



January 22, 2024
401 E. Pratt Street, 17th Floor Conference Room
Baltimore
1:00 – 2:30pm
Minutes

Subcabinet:

Kevin Anderson, Secretary, Department of Commerce, Chair
Kevin Atticks, Secretary, Department of Agriculture
Y. Maria Martinez, Special Secretary, Governor’s Office of Small, Minority, & Women Business Affairs (GOSBA)
Joshua Kurtz, Secretary, Department of Natural Resources – Virtual
Michael Higgs, Director, State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT)
Paul Wiedefeld, Secretary, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)
Portia Wu, Secretary, Department of Labor
Rebecca Flora, Secretary, Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) – Virtual
Alexandria Liu, Chief of Staff for Susan C. Lee, Secretary of State – Virtual

Guests:

Troy LeMaile-Stovall, CEO, Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO)
Nichelle Johnson, Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Ombudsman, GOSBA
Ashley Sharp, Deputy Chief of Staff, Department of Labor
Signe Pringle, Deputy Secretary, Commerce
Heather Gramm, Assistant Secretary
Julie Woepke, Executive Director, MEDC
Jennifer LaHatte, Managing Director, OPRGA – Virtual
Jayson Knott, Senior Director – Virtual

I. Meeting called to Order

Commerce Secretary Kevin Anderson called the meeting to order at 1:01pm.

II. Summary of Closed Session of December 18, 2023 Meeting

Commerce Secretary Kevin Anderson provided a summary of the closed meeting of December 18, 2023.

III. Review and Approval of December 18, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the December 18, 2023 meeting approved.

IV. Chair's Update

Secretary Kevin Anderson announced that a Request for Proposal for a Strategic Plan to guide the industries' focus of the Department was released with a closing date of February 6th. The Consultant selected will coordinate with the Department, Maryland Economic Development Commission, Maryland Economic Council, Economic Development Partners and business community. He continued by stating the Maryland Economic Council Meeting will be held January 26th. The Council is reviewing two recommendations: 1) the creation of the Governor's Office of Business Advancement and 2) improvements to the regulatory environment.

Secretary Anderson then turned to Special Secretary Martinez to introduce Nichelle Johnson, MBE Ombudsman in the Governor's Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs and to report on the release of the MBE Annual Report. She stated the Report, which will be released shortly, continues to reflect the need to improve minority participation in procurement. Ms. Johnson then addressed the Subcabinet and expressed her appreciation in meeting the Subcabinet and looks forward to collaborations to improve MBE participation.

V. Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO)

Secretary Anderson then introduced Troy LeMaile-Stovall, CEO of TEDCO. He expressed the importance of TEDCO in building the entrepreneurial ecosystem and through its programs, investments and training.

Mr. Stovall addressed the Subcabinet and provided a comprehensive history and overview of TEDCO. He stated the organization was formed to focus on biotechnology and information technology. He described the impact of its programs and activities which contribute \$3 billion to the State's economy through investments, training/coaching, collaboration with institutions on technology transfer, and scaling industries. He noted the State's overall investment into businesses is immature and if we can accelerate an industry, outside capital will come. He noted the lack of the PayPal multiplier effect in Maryland where a successful business invests in hundreds of other businesses. He stated Maryland lacked aggressiveness in investing. He concluded by describing several investments in support the State's competitiveness initiatives introduced in the Governor's FY25 budget.

Mr. Stovall then took questions from the Subcabinet.

VI. Maryland Department of Transportation

Secretary Paul Wiedefeld addressed the Subcabinet and provided an overview of the Department's Budget. He reviewed the sources of transportation funds, the uses of the revenues, and uses of the transportation capital funds. He reflected back to 2019 when the Department of Legislative Services reported concerns with funding and trends being observed. He then reviewed the transportation trust fund concerns as related to COVID relief funds and the interrelatedness to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) operations.

Secretary Wiedefeld then described the Department budget development timeline and the consolidated transportation program which reflect a \$3.3 billion funding gap. He then reviewed proposed actions to close the gap and restoration of \$150 million for specific projects. He concluded by describing next steps. Presentation on file.

Secretary Wiedefeld took questions from the Subcabinet. Among the items discussed were mobility in modeling transportation needs; the supply chain impact with the reduction of the number of cars for WMATA trains; sufficient number of MBEs to compete for projects; impact of electric vehicles including weight on roads; and the importance of key regional projects.

VII. Good of the Order

Director Higgs reported on the recent property reassessments that reflect a significant increase in residential, industrial, storage and warehouse property values. He also noted there is a trend of office buildings being taken over by banks.

VIII. Adjournment

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, closed session was adjourned at 12:01pm.

Next meeting dates: February 26, March 25, April 23