



January 23, 2017
100 Community Place, Conference Room 1A, Crownsville
12:30pm – 2:30pm

Attendees:

Cabinet Members:

R. Michael Gill, Secretary, Department of Commerce, Chair
Kelly Schulz, Secretary, Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR)
Ben Grumbles, Secretary, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)
Wendi Peters, Secretary, Maryland Department of Planning (MDP)
Jimmy Rhee, Special Secretary, Governor’s Office of Minority Affairs (GOMA)
Ken Holt, Secretary, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)
Pete Rahn, Secretary, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)

Guests:

James Fielder, Secretary, Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC)
Robert Neall, Senior Advisor, Director, Governor’s Office of Transformation
Britta Vander Linden, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor
Randall Nixon, Governor’s Business Ombudsman
Mike Morello, Governor’s Office of Performance Improvement (GOPI)
Earl Lewis, Jr., Deputy Secretary, MDOT
Ben Wu, Deputy Secretary/COO, Department of Commerce
Herb Jordan, Deputy Secretary, GOMA
Horacio Tabalada, Deputy Secretary, MDE
Jim Rzepkowski, Assistant Secretary, DLLR
Ed MacDonald, MDOT
Steve Pennington, Department of Commerce
Greg Derwart, Department of Commerce
Bret Schreiber, Department of Commerce
Julie Woepke, Department of Commerce

I. Call to Order/Introductions of Members

Secretary Gill called the meeting to order and welcomed members and guests. He began the meeting by describing the 2017 motto for Commerce, “Think Bigger, Go Faster.”

II. Governor's Office

Britta Vander Linden, Deputy Chief of Staff gave an overview of her economic development and communications background. She emphasized that the Administration is at the two year mark and the importance of focusing on the high paying growth jobs in the industries of Aerospace, BioHealth and Cybersecurity. She stated these industries will drive more jobs, homes, revenues and organic growth.

III. Governor's Office of Transformation & Renewal

Robert Neall, Director and Senior Advisor focused his remarks on the importance of reviewing the Maryland Manual, understanding the historical evolution of State government and increasing the coordination among economic development partners such as the University of Maryland. He stated that there were many entities within government that may be providing duplicative services and that right sizing of government is necessary. In looking into the future, with technology advancements, government workforce will be smaller yet smarter.

Discussion occurred with Cabinet members regarding Agency missions and workforce needs, efficiencies, collaborations, job classifications and market rate salaries.

IV. 2017 Environmental Legislative Priorities

Secretary Ben Grumbles reviewed MDE's Legislative Priorities which included the Clean Water Commerce Act, Solid Waste and Recycling Facilities, Emergency Action Plans for Dams, Reduction of Lead Risk in Housing, and Hazardous Materials Security Repeal. (Handout on file).

V. 2017 Transportation Legislative Priorities

Secretary Pete Rahn reviewed MDOT's Legislative Priorities which include the Administration's Repeal of Chapter 36 – the Road Kill Bill, Stricter Drunk Driving Laws for Repeat Offenders, and MDOT's Departmental bills. He also provided an update on the State's 2017 FASTLANE Federal Grant Applications for Howard Street Tunnel, Access I-95 to support Port Covington and I-81 Corridor Widening in western Maryland. U.S. Department of Transportation to make announcements on the applications in Spring 2017. (Presentation on file.)

VI. Cabinet Workgroups

a. Customer Service

Greg Derwart, Managing Director, Administration & Customer Experience, Department of Commerce provided an update on the planned Customer Service Workgroup meetings and the deployment of the state-wide Customer Service Survey. He then introduced Mike Morello, Director, Governor's Office of Performance Improvement (GOPI) who reviewed the questionnaire, survey results by Cabinet Agency and the collection of findings. He answered questions of the Cabinet related to parallel Customer Services efforts of the Comptroller, discussed MDOT's more detailed survey and was asked in future presentation to provide examples.

b. Workforce

Bret Schreiber, Director, Education & Innovation, Strategic Industries & Entrepreneurship, Department of Commerce reported that collaboration continues with DLLR on the development of initiatives and improvements to customer service and welcomed aboard DLLR’s new Business Services Manager, Linda Gilmore who will be engaging with Commerce staff. Jim Rzepkowski, DLLR Assistant Secretary reported that Governor Hogan and Secretary Schulz announced that Employment Advancement Right Now (EARN) Maryland, the industry-led, competitive workforce and economic development grant initiative, is accepting Implementation Grant Proposals. He said the State is encouraging the submission of proposals specifically targeting careers in “green” energy related fields. The additional \$3 million total investment over the next three years will target training in industries in solar, wind, and other Tier 1 renewable energy solutions.

c. Mega Projects

Ben Wu, Deputy Secretary/COO, Department of Commerce provided updates on the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Port Covington and Tradepoint Atlantic. Secretary Holt gave an update on Project C.O.R.E. (Creating Opportunities for Renewal and Enterprise). He announced that while 100 demolitions had occurred per quarter in distressed blocks, the City completed an additional 200 emergency demolitions. He added that \$15.8 million had recently been awarded to 30 projects for shovel ready development leveraging \$285 million in redevelopment investment.

VII. Other Interagency Initiatives

Steve Pennington, Managing Director, Business & Industry Sector Development, Department of Commerce described four (4) new Interagency Initiatives: Broadband Expansion; Asset Mapping; Cyber Asset Mapping; and the I-95 Corridor Workforce. He stated future updates will be provided as initiatives progress.

VIII. Review and approval of November 29, 2016 Minutes

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the November 29, 2016 meeting were approved.

IX. Good of the Order

No additional information was discussed.

X. Future Meeting Dates - March, May, July

XI. Adjournment

There being no further discussion and upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45pm by Secretary Gill.