



Governor's Economic Competitiveness Subcabinet

The mission of the subcabinet is to advise the Governor on, and identify and recommend policies, regulations, strategies, and actions that strengthen Maryland's economic competitiveness and growth on an ongoing basis; review proposed policies and procedures by executive departments and agencies impacting economic development and workforce development; coordinate the implementation of executive directives and legislation that support business and talent development in the state; track the progress of the cross-agency implementation of the Economic Strategic Plan approved by the Maryland Economic Development Commission; track the progress of the cross-agency implementation of the economic goals under the Moore-Miller Administration's Maryland State Plan; and on a biannual basis, develop and publish a consolidated economic competitiveness plan that incorporates strategies and action plans from every executive department and agency represented on the Subcabinet.

Members

Agriculture (AG)	Secretary Kevin Atticks (Steve Connelly & Martin Proulx)
Budget and Management (DBM)	Secretary Jake Weissmann (Richard Auxier)
Commerce	Secretary Harry Coker, Chair (Judy L. Smith)
Education	State Superintendent of Schools Carey Wright (Phil Lasser & Alex Reese)
Maryland Energy Administration (MEA)	Director Kelly Speakes-Backman (Jenn Aiosa)
Environment (MDE)	Secretary Serena McIlwain (Scott Goldman)
General Services	Secretary Atif Chaudhry (Daniel Chase)
Department of Social and Economic Mobility (DoSEM)	Secretary Walter Simmons
Higher Education Commission (MHEC)	Acting Secretary Elena Quiroz-Livanis
Housing & Community Development (DHCD)	Secretary Jake Day (Brad Fallon)
Labor	Secretary Portia Wu (Martina Henry & Jennifer Esparza)
Maryland Clean Energy Center	Executive Director Katherine Magruder (Mary Sirios & Pamela Powers)
Maryland Economic Development Corporation	Executive Director Tom Sadowski
Maryland Technology Development Corporation	CEO Troy LeMaile-Stovall
Natural Resources (DNR)	Secretary Josh Kurtz (David Goshorn)
Planning (MDP)	Secretary Rebecca Flora (Darius White)
Transportation	Secretary Kathryn Thomson (Joe McAndrew & David Zaidan)
University System of Maryland (USM)	Chancellor Dr. Jay Perman (Diane Walters)

September 17, 2026
Frederick Innovative Technology Center
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Minutes

Attendance

Note: Names in parentheses denote designees or alternates for members of the Subcabinet.

Subcabinet:

- Harry Coker, Chair, Commerce
- Kevin Atticks, Agriculture
- Atif Chaudry (Joh Sedtal), DGS
- Rebecca Flora, Planning
- Susan Lee, State
- Josh Kurtz (Julia Solomon), DNR
- Troy LeMaile-Stovall, TEDCO
- Elena Quiroz-Livanis, MHEC
- Serena McIlwain, MDE
- Jay Perman (Michele Masucci), USM
- Kathryn Thomson (David Zaidan), MDOT
- Tom Sadowski, MEDCO
- Kelly Speakes-Backman (Jenn Aiosa), MEA
- Jake Weissmann (Richard Auxier), DBM
- Carey Wright (Phil Lasser), Education
- Portia Wu (John Feaster), Labor

Guests:

- Sandeep Boppana
- Heather Gramm
- Lucas Lin
- Michael Lore
- Karen King-Sheridan
- Donald Smith

Commerce:

- Ricardo Benn
- Geri Byrd
- Afiya Bey
- Cori Duggins
- April Doss
- Hannah Fuchs
- Lee Greely
- Mary Hanley
- Mayank Kapur
- Ben McGlaughlin
- Tamar Osterman
- Jerel Registre

- Stephen Rice
- Andrew Sargent
- Judy Smith

I. Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Secretary Coker.

II. Welcome Remarks

Welcoming the Subcabinet to Frederick County, Ms. Kathie Callahan Brady, President & CEO of the Frederick Innovative Technology Center, introduced the organization as a nonprofit business incubator and accelerator committed to helping entrepreneurs launch, refine, and scale their ventures locally in Frederick, Maryland.

III. Quorum Confirmation and Conflict of Interest

Following a quorum confirmation, the conflict of interest statement was read. No conflicts of interest were acknowledged.

IV. August 20, 2026 Meeting Minutes Approval

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting minutes from August 20, 2026 were approved.

V. Action Item Review and Status

Ms. Afiya Bey reviewed the status of action items from the August 20, 2026 meeting.

VI. Discussion – Chair’s Report

Secretary Coker reported on the following topics:

- Key insights from the recent Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) conference, where a conversation arose in reference to the proposed Rural Communities Taskforce.
- Commerce will support hosting the South Africa vs. New Zealand rugby match
- Secretary Coker will be traveling to India in partnership with the Lt. Governor and Secretary of State.
- Commerce will support the upcoming MEDICA conference in November as part of the State Trade Export Promotion (STEP) program.
- Maryland will host the 2026 Quantum World Congress (QWC) from September 23-25 at The Hotel at the University of Maryland and across the College Park campus.
- New Commerce Deputy Secretary Geri Byrd was introduced, joining from the Lt. Governor’s Office.

VII. Discussion – Frederick County: Challenges and Themes

In support of the state’s goal to build a collaborative economic development ecosystem for growth, Frederick County was invited to present the challenges and opportunities within the

county. Ms. Heather Gramm, Director, Division of Economic Opportunity, Frederick County, shared the following challenges and opportunities:

- Conducting comprehensive assessments of occupations susceptible to AI-driven disruption and formulating strategic workforce readiness frameworks.
- Addressing ongoing challenges in business attraction and incentive structures, alongside reviewing the efficiency of state resource allocations.
- Identifying critical site readiness funding required to prepare locations for development, with a focus on expanding the Maryland Site Readiness Program.
- Allocating dedicated strategic focus and targeted resources toward the tourism and hospitality sectors.
- Ensuring energy capacity and grid reliability by formally recognizing natural gas as an essential transitional fuel for resource-intensive industries.

VIII. Executive Order 01.01.2024.39 Section G: Coordinated Economic Development, Marketing, and Branding Efforts with Local Governments

Tamar Osterman, Senior Director of Regional Development within the Division of Business Growth and Attraction, presented initiatives to strengthen regional collaboration. She introduced the members of the Regional Business Development Team and detailed how the team leverages strategic partnerships to enhance connectivity and build capacity.

IX. Tourism Strategic Plan

Cassandra M. Vanhooser, Managing Director, Office of Tourism, introduced herself, outlined the vision for the Tourism office and plan. She highlighted the Office of Tourism's North Star of delivering economic growth through the visitor economy.

X. Biannual Plan Update

Ms. Mary Hanley provided an update on the Maryland Biannual Integrated Economic Development Plan, including a status update on implementation planning for Maryland. The plan is to be finalized and completed by November.

XI. Good of the Order

- Deputy Secretary Stephen Rice reported that the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) will convene its annual conference in Washington, D.C., in February 2027. He noted that Montgomery County is establishing a host committee with a \$40,000 fundraising target.
- Dr. Michelle Masucci, Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development, provided an update regarding a grant proposal submitted to the National Science Foundation Artificial Intelligence Infrastructure Program. The goal of the grant is to secure funding for the establishment of an AI Hub.

XII. Summary of Key Decisions and Actions

Ms. Judy L. Smith outlined the following follow-up actions resulting from the meeting.

Action Items for the Department of Commerce:

- Provide Secretary Simmons with a copy of the data center Executive Order for feedback.
- Coordinate follow-up efforts with Frederick County on key areas:
 - Advanced Manufacturing
 - Energy initiatives
 - Investment opportunities
 - Replicating the Hood College model state-wide
 - Site Readiness (in partnership with MEDCO)
- Deputy Secretary Rice to collaborate with Tourism to incorporate tourism into the rural community challenges assessed during program evaluations, ensuring equitable eligibility criteria.
- Cassandra Vanhooser to engage with Secretary Flora to gain insight for the Fort to 400 initiatives, utilizing the Heritage Foundation framework.

Action Items for the Subcabinet:

- Each GECS member is requested to forward the names and corresponding roles of their designated "ground team" to Commerce. Commerce will compile these submissions and distribute the finalized list to all GECS members.

XIII. Adjournment

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.