okay. So we are paying more, but you've got a justification there. Are you going to go into testing in February on this system, and are you going to, can you keep us informed about how it goes on the testing?

MR. PORTS: Yes, sir. Yes, sir. So we have tier one testing and tier two testing, as you may know. And tier one is I think 1,158 items that they test. They do that on their own. Tier two, they retest the same 1,158 items and that's with our MDTA consultants on board and watching. We anticipate (indiscernible) getting through some of their testing sometime in January or early February, and we also expect TransCore to -- well, I should say we'll have more information on TransCore's testing in the February timeframe and we would be more than happy to circle back and work with you and let you know how that's going.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: And when do you anticipate everything being finished?

MR. PORTS: So we anticipate going live in the second quarter of this calendar year.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Thank you, Governor. And thank you, Delegate Ports, Mr. Ports -- what is your title these days?

GOVERNOR HOGAN: It's been a long time since he was a Delegate.

MR. PORTS: Well, you never lose the title, I guess, right?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: I do have one other question on Item 11 --

MR. PORTS: Thank you, Delegate Franchot.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: -- Governor, about the omission of fuel costs totaling \$44 million for the Maryland Transit Administration apparently that was mistakenly left out of the final contract amounts. It's a lot of money. I don't want to make anybody feel bad. But that's a pretty big miss in my department, I guess, my judgment. So what exactly happened? And how are we going to prevent this down the road?

MR. SLATER: Absolutely, sir, good question. We had a lot of the same questions as well and a lot of the same concerns. I have Administrator Kevin Quinn as well as Director of Procurement's Bill Parham on the line that can talk about a little bit of the safeguards that were put in place.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: So just for my colleagues, this is a contract for two vendors to provide paratransit transportation services. And when we approved it, the fuel costs, the gasoline costs, which obviously are significant in paratransit, of \$44 million were left out. So we're being asked to add it. Which is okay. I'm happy to add it, because obviously it's something we assume the costs of. But I'm just wondering if anybody can explain what happened.

MR. SLATER: Got you. I'm not sure if Kevin came on or not. I'll

--

MR. QUINN: Yes, hello, can you hear me?

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Yes, we hear you.

MR. QUINN: Wonderful. Thank you. Good morning. For the record, my name is Kevin Quinn. I'm the Administrator of MDOT MTA. Mr. Governor, Madam Treasurer, Mr. Comptroller, thank you for your question. You are correct. So our procurement office as we dove into these contracts saw that this had been inadvertently omitted. We believe that these amounts do need to be added. I've spoken with my procurement department and we're putting in some additional checks to be sure that this absolutely doesn't happen again. Bill Parham, our Director of Procurement, is on the line. Bill, can you speak to this further?

MR. PARHAM: Yes, sir. When we received the proposals for this contract, the costs for the fuel costs were included in the bid form. But they were considered a pass through and they were not part of the evaluation. When we built our agenda item to come to the Board the first time, we literally just did not put those fuel costs back into the total value in order to come to the Board for approval. It basically was just an omission and we did not catch it until after we had come to the Board and received approval with the original numbers, sir.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Thank you, Governor.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Yes, thank you. Are there any other questions on the Transportation Agenda?

TREASURER KOPP: I just have a request of the Secretary, since we mentioned the gasoline contract. Could you give us an update, not now but

soon, on the transition off of gasoline among your different modes? And I would ask the same thing, if he's listening, of the Secretary of Budget and Management and DGS, when we are going to see significant progress in electrification of the fleet in all its aspects.

MR. SLATER: Absolutely, Madam Treasurer. We are making some progress in both our non-revenue fleet as well as our revenue fleet. This year's PTP also includes about \$5 million for electric infrastructure in Baltimore City to prepare for that conversion of our bus network --

TREASURER KOPP: I said not today.

MR. SLATER: Okay. I'm happy to -- I'll follow up.

TREASURER KOPP: I would like something in a little depth, a little detail, but not today. Thank you, Governor.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Secretary. Is there a motion to approve the Transportation Agenda?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Move approval.

TREASURER KOPP: Second.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Okay. Three-nothing. And we're going to move on now to the Department of General Services.

MR. CHURCHILL: Good morning, Governor, Madam Treasurer, Mr. Comptroller. For the record, I'm Ellington Churchill, Secretary for the

Maryland Department of General Services. Today we are presenting 33 items on our Agenda for your consideration. And I do want to make note in line with acknowledgment of small business, we have seven awards for a variety of small businesses, minority businesses on the Agenda. We have representation available to answer any questions you may have at this time.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Thank you, Mr. Secretary. Are there any questions on the DGS Agenda? If not --

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: I have one on Item 13.

MR. CHURCHILL: Item 13, from the Maryland Department of Health, supply chain management. We have on the phone, on audio, Webster Ye, with the department.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Good. Mr. Ye, excellent. So this is a \$48 million contract. And could you just explain briefly what the department is expecting Vizient to provide the State for that large amount of money, \$48 million?

MR. YE: Absolutely. Good afternoon, Madam Treasurer, Mr. Comptroller, Governor. Webster Ye on behalf of the Maryland Department of Health, Assistant Secretary. To your question, Mr. Comptroller, the Vizient contract provides medical supply services for our field hospitals, the Convention Center, Tacoma Park, Laurel Hospital, to some degree Prince George's County

Hospital, and our facilities out at Hagerstown and Jessup. So these are the folks that are sick and have been, with COVID, and they have been placed at our alternate care sites. The primary reason why we went with Vizient is because UMMS and Hopkins both use Vizient and they are the ones that are running the Convention Center, Laurel Hospital, and a couple other places.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Okay. And I guess my question is, are we going to be using Vizient down the road? Or do you see, I guess, Mr. Secretary, this is a question for you, do you see DGS sourcing the materials on their own as opposed to using Vizient?

MR. CHURCHILL: Thank you, Mr. Comptroller. It really depends on the program needs at the moment. We have a number of contract structures that are in place. Vizient satisfies a portion of that need in terms of what the Department of Health has set up. We also have other statewide contracts that can be pulled from for different materials, PPE as an example, which we have established as we have been pulling contracts off of the emergency contracts that we submitted back in midyear last year to today. So we are moving toward getting in place normal statewide contracts to address Health's needs.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Okay. Yeah. No, I'm just, if you could keep us informed as to the transition, or whatever you can do that obviously provides the same level of equipment but does it perhaps more affordably by the

State doing the sourcing. But I hear what you are saying, it's a confusing kind of a time for us now.

I do want to take advantage, if Mr. Ye is still there, if he could just bring us up to date on the vaccine rollout, I guess, is how I would describe this.

MR. YE: Absolutely. Mr. Comptroller, I'm happy to answer any questions on it. I think the Governor gave a very quick summary at the beginning and he went into it in more details yesterday. But the basic point is, right now we are still dealing with a very limited supply of vaccines that is given to us by the federal government. We learn about it with very short notice from the federal government and then we have to turn it around with very short notice to give it to the counties, the hospitals, and the retail pharmacies. And the basic idea, as outlined, the basic policy of the State is we want to build infrastructure for as broad a distribution network as possible so that in a month or two, or longer, when we have more supply of vaccine, we're able to push it out and people are able to just go to their neighborhood pharmacy to get it as opposed to a county health department, which would be overwhelmed by that many people coming.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Okay. So I see from today's numbers that we have 852,625 doses delivered. Doses administered are half of that, less than half, 419,579.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Yeah, we, Mr. Comptroller, we went into a great deal of detail yesterday for more than an hour on this topic and we would be happy to provide you all the information --

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Okay, I just --

GOVERNOR HOGAN: -- it's a pretty complicated process. But we have delivered more than 95 percent of all of those out to the providers. Half of them, a big portion of them are first doses, about 80 percent of which have already been administered. The other ones have to be kept as second doses. You cannot inject them until 21 days or 28 days later. We had a great discussion yesterday with the Biden administration, who now is promising 200 million more doses. We are now outperforming by 80 percent the number we get. We get 10,000 per day. We are injecting 18,000 per day. So we have less than a six-day supply, which will run out. The remainder are second doses, which cannot be given to other people. But it's really not an item that is before us right now.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Well I think the problem, of course, and I don't mean to bring up tweets and stuff by famous people. But it's not perhaps your fault that we don't have enough vaccines, Governor. It's the situation is very frustrating because people are frantic to --

GOVERNOR HOGAN: No, I understand completely, which is why we are pushing, all the governors pushed the Biden administration yesterday. We

were very pleased with the commitment that they are going to increase the production by 50 percent. Right now, we have 5.8 percent of the vaccines we need. And we encouraged them to utilize the Defense Production Act to get some more production of vaccines. We're pushing the FDA to approve the other companies so they can make more vaccines. It's very frustrating for just about everybody. Right now, we are outperforming 31 other states and we are at the point where we are approaching double what they are giving us as far as sticking needles in arms and we are going to run out very shortly.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: I guess that's where I get a disconnect, because all these national reports have us 47th or close to dead last.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Yeah, it depends on how you use the numbers. But the CDC has us at 19th ahead of 31 states.

MR. YE: And Mr. Comptroller, if I may --

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Yes, please.

MR. YE: -- the first is, as the Governor pointed out, a lot of folks are trying to conflate our first doses and our second doses. And we are focused on our first doses because --

GOVERNOR HOGAN: And by the way, excuse me, Mr. Ye, this was a huge discussion yesterday with the Biden team. Every single governor in America was complaining about this because there is news companies, like

Bloomberg and others, who are saying it's only X percent of the doses. And the CDC is going to change their website to no longer show those kind of crazy numbers you just referenced, Mr. Comptroller. Because we cannot give the second doses to the other people. They are not unused. They are in reservation for the people who have to get their second dose either 21 or 28 days later. All the first doses are being used, and they are being used at a rate much faster than they are giving them to us.

MR. YE: Absolutely. And the Governor is --

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: -- I guess that's where we get this stuff, where according to the CDC data Maryland is currently ranked 47th in vaccine administration with only 47.3 percent of the received doses administered. I hear what you're saying, Governor --

GOVERNOR HOGAN: -- fix all of that. That's a mistake.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Okay. I just have a question for Mr. Ye, which is how many of our allocated vaccine doses, if any, have been discarded because of problems with expiration, etcetera?

MR. YE: Very little, Mr. Comptroller. We put in a new order last week asking all the providers to give us specific wastage information. So the exact data is still a little bit out there. There are two incidents that we know about, one in Washington County where the very first shipment of Moderna vaccine came in

and it was missing a cold chain logistics, like chain of custody type label. And so they had to discard it. They worked with the manufacturer to get a new one. And that was more of a manufacturer/shipping error. And then there was a hospital out on the Shore where unfortunately they weren't monitoring their information, the freezer thawed out, the Pfizer vaccine. And so that was about 1,600 doses at that hospital. That hospital has since bought a new freezer, connected the alerts to the right place, and it seems to be working now. We just shipped them more Pfizer.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Okay. And the question that has been brought up about where in Maryland the vaccines are going, that African Americans, who are 31 percent of our population, areas that they are generally in only got 16 percent of the first doses, only 4.6 percent went to the Latino communities, and they are 11 percent of the State's population. Are we, are you at least paying attention and factoring that stuff in as far as --

MR. YE: Yes, sir. Yes, sir, very closely. We have a huge amount of people who are extraordinarily gifted with Excel and all the spreadsheets that are tracking this. The basic point as the Governor outlined yesterday is we're trying to make sure that every local jurisdiction gets their percentage share of the population. And we may reallocate within each jurisdiction by provider depending on who is performing better. But the basic idea is we want to make sure that we are really pushing vaccine out. And then to your question about minorities, Mr. Comptroller,

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Thank you. Any other questions? Is there a motion on DGS?

SECRETARY GONTRUM: -- Secretary, I apologize. Were you intending to withdraw Item 31?

MR. CHURCHILL: Just a minute, John. Did I not announce the withdrawal of Item 31? Yes. My apologies to the Board, we are withdrawing Item 31 and will bring that back to the Board. Thank you, John, for that.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Good catch, John. So we are removing Item 31. The rest of the Agenda for DGS --

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Move approval on the rest of the Agenda.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Great. Is there a second? Madam Treasurer?

TREASURER KOPP: Second.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Great. Three to nothing. Thank you all. Thank you, Mr. Secretary, my colleagues, thank you. And this is the end of the Board of Public Works. We look forward to seeing you next time.

TREASURER KOPP: Thank you, Governor.

(Whereupon, at 12:24 p.m., the meeting was concluded.)