



**Tuesday, April 22nd, 2025**

**2:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

**World Trade Center Baltimore**

**17th floor, Rm. 1746**

**401 East Pratt St., Baltimore, MD 21202**

### **Meeting Minutes**

#### *Commission Members in Attendance*

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. Dale Moore, EdD [Chair]     | Southern Maryland Navy Alliance                       |
| 2. Georgie Brophy [Vice Chair] | Maryland Space Business Roundtable                    |
| 3. Willie Brown, PhD           | University of Maryland Eastern Shore                  |
| 4. Harry Coker, Jr.            | Secretary, Maryland Department of Commerce            |
| 5. Ryan Gerard                 | Goddard Contractors Association                       |
| 6. Charles Ichoku, PhD         | University of Maryland Baltimore County               |
| 7. Barbara Lam                 | Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy |
| 8. Makenzie Lystrup            | NASA Goddard Space Flight Center                      |
| 9. Robert Rashford             | President and CEO of Genesis Engineering              |
| 10. Janeen Tracy Uzell         | CEO, National Society of Black Engineers              |

#### *Department of Commerce Attendees*

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. Ricardo Benn          | Deputy Secretary, Innovation and Growth                           |
| 2. Charlotte Bradsher    | Sr. Program Manager, Office of the Secretary                      |
| 3. Ulyana Desiderio, PhD | Sr. Director, Office of Strategic Industries and Entrepreneurship |
| 4. Amy Duray             | Program Manager, Federal Business Relations                       |
| 5. John Gilstrap         | Assistant Secretary, Innovation and Growth                        |
| 6. Benjamin McGlaughlin  | Manufacturing Program Manager                                     |

#### *General Public Attendees*

- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1. Michael Barton            | Maryland Aerospace Alliance             |
| 2. John Collins              | Actalent                                |
| 3. Cedric Jacob              | Rocket Lab                              |
| 4. Travis Langster           | Tora Consulting                         |
| 5. J. Vanderlei Martins, PhD | University of Maryland Baltimore County |
| 6. Alonzo Washington         | Prince George's County                  |

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Dr. Moore introduced himself and called the meeting to order. He reminded the Commission of its charge: to promote innovation in the fields of space exploration and commercial aerospace

opportunities including the integration of space, aeronautics, and aviation industries into the economy of the State. He introduced Secretary of Commerce Harry Coker, Jr. as well as Deputy Secretary Ricardo Benn and Assistant Secretary John Gilstrap.

### **Department of Commerce Updates**

Secretary Coker welcomed everyone and shared his overview of aerospace as one of Maryland's most important industry sectors, and a major component of the state's developing strategy for making its economy more robust, equitable and competitive. He acknowledged the industry undergoing a great deal of uncertainty and shared the department's vision outlined in the "Winning the Decade" report. This report identifies three "Lighthouse" sectors in which the state should invest to harness its existing strengths and produce transformative economic growth: 1) information technology, with a specific focus on quantum and artificial intelligence; 2) life sciences, with a specific focus on computational health; and 3) aviation & aerospace, with a specific focus on position, navigation, and timing. Secretary Coker reviewed all the important private, public, academic and federal assets that position Maryland well to continue to support the aerospace industry. He thanked the Commission for the important work it is doing for this important sector for Maryland. There was a suggestion from members of the Commission to consider widening the scope of the aerospace "lighthouse" sector beyond position, navigation and timing.

Deputy Secretary Benn gave an update on Governor Moore's recent trade mission to Asia, visiting South Korea and Japan. He described the public-private partnerships in the area of aerospace in South Korea that effectively leverage assets to grow the industry. Assistant Secretary Gilstrap gave an update on Commerce delegations to the Avalon show in Victoria, Australia and as well as Xponential 2025 trade show in Houston, TX.

The following discussion focused on the uncertainty surrounding the aerospace industry in Maryland, especially with regard to potential budget cuts to NASA Goddard that may affect this important Maryland asset as well as its contractor community. Additional concerns were raised about budgetary restraints/cuts to space science and telescope missions.

### **Review and Approval of February 20, 2025 MATC Meeting Minutes**

Dr. Moore asked for feedback on the minutes of the February 20, 2025 MATC meeting. Hearing none, Dr. Moore asked for a motion to approve the minutes, which was made by Ms. Brophy and seconded by Director Lystrup. The meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

### **Maryland I-NEST Concept: an Incubator for Nurturing Emerging Satellite Technologies**

Dr. J. Vanderlei Martins, Director of the Earth and Space Institute at the University of Maryland Baltimore County presented a concept for an incubator for end-to-end satellite technologies that leverage public and private assets across Maryland. He mentioned Utah State University's Space Dynamics Laboratory as a possible model to follow.

The resulting discussion supported the critical need of greater coordination of government, private and academic players across Maryland, with I-NEST and/or another stand-alone organization similar to Space Florida that would bring all the players together to benefit from the opportunities of commercialization of aerospace and space industries. Specifically, it was pointed out that Maryland has the end-to-end value propositions that other states do not.

### **Update on Aerospace Summit**

Ms. Brophy and Assistant Secretary Gisltrap gave an update on the proposed Aerospace Summit focused on highlighting the rich asset base and activity occurring in Maryland's aerospace industry. The summit would offer the opportunity to merge the investor community, academia, start-ups, and established firms in one location to discuss and chart the future growth of the aerospace sector. The program would include pitch competitions by start-ups, exhibitors, reverse pitches from the industry as well as panel discussions.

The resulting discussion focused on the appropriate timing and venue for this event to avoid major conferences already planned for later in the fall. Mr. Gerard suggested focusing the event on providing networking/partnering opportunities for the attendees rather than just presentations. Mr. Barton mentioned March 2026 to coincide with the Goddard Space Science Symposium. The Commissioners also brought up the annual Space Symposium that takes place in Colorado Springs in April as an event to plan around. There was a great interest in promoting and marketing Maryland as an aerospace state.

### **Strategic Plan Discussion**

Dr. Moore gave a presentation on setting up the strategic planning process. The following discussion reflected the Commission's plan to try to address most of the suggested activities in its statute but reserved the right to be flexible and address greatest needs first. The following working groups and leads were suggested (to be finalized later):

- Public Private Partnerships (lead: Georgie Brophy)
- Education and Workforce (lead: Willie Brown)
- R&D Funding (lead: Charles Ichoku)
- Aerospace Zones (lead: Dale Moore)
- Marketing (lead: Commerce staff)

The Commission agreed that the working groups may include external experts and that Commerce staff can provide administrative support as well as any available data Commerce has on the industry. Commission members requested Commerce staff to determine whether the MATC membership composition can include more commercial perspectives.

### **Public Comments**

Mr. Jacob urged the Commission to support the industry by removing regulatory obstacles and red tape. He shared an example of digging a hole on his company's property that had to be done at significant cost due to regulations. He encouraged the Commission to review existing rules and regulations - adding things may be expensive but subtracting or removing things may come at no additional cost but still benefit businesses. He also mentioned the importance of promoting aerospace careers to young people to retain the talent in Maryland.

### **Closing Remarks and Next Steps**

Dr. Moore thanked the speakers, the Commissioners and members of the public for engaging in the discussion.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.