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BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

*GOVERNOR'S RECEPTION ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, STATE HOUSE
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND*

May 6, 2026
10:09 a.m.

PRESENT

HONORABLE ARUNA MILLER

Lieutenant Governor

HONORABLE BROOKE E. LIERMAN

Comptroller

HONORABLE DERECK E. DAVIS

Treasurer

JOHN GONTRUM

Secretary, Board of Public Works

ATIF CHAUDHRY

Secretary, Department of General Services

JOSH KURTZ

Secretary, Department of Natural Resources

THOMAS HICKEY

Director of Procurement & Real Property Initiatives,
University System of Maryland

VALERIE RADOMSKY

Chief Procurement Officer, Department of Transportation

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Recording Secretary, Board of Public Works

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PROCEEDINGS

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Good morning,
everyone.

(Chorus of Good Morning.)

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: So welcome to today's Board of Public Works meeting. Before we begin, I do want to acknowledge why the Governor is not here this morning. He's actually attending a funeral of one of our State Highway Administration employees.

As you know, the safety and well-being of our road workers is a priority for the Governor and me, as well as our entire Administration. In 2024, on March 22nd -- actually, on 2023, March 22nd -- there was a tragic accident on 695 where six of our roadway workers ended up dying because of a work zone crash. Motorists were driving -- two motorists were speeding at over 100 miles an hour. So in 2024, our Administration took the lead on introducing the Maryland Road Protection Workers Act -- or it's the Maryland Road Worker Protection Act. And in that same year, the Governor passed this bill. And really the point of it is to address the speeding enforcement that takes place in our work zones and to make sure our road workers are better protected.

On any given day in Maryland, there's over 300 work zones that are taking place across State highway roads and over 1,000 workers that are working there. And annually, there's about 1,200 work zone crashes. So that means there's three crashes a day. So it's not a matter of when -- you know, when this is going to happen. It happens more frequently than we realize. So what we've seen from this particular bill is that we have made a lot of progress. We cut our annual roadway fatalities by 25 percent and reduced work zone crashes by 12

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percent in 2025.

This is the first time annual roadway fatalities have fallen below 500 in over a decade. But despite our progress, stricter speed enforcement, we continue to see drivers who are not fully present. In fact -- as a matter of fact, this past last week of April, two State Highway Administration employees tragically died in work zone crashes.

Robert Dempsey, a resident of Ellicott City, was struck while trying to keep others safe following a car crash on the Capital Beltway. His funeral services are currently taking place right now, and this is where the Governor is to pay respects on behalf of the people of Maryland to his family. On Monday, Dipak Kumar Patel, a resident of city of Delmar, I attended his funeral. Again, he was a road worker, a State employee. He was maintaining a project in Somerset County, and a car came and crashed into him, 70 years old, and he died.

So these tragedies are stark reminders that our road workers put their lives on the line every single day so all of us have safer infrastructure to travel on. The men and women who maintain our roads and highways deserve to come home safely at the end of their shift, just like all of us do. Mr. Dempsey and Mr. Patel were dedicated public servants. We extend our deepest condolences and our full support to their friends, family, and the entire SHA community.

I had the opportunity to visit the Morgan State University last week. Look, as much as we're trying to make progress, I know that there's many others that are trying to make our road workers feel more safe when they are at their work zones. So Morgan State University is actually working on some really innovative things. Under the leadership of Dr. Jeihani, the National Transportation Center has created a multi-sensory system to alert road workers when speeding or erratic vehicles are approaching.

So when I went there, here's what this technology that they're

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doing is. It's wearable technology that provides vibration. It also has sound and also has flashing lights to alert our road workers when there's a speeding vehicle coming by. It gives them about five seconds to, you know, hopefully jump out of the way and protect their lives as well as those that are with them. Really exciting, innovative things that they're doing. I'm excited by the work, and this will add additional layers of protection for our dedicated roadway workers. But it cannot be understated, we, as drivers, must follow posted speed limits, do not drive distracted, do not drive under the influence, and please obey the move-over laws. Please drive carefully every day, but especially this weekend as Mother's Day approaches. Again, every individual deserves to go home safely.

So with that, let's get started on the business of the day. Good morning, Secretary Gontrum.

MR. GONTRUM: Good morning, Madam Governor. And good morning to you, Mr. Treasurer and Madam Comptroller. There are 13 items on the Secretary's Agenda this morning, and two reports of emergency procurement contract awards. However, at the request of Morgan State University, I'm withdrawing Items 9 and 10. Leaving 11 items on the Secretary's Agenda this morning and the two reports of emergency procurements for your consideration. Happy to assist in answering any questions.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

With that, are there any discussions on the Secretary's Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I just have one item I wanted to talk about.

I don't get to talk about wetlands very often, but turns out May is American Wetlands Month. And so I wanted to just highlight this one project, Item 6, the wetlands license for the South Baltimore Gateway Partnership. This is

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a really transformative project in South Baltimore that South Baltimore Gateway Partnership has taken the lead on for many years. This is going to create a new public waterfront trail, it restores shoreline habitat through marsh planting, and adds really important erosion protection to South Baltimore area.

This is, you know, I think Cherry Hill, Westport -- you know, all along that coastline where Harbor Hospital is and more. And I think this is the type of project that both makes our waterways more accessible and also more resilient. It's going to create access to a waterfront that for decades most Marylanders have not had access to, and that's really exciting. So I'm grateful to Administrator Morgante and his team for the work that they continue to do.

Thank you, nice bow tie. And looking forward to touring this site later this month, but I just wanted to highlight how important these sorts of restorations are.

So thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you so much,
Madam Comptroller.

May I have a motion to approve this --

TREASURER DAVIS: Well, may I?

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Oh, yes. Yes, of course.

TREASURER DAVIS: I'd like -- on the Secretary's Agenda, I believe it's Item 12.

MR. GONTRUM: Mr. Treasurer, Item 12 is a Maryland Stadium Authority bid package for improvements to Maryland racing facilities.

TREASURER DAVIS: Just quickly for the record, how much is this particular portion of the overall project that we're approving today?

MR. GONTRUM: Today, Mr. Treasurer, this item is for \$3,930,574. This is for LED boards, food service equipment, and laundry

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equipment, I believe at Pimlico, but we have Mr. McGuigan available from the Stadium Authority who can confirm.

TREASURER DAVIS: And just -- and I guess the bid package is -- this is seven that we're approving, but the overall amount is nearly 184 million? Am I reading that?

MR. GONTRUM: Yes, Mr. Treasurer. But Mr. McGuigan, who is joining us virtually, can confirm.

(Pause.)

MR. GONTRUM: He is connected.

TREASURER DAVIS: Know what, it's not that big a deal -- if you're not getting him.

I guess my underlying, not even really a question, I just want to sort of reemphasize the amount of investment that the State has made and continues to make. And I'm hoping that this gets us there, gets us to where we need to be because, bluntly, I get the history of horse racing, but at some point, you know, we have to get to -- it's sink or swim. Can it survive?

We can't keep pouring massive amounts of dollars into this industry for one -- for the third weekend in May. And I know the conversations about year-round, but that's not really working, which is why we're here. So the bottom line is that we're doing this for the third weekend in May. And when you start looking -- and it's fine, if this actually works. But if it does not -- if this doesn't get us to where we need to be, then we got to start looking at -- I believe in ECON they call it opportunity cost.

And what are we foregoing, you know, in terms of the difference we could make in our communities and so forth where these kinds of dollars will make a difference and a lasting difference. So you know, I wanted to keep sort of pointing that out that if we have to come back here in another year or two or

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whatever with another proposal or another way to bring it along, I think we're going to have to have a serious conversation about what we're doing. Is this the right approach or is this a commitment we want to keep on making, despite the fact that maybe we already know what the outcome is going to be?

So Madam Governor, I certainly look forward to supporting this, but it would have been remiss of me to not point that out, especially now. I think we all recently got a letter from the Legislative Policy Committee, and now they're asking questions about the training facility. So I think we're getting to the point where everybody -- you know, they're starting to realize -- well, not starting to realize, but the opportunity cost is coming more to the fore and, you know, we're looking for that cost-benefit analysis as to is this a road we need to keep going down.

So thank you. Thank you, Madam Governor.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Mr. Treasurer, thank you so much and noted.

If there's no other questions, may I have a motion to approve the Secretary's Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you. And thank you, Mr. Treasurer. Thank you, Madam Governor.

I move to adopt the Secretary's Agenda.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you.

Now, let's proceed to the Department of Natural Resources Agenda. Good morning, Secretary Kurtz.

MR. KURTZ: Good morning, Madam Governor, Mr. Treasurer, Madam Comptroller. For the record, Josh Kurtz, Secretary of the Department of

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Natural Resources. The Department has 12 items totaling 14 projects for your review today. Myself and my team are here to answer any questions, if you have any.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you, Mr.

Secretary.

Are there any discussions on the DNR Agenda? May I have a motion to approve the DNR Agenda?

TREASURER DAVIS: Motion to approve the DNR Agenda.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you, thank you.

Next up, the University System of Maryland. Good morning, Mr. Hickey.

MR. HICKEY: Morning, Governor, Mr. Treasurer, and Madam Comptroller. Tom Hickey representing University System of Maryland. There are five items for your consideration. Happy to answer any questions.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you, Mr. Hickey.

Is there any discussion on the USM Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: No. Thanks for answering our questions.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: May I have a motion to approve the USM Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Motion to approve the USM Agenda.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you.

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MR. HICKEY: Thank you very much.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you.

Let's proceed to the MDOT Agenda. Good morning, Ms.
Radomsky.

MS. RADOMSKY: Good morning, Governor, Madam
Comptroller, Mr. Treasurer. For the record, my name is Valerie Radomsky,
Chief Procurement Officer for the Maryland Department of Transportation.
Today, we are presenting 12 agenda items for your consideration and we have
representatives available to answer any questions you may have.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you.

I believe the Comptroller has some.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yes, I just wanted to make a
couple notes.

You know, this is National Small Business Week. Ninety-eight
percent of businesses in Maryland are small businesses. And on this week's
agenda, we have three new contract awards for certified small businesses, which
is great to see.

Also, I will note every contract, except one, is being awarded to a
Maryland business. And I think especially as we see federal government
retrenchment from supporting our contractors, we need to ensure that we are
doing all we can to support our Maryland-based businesses and to keep those
dollars circulating in our local economy, which leads to best value for the state of
Maryland.

I know that this is not a new thing that I'm saying, but I felt like it
was a good time to reiterate just how important it is when we award contracts to
Maryland-based businesses. There is an additional benefit, right? We keep those
dollars circulating in Maryland. You know, many of them are corporations that

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are, you know, based here and so we're collecting revenue in a different way.

So you know -- when we invest in Maryland businesses, that money really stays in Maryland communities. And when Maryland businesses do better, Maryland does better. So thanks to MDOT for -- and to it's different -- the different agencies within it for showing that this type of investment in Maryland is possible and adds value. Thanks so much and look forward to seeing future agendas, or agendi, like this.

Thank you.

MS. RADOMSKY: Thank you for acknowledging our efforts, Madam Comptroller.

And we're very happy that most of the contracts on this agenda are going to certified small businesses. Reflecting increased investments in small businesses under this Administration, MDOT has awarded 296 contracts worth a total amount of \$383 million to small businesses since January 2023. And because the Procurement Reform Act took effect in October of 2025 and we started designating all procurements under \$1 million small businesses, whenever there's two or more, you will continue to see many, many awards to small businesses on our agenda -- agendi, yes.

(Laughter.)

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Great, thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you, Ms. Radomsky. And thank you, Madam Comptroller.

Mr. Treasurer, do you have any comments?

TREASURER DAVIS: Not other than the Comptroller, and I supported the Procurement Act last year, so.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Good. Well, we thank you for that.

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If there's no further questions, may I have a motion to approve the
MDOT Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Motion to approve the MDOT
Agenda.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

MS. RADOMSKY: Thank you,

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you.

Let's conclude with the DGS Agenda. Good morning, Secretary
Chaudhry.

MR. CHAUDHRY: Good morning, Madam Governor, Madam
Comptroller, and Mr. Treasurer. For the record, I'm the Atif Chaudhry, Secretary
of the Maryland Department of General Services. Today, the Department is
presenting 49 items on our agenda. We'll be withdrawing three items today.
That's Item 5-CGL, Item 37-IT, and Item 46-LL. We plan to include Item 46-LL
on our agenda at the next BPW meeting on May 20th.

Our agenda does feature 30 capital grants and loans totaling more
than \$23.6 million. I want to highlight one in particular, and that's Item 22-CGL,
which provides \$2.5 million to the Board of Directors of Humanim. Humanim
serves individuals with special needs including children, adolescents, and adults.
And this grant will be used to renovate the first floor of their Woodside Building
to create a more welcoming, functional, and community-oriented space for both
Humanim stakeholders as well as for the general public.

As we continue to keep an eye on our certified small business
partner participation during Small Business Week, our agenda does feature two
contract actions to certified small businesses totaling more than \$640,000. We
have agency representatives here to answer any questions you may have.

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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you so much, Mr. Secretary.

I would like to highlight Item 16, which is a request to award \$4.9 million capital dollars, capital grant, to the Maryland Zoological Societies for facility construction and exhibit improvements for the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore. The Maryland Zoo sits on a 135-acre campus nestled in Druid Hill Park in Baltimore. It was chartered by the State in 1876 and is the Nation's third oldest zoo. The zoo welcomes upwards of 380,000 visitors each year providing educational programs, scholarship opportunities, and summer camp experiences for students.

Additionally, the zoo remains committed to its sustainability and conservation goals by contributing to dozens of ongoing research studies each year. So if you haven't already been there, I highly recommend that each of you visit our amazing Maryland Zoo and learn more about the work to save animal species and habitats around the globe. As a matter of fact, I believe in June they're going to open the red panda exhibit.

And Madam Comptroller, I think we were there at the ribbon cutting, right?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yes.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Really exciting, you have to see the red pandas. They're very, very cute so I hope you make it out there to see them.

So if there's no further questions on the DGS Agenda -- actually, I believe you have some, right?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I do, so thanks.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Yes, Madam Comptroller.

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COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you. I appreciate it, yes.

And I'm sure Kirby Fowler from the zoo is watching and is very excited, and appeared on my TV screen this weekend in a commercial. I was like, "I know that voice." And all of a sudden, it was Kirby.

So I did want to highlight Item 12 because last weekend was Flower Mart, and Flower Mart draws tens of thousands of people from all over the region to Baltimore's historic Mount Vernon to help celebrate the start of spring. And if you're like my kids, you also get a lemon stick. And Item 12 is to Preservation Maryland to help stabilize and rehab properties in Mount Vernon to make sure that we can keep having these great Flower Marts.

And then I wanted to go to DGS Agenda Item 31-S to do a shameless plug for our latest policy research report. This is a contract all about Medicaid. And it keeps the Maryland Medicaid provider network intact, which is essential. As we reported in our latest policy research report on healthcare and the economy, healthcare is the single largest employer in Maryland with 427,000 jobs.

Our 17 health systems injected \$23 billion into the State economy last year and contributed more than \$500 million in income tax withholdings. So hospitals are not just buildings, they are truly anchor institutions and the foundation of an industry that employs one in six Marylanders. And the industry is under threat, right? One in four Marylanders relies on Medicaid. Nearly \$1 in every four in our State budget is dedicated to Medicaid spending. But the most recent changes to Medicaid at the federal level under H.R. 1 could trigger massive coverage losses for hundreds of thousands of Marylanders and cut the funding that hospitals depend on to operate.

This report that we released, it's intended to inform policymakers and stakeholders across the State about the healthcare industry in Maryland.

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Because under these threats, this industry is going to need all of us to work together to protect it and to protect Marylanders, more importantly. My office is happy to brief anyone who wants to dig more into the findings. Thank you, Madam Governor, for giving me a moment to highlight that and one more.

On DGS agenda Item 38-M, this is the contract for statewide presort mailing services. This is a long time coming, I know. And when I discussed this item with DGS, thank you very much Jamie and team, they clarified that presort mail, which is in this contract, is separate from postage. However, our postage rates by agency fluctuate based on the way that we are procuring or working with different companies to do the presort mail or whether we're doing it in-house, right? We have a very big mail facility in the Office of the Comptroller. And I don't know that DGS -- and please correct me, if I'm wrong. But my understanding is DGS doesn't really have visibility into what each State agency is spending on postage.

Is that fair to say?

MR. CHAUDHRY: I think that's something we can certainly take a look at. I don't think we've got direct visibility on it just because every agency is doing something different and doing different work orders.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Right, exactly.

Like this is a little bit of a black box, like how much we're paying for postage because different agencies are operating under different arrangements. And right now, it's just not clear whether the State is getting consistent and competitive rates. So I'm working with my team to confirm whether this is something that we can see through FMIS, our financial management information system.

Certainly, when we modernize and have a new ERP for the State, I do believe we'll be able to have more transparency into this. But you know, I

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think this postage and what we're paying, especially as costs continue to increase, is one, you know, small place that we could -- that I know the Governor's team, and DGS, and others -- you know, they have a -- you have a great team on government efficiency, that they could dig in on and see if there's ways that we could create savings across the State for all our different agencies. So thanks to your team for talking to me about that. And I've already spoke to folks in the Governor's Office about maybe this is another place that we could dig in, so thank you.

MR. CHAUDHRY: Thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you very much, Madam Comptroller.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you, Mr. Secretary. If there's no further discussions, may I have a motion to approve the DGS Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Motion to approve the DGS Agenda.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you.

That concludes today's meeting of the Board of Public Works. And once again, I want to wish all the mothers out there happy Mother's Day. I hope you have a safe and enjoyable weekend. The next meeting will be May 20th. Thank you all. We are adjourned.

(Whereupon, at 10:34 a.m., the meeting was concluded.)