



**Tuesday, September 30, 2025**

**1:00 pm - 3:00 pm**

**Baltimore World Trade Center  
401 E Pratt St  
17th Floor Large Conference Room**

### **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. Robert Braun, PhD	Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory
4. Willie Brown, PhD	University of Maryland Eastern Shore
5. Alison Flatau	University of Maryland College Park
6. Charles Ichoku, PhD	University of Maryland Baltimore County
7. Cedric Jacob	Rocket Lab
8. Barbara Lam	Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy
9. Jennifer Lotz, PhD	Space Telescope Science Institute
10. Robert Rashford	Genesis Engineering
11. Cynthia Simmons, PhD	NASA Goddard Space Flight Center
12. Janeen Uzzell	National Society of Black Engineers
13. Alonzo Washington	Senator, Prince George's County

#### *Department of Commerce Attendees*

1. Ulyana Desiderio, PhD	Sr. Director, Office of Strategic Industries and Entrepreneurship
2. Amy Duray	Program Manager, Federal Business Relations
3. John Gilstrap	Assistant Secretary, Innovation and Growth
4. Jennifer LaHatte	Managing Director, Policy, Research and Government Affairs
5. Colter Menke	Program Manager, Aerospace

#### *General Public Attendees*

1. Brandon Eden	Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory
2. Joseph Eimer	Maryland Space Grant Consortium, JHU APL
3. Jennifer Goodrum	Rocket Lab
4. Phillina Tookes	NASA Goddard

#### **Welcome and Roll Call**

Commission Chair, Dale Moore, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the MATC meeting. He made note that the commission had been in operation for nearly a year and has come a

long way from the first meeting. He let the commissioners know that the MATC Annual Report is complete and that it would be discussed further during the meeting and thanked the commissioners for their role in the preparation of the document. Dr. Moore then proceeded through roll call to record attendance at the meeting.

### **Review and Acceptance of July 22, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

Dr. Moore asked for feedback on the minutes of the July 22, 2025 MATC meeting.

Hearing none, Dr. Moore asked for a motion to approve the minutes, Ms. Brophy motioned and Dr. Flatau seconded. The meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

### **Commerce Updates**

Assistant Secretary Gilstrap reviewed the recent activities at the Department of Commerce. He noted the regional visits that Secretary Coker has completed including a visit to the Maryland Technology Center in Charles County and a number of aerospace organizations in St Mary's County such as Platform Aerospace, Triton Defense and the USM SMART building.

Assistant Secretary Gilstrap mentioned that Secretary Coke also met with the Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce to discuss the potential effects of federal spending cuts and layoffs on Wallops Space Flight Center and the local business community. He emphasized that Maryland Commerce remains in close contact with NASA officials at Wallops and Goddard and participates in Wallops Regional Partners Meetings to stay informed and provide support. Commerce is also helping organize the upcoming Wallops Industry Day at Salisbury University in October to highlight regional opportunities and challenges.

Secretary Gilstrap discussed several recent wins for Maryland in the Quantum Technologies industry. Microsoft recently announced it will build a new advanced quantum lab in the rapidly growing Discovery District in College Park. Also, the federal government committed in April to \$100 million dollars for DARPA's quantum benchmarking hub, also in the Discovery District, which will lead rigorous third-party testing and evaluation for commercial quantum systems.

Finally, Assistant Secretary Gilstrap discussed his efforts to improve access to capital for the aerospace sector in Maryland. He had some conversations with local organizations such as Connectpreneur about the logistics and cost of establishing a summit for Maryland as well as the best timeframes for an event to take place, with December at University of Maryland being a good option.

### **Maryland Space Grant Consortium**

Dr. Joseph Eimer gave a presentation about the Maryland Space Grant Consortium (MSGC), how the organization was established and the partner organizations the MSGC works with. He anticipated future workforce challenges and areas of training that the aerospace industry may want to focus on. Dr. Eimer then provided a summary of his proposal for NASA funding to develop a regional workforce development hub in Maryland. Dr. Eimer has received support from organizations throughout the state including industry, higher education, workforce development and state agencies. The program will focus on providing assistance for High School and Community College age students and providing pathways for them to meet the needs of aerospace industry employers. The initial application for the program has been accepted and it has entered the "short list" phase of the process.

Ms. Lam mentioned that Maryland seems to have a good talent pipeline development program in place for fields that support general STEM and specifically the life sciences, but not as much emphasis on aerospace and aviation career fields. Dr. Eimer confirmed that the program will include the identification of needs specific to the aerospace and aviation industries in the state, which will be asserted in the programming. Retention of 80% of program graduates within Maryland was identified as a primary success metric.

### **Review of MATC Strategic Plan**

Dr. Moore began the discussion about the MATC Strategic Plan with a review of the current landscape of the aerospace industry in Maryland, including perceived strengths and weaknesses. Commissioner feedback suggested clarification of the assessment of Maryland as a business-friendly state. Ms. Brophy mentioned that concentrations of the aerospace industry in the state tend to be in areas that have less inviting livable conditions for the employees for those organizations. Mr. Jacob confirmed that some of the employees who work for him opt to travel further for their commute to Middle River, rather than live in the immediate vicinity of their office. Ms. Uzzell also pointed out that there's a difference between naming an area as an Aerospace Hub or as an Aerospace Tech Hub. When the term "tech" is included it implies a different aspect of the industry is the focal point and it may attract a different type of participant than the commission intends.

### **Next Steps/ Advocacy**

Ms. Brophy reviewed the individual working groups that had been identified for which commissioners can volunteer to best align with their background and experience. She mentioned that she had reached out to each commissioner individually for their desired working group placement and solicited input from any commissioner she hadn't heard from. The identified working groups will focus on Public Private Partnership; Education and Workforce; Research and Development Funding; Aerospace and Technology Zones; and Marketing and Communications. She noted that group leads would organize meeting periodicity for their working groups and report the full commission at the next MATC meeting.

Ms. LaHatte discussed the process for the MATC Annual Report and Strategic Plan submission. She noted that MATC commissioners are able to advocate on behalf of the aerospace industry for the recommendations included in the Strategic Plan, but the Maryland Department of Commerce will remain impartial due to lobbying restrictions for state agencies. She encouraged any commissioners who wish to discuss the Strategic Plan with members of the General Assembly to have those discussions individually with members who have a vested interest in the actions of the commission. Senator Washington noted that any requests for funding should have a compelling argument with a well developed execution strategy for the Governor and the General Assembly to act on.

Senator Washington also mentioned his role with workforce development for Prince George's County and that the MATC should find a way to tie in with the efforts of the Governor's Workforce Development Board. He noted that October through December is the best time of year to educate legislators on the major issues that they should be aware of before the next General Assembly session starts.

In response to a question, Dr. Desiderio provided some background on how the life sciences industry grew in Maryland, the original challenges the industry faced and how organizations throughout the state worked to pull the industry together to create the ecosystem that exists today.

Dr. Simmons mentioned that the MATC and the state in general should focus on developing technologies that feed the aerospace industry. She noted that the available locations in the state aren't

suitable for manufacturing aircraft but the MATC can bring together other emerging industries such as quantum technologies, advanced air mobility or advanced satellite manufacturing to grow the aerospace industry in Maryland.

### **Public Comments**

Dr. Moore called for any public comments and none were made.

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

Dr. Moore provided a quick summary of the discussion that took place during the meeting, emphasized that the work of the commission is ongoing and asked for the continued participation of the commissioners.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:02 PM.