

MATC
MARYLAND
AEROSPACE &
TECHNOLOGY
COMMISSION

Tuesday July 28th, 2026

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Baltimore World Trade Center

401 E. Pratt St., 17th Floor Conference Room 1746

APPROVED Meeting Minutes

Commissioners

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. Georgie Brophy [Vice Chair] | Maryland Space Business Roundtable |
| 2. Willie Brown, PhD | University of Maryland Eastern Shore |
| 3. Alison Flatau (virtual) | University of Maryland College Park |
| 4. Cedric Jacob | Rocket Lab |
| 5. Dale Moore, EdD [Chair] | Southern Maryland Navy Alliance |
| 6. Robert Braun, PhD | Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics |
| Laboratory | |

Department of Commerce Attendees

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1. Ulyana Desiderio, PhD | Senior Director, Strategic Industries and Entrepreneurship |
| 2. April Doss (virtual) | Deputy Secretary, Policy and Stakeholder Engagement |
| 3. Ricardo Benn | Deputy Secretary, Industry, International & Innovation |
| 4. John Gilstrap | Assistant Secretary, Industry, International & Innovation |
| 5. Amy Duray | Program Manager, Federal Organizations |

General Public Attendees

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Dante Blundo | Expeditors International |
| 2. Kaushik Anantha | SSAI |
| 3. Michael Barton | Maryland Aerospace Alliance |
| 4. George Berkheimer | The Business Monthly |
| 5. Brandon Carter | WLC Design |
| 6. Matthew Cody | SmartSpace Integration |
| 7. John Collins | Actalent / MAA |
| 8. Joseph Eimer, PhD | Maryland Space Grant Consortium, Johns Hopkins |
| University | |
| 9. Nathaniel Forgotson | Science and Technology Corporation (STC) |
| 10. Jaylin Hankerson-Strappy | Office of Senator Alonzo T. Washington |

11. Josh Headley	Baltimore Polytechnic Institute
12. Michael Hollis	Stellar Solutions
13. Robin Kovach	AMA
14. Dennis Lee	Vortex Space Systems
15. Kajal Pancholi	Avatar / MAA
16. Kendra Parlock	Space Phoenix Systems
17. Andrew Pollard	Ada Aero & Tech Consulting
18. Shronte Ray	NASA Goddard Space Flight Center
19. Sterling Spangler	AMA
20. Phillina Tookes	NASA Goddard Space Flight Center
21. Diallo Wallace, PhD	The Engineering and Science Academy (TESA)
22. Alicia Moran (virtual)	Prince George's County EDC
23. Andrew Moore (virtual)	Frederick Regional Airport
24. William Sullivan	External Advisor / Embassy of Spain
25. Jarryd Hawkins	JH Government Affairs LLC
26. Miguel Patino	ICAT Logistics

Welcome and Roll Call

Commission Chair, Dr. Dale Moore, called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm and welcomed everyone to the Baltimore World Trade Center for the MATC meeting. He thanked attendees for their ongoing engagement across the state's aerospace ecosystem. Dr. Moore then proceeded through roll call to record attendance at the meeting.

Review and Acceptance of April 28, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Dr. Moore asked for feedback on the draft meeting minutes from the April 28, 2026 MATC meeting. Hearing none, Dr. Moore asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Brophy motioned to approve, Dr. Braun seconded, and the meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Legislative Update on 2027 Departmental Proposals and Recommended Future Approaches

April Doss, Deputy Secretary for Policy and Stakeholder Engagement at the Maryland Department of Commerce, introduced herself and provided an update on the state's legislative cycle. Ms. Doss noted that the department is currently midway through its internal legislative proposal process for the upcoming 2027 session.

Ms. Brophy asked how best the Commission could coordinate with the Department's legislative team moving forward. Ms. Doss responded that she and Mr. Ricardo Benn would be glad to set up regular scheduled meetings with Dr. Moore and Ms. Brophy to align legislative priorities.

Dr. Braun asked about the dedicated investment fund that was proposed during the prior legislative session. Ms. Doss explained that statewide budget constraints ultimately precluded an investment ask of that scale. She emphasized the critical importance of clearly communicating a strong, measurable Return on Investment (ROI) in all future requests involving financial investments.

Dr. Flatau asked if there is an established state benchmark or standard for evaluating ROI across different investment types. Ms. Doss clarified that ROI metrics and standard benchmarks vary depending on the specific scope and nature of the program.

Mr. Jacob added that in addition to direct funding requests, the state has a major opportunity to lower costs for expanding businesses by streamlining administrative processes, expediting permitting, and generally reducing regulatory friction across Maryland.

Legislative Outlook from the General Assembly Perspective

Mr. Jaylin Hankerson-Strappy, representing the Office of Senator Alonzo T. Washington (District 22), provided an update on legislative outlooks from the General Assembly perspective. He noted that Senator Washington's team is actively developing its legislative agenda informed by direct stakeholder conversations and economic activities across the district.

Mr. Hankerson-Strappy highlighted the successful passage of Senate Bill 198, which directs a comprehensive feasibility study to establish dedicated aerospace and aviation technology workforce training programs at Prince George's Community College.

MATC Strategic Update and Partnerships

Dr. Moore presented a strategic briefing on broader aerospace and space sector trends, emphasizing expanding Department of Defense (DOD) modernization priorities, high-fidelity sensing, position, navigation, and timing (PNT), and the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into Research, Development, Test & Evaluation (RDT&E) processes.

Dr. Moore noted that the DOD currently relies on approximately 200,000 suppliers nationwide, including over 200 aerospace suppliers in Maryland. He also detailed the capabilities of the Joint Simulation Environment (JSE) at NAS Patuxent River, explaining how physical data collected in facilities like anechoic chambers is fed digitally into advanced flight simulation architectures.

In response to a slide illustrating a projected 3x increase in space launch demand over the next decade, Mr. Jacob remarked that a 3x multiplier might actually be a conservative estimate based on current industry trajectories.

Dr. Wallace inquired whether Maryland could better leverage its state FAA footprint, high-fidelity sensing, and PNT assets to support autonomous systems development in line with the state's aerospace "lighthouse" vision. Dr. Moore agreed to take an action item to follow up with commissioners to outline potential autonomous systems processes and policy positions the Commission could advocate for.

Mr. Jacob expanded on this topic, noting that the Chesapeake Bay region offers three distinct strategic advantages for autonomy: first, an ideal natural environment to test autonomous aerial and marine technologies; second, an opportunity to automate freight logistics and transport; and third, high surrounding population density that can drive commercial demand, monetization, and technology adoption.

Priorities of the MATC, Stakeholder Ecosystem Mapping, and Way Forward

Ms. Brophy led a discussion focused on Commission priorities, ROI messaging strategies, business retention, and workforce development.

The Commission discussed approaches for future legislative funding requests and how they compare to prior proposals. The Commission discussed refining its legislative messaging by illustrating a concept framed around "**A Day Without Aerospace in Maryland**," describing the vital economic, tax, and infrastructure contributions that would be lost without a strong state aerospace sector.

A Commission member suggested conducting a root cause analysis on past instances where aerospace operations left Maryland—such as the relocation of a Lockheed Martin mission from Martin State Airport to New Jersey—to identify structural retention barriers.

On workforce development, Mr. Headley from Baltimore Polytechnic Institute shared an upcoming initiative funded by an AOPA grant to implement a split robotics curriculum covering both terrestrial robotics and uncrewed aerial vehicles (UAVs). Mr. Jacob emphasized that specialized technical roles—specifically certified welders and composite lamination technicians—represent the primary rate-limiting bottleneck for manufacturing expansion in Maryland, stressing the need for expanded CTE pathways and industry credentials. The Commission also discussed that higher education institutions are eager to align their degree programs with these immediate industry demands.

Working Group Updates

Dr. Moore and Ms. Brophy reviewed the proposed FY27 subcommittee deliverables outlined in the meeting presentation:

- **Public-Private Partnerships / Investments (Lead: Ms. Brophy):** Target launch of a "Lean" Maryland Aerospace Investor Summit (Q2 FY27) and development of an FY28 competitive grant framework template.
- **Aerospace & Technology Zones (Lead: Dr. Moore):** Deployment of the ATZ self-assessment baseline scorecard across five regions and publication of an ATZ capabilities catalog.
- **Research & Development (Leads: Dr. Charles Ichoku & Mr. Aaron Miscenich):** Pilot release of a monthly Maryland R&D Opportunity Alert digest and ecosystem mapping onto the Maryland Defense Network.
- **Workforce Education, Training & Development (Lead: Dr. Willie Brown):** Publication of a statewide aerospace education/training inventory and engagement with state registered apprenticeship programs.

Public Comments & Member Updates

Dr. Moore opened the floor for public comments and industry announcements:

Dr. Eimer reported on the recent success of the recent Aerospace Career Launch event held at Salisbury University.

Ms. Kendra Parlock from Space Phoenix shared that her company is closing a seed investment round and is currently applying for an TEDCO Equitech Fund grant.

Mr. Dennis Lee reported on his recent successful prototyping experience with UMD interns and his pursuit of an Equitech Grant.

Adjournment

Dr. Moore thanked everyone for their participation, noted the upcoming October 1 deadline for the MATC Annual Report, and called for a motion to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.