

TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

March 8, 2021
9:30 A.M.
Online Meeting

MINUTES

Mr. Chris Letnaunchyn, chair, opened the meeting.

1. COMMENTS ON MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 14, 2020, MEETING

There were no comments on the minutes.

2. UASI FUNDING UPDATE

Ms. Jeramie Calandro provided an update on the FY 2021 UASI grant application. The region will be awarded \$4,250,000 in this grant cycle. The period of performance is 36 months and will run from 10/1/21 to 9/30/24. Projects must support the five national priorities and gaps identified in the Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) and State Preparedness Report (SPR).

It is recommended that projects address *Enduring Security Needs* (which was previously referred to as *National Priorities*); there is not requirement to include them in Investment Justifications (IJs) but there projects would be ranked higher if they are included:

- Effective Planning;
- Training and awareness campaigns;
- Equipment and capital projects; and
- Exercises.

Project IJs will come through committees, not through jurisdictions. T&PW Committee IJs will be sent directly to Ms. Calandro. IJs are due to her by April 23.

Projects should include how they will address terrorist threats.

There was discussion about several potential projects:

- Protecting critical infrastructure from cyberattacks

- Consequence management planning for drinking water plants
- Purchasing portable cameras to use to protect soft targets and gatherings, as needed, and use for other purposes when available

Eileen Singleton will work with the committee members to gather information and schedule a meeting to continue discussing possible projects.

[Handout: BUASI FY21 UASI Exec, Chairs, Fiscal March 4]

3. OVERVIEW OF REGIONAL FOOD AND WATER SECURITY PLANNING

Megan Bluthardt, Blake Fisher, and Dennia Palmer presented an overview of their work on food and water security planning and regional shelter planning.

The food and water grant focus is providing food and water to people. The initial goal was 50,000 people but the pandemic showed that there are over 300,000 people who are in poverty (as of 2019; it is likely that has increased due to the pandemic) in the region so they are planning for 300,000 people. A goal is to make the region more resilient so we can support our residents for as long as needed without relying on federal assistance.

They will be preparing a food and water plan and a shelter plan for each of the seven UASI jurisdictions and one regional framework document. In addition, new mutual aid agreements have been developed. The food and water planning work started in early 2020; when the pandemic hit, the work shifted to support real time needs.

The team created a menu of templates and guides to support this work. They are also creating a regional map that currently shows food and water resiliency related data including: food distribution sites, supply chain locations, and vulnerable population data. They will be adding a nuisance flooding layer and other data as it is identified/developed. Initially, Emergency Management agencies will have access to the map.

To assist with their work, please share any relevant documents with the team, including:

- Emergency water distribution plans

[Handout: RCPGP Overview-DPW version 3.8.2021]

4. UPDATE: DEVELOPMENT OF A RESOURCE GUIDE: PLANNING, DESIGNING, OPERATING, AND MAINTAINING LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

The project work has started. The first Steering Committee meeting was held January 21st and the next one is scheduled for March 31st.

Current work is focusing on Task 3: Documenting the changing climate and Task 4: Documenting direct and indirect changes including interviews with agency staff.

The 12 climate variables to focus on in the Guide were selected based on input from Steering Committee members.

[Handout: T&PW handout 3-8-21]

5. GROUP DISCUSSION

Open discussion by attendees about current activities:

Baltimore City prepared its nuisance flood plan last year, and there is interest by City Council in doing inland flooding planning. While stormwater and wastewater planning are done separately, they are connected from a resident's standpoint.

The Urban Water Federal Partnership was created 10 years ago and includes federal, state, local, and NGOs representatives discussing who does what roles relative to flooding. There is a group for Baltimore City. This group has a flooding subgroup that also includes staff from Howard County and Baltimore County. There was a comment related to flooding that residents may have insufficient or no flood insurance and renters may not receive the important information about flood insurance that owners do.

Updates regarding agency pandemic support and operations:

- MDOT and SHA have been supporting traffic assistance to state testing and vaccine sites and transport of durable medical supplies.
- Baltimore County DPW has been transporting food to distribution sites.
- Harford County highway and water and sewer field crews have resumed normal shifts and county staff have returned to the office. The public is again able to enter county buildings also.
- Howard County DPW has been assisting with the vaccine clinics. County staff are still mostly teleworking and working in the office one day per week.

There was a comment about proposed state legislation, [HB1204 Equity in Transportation Sector – Guidelines and Analyses](#) (Transportation Equity Analyses and Assurances Act of 2021) which would put various requirements on the State to help achieve equity in transportation.

6. UPDATES ON RELATED WORK

T&PW Projects

- Reminder that evacuation routes by scenario have been added to RITIS.

Disaster Debris Planning Task Force

- Task Force will have a presentations on debris monitoring software at its March 17 meeting.
- Ms. Eileen Singleton is working to set up a presentation on the specifics of snow declarations. She is working with staff from FEMA and aiming to have the presentation in the fall at a T&PW or Disaster Debris Planning Task Force meeting.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Upcoming Events: There are no scheduled events.

2021 Meetings – June 14, September 13, December 13

ATTENDEES

Members

T.J. Bathras, MDOT Maryland Transportation Authority, Operations
Jessie Bialek, Baltimore Co Dept. of Public Works
Joe Davis, MDOT Maryland Transit Administration, Support Operations
Kimberly Grove, Baltimore City Dept. of Public Works
Mark Harris, Maryland Dept. of Transportation
Dan Janousek, Maryland Dept. of Transportation
Bill Johnson, MDOT State Highway Administration, OOM
Shelley Kellam, MDOT Maryland Transportation Authority
Chris Letnaunchyn, Carroll Co Dept. of Public Works, Bureau of Engr.
Keith Link, Baltimore Co Dept. of Public Works
Timothy Peck, MDOT State Highway Administration
Kristofer Singleton, Howard Co Dept. of Public Works, Transp & Special Projects
Steve Walsh, Harford Co Dept. of Public Works, Deputy Director
Cecilia Warren, Maryland Dept. of Disabilities
Ron Westervelt, MDOT Maryland Transportation Authority

Staff and Guests

Megan Bluthardt, Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Jeramie Calandro, Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Blake Fisher, Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Todd Lang, Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Dennia Palmer, Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Eileen Singleton, Baltimore Metropolitan Council