

**Critical Area Commission
Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays
Meeting at 100 Community Place, Crownsville, Maryland**

January 4, 2023

Project Implementation Subcommittee Minutes

Attendees: Hertz (Chair), Grant, Jacobs, Laird, Mahoney, Mangum, McCall, McDowell, Parker, Roberson

Guests: Eric Freidly, Harmony Miller

Item 1. September Project Subcommittee Minutes.

Commissioner Hertz asked for a motion to approve the Project Subcommittee meeting minutes from the October meeting. Commissioner Mahoney so moved. Commissioner Mangum seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Item 2. Maryland Department of Transportation – State Highway Administration – Route 7 Pedestrian Bridge in Elkton (Cecil County)

Presented by Charlotte Shearin

Prior to giving her presentation, Ms. Shearin noted a minor date correction, on page 2, under Permit and Agency Reviews, Maryland Department of the Environment, my staff report stated the original JPA was applied for on June 18 2022 but it should have been June 18, 2020. The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) is proposing to reconstruct an existing sidewalk and curb ramps along the southside of MD 7D (Delaware Avenue), install new sidewalks, construct a 10-foot-wide pedestrian bridge over Big Elk Creek, resurface existing driveway entrances, and upgrade roadway signage. Improvements will also include removal of existing pavement along the west side of MD 7D to narrow the roadway and create a grassed area between the roadway and the new sidewalk. The project will extend from MD 281 (Main Street) to Creswell Avenue in the town of Elkton in Cecil County.

Discussion: Commissioner Parker noted that the area around Delaware Avenue floods regularly and the road has to be closed 2-3 times a year. Wondered if this is the best plan for this area. Ms. Shearin responded that the funds are not available for a bridge replacement that would solve the flooding issues, and the main issue they're dealing with is pedestrian safety. However, SHA is aware of the flooding concerns. Ms. Vainieri made note that the recommended 60 day timeframe within the staff recommended conditions are not tied to a specific date. She recommended that the words "of Commission approval" be added after 60 days to both conditions.

Commissioner Parker made a motion to approve the project with a recommended change to condition. Commissioner Mangum seconded. Commissioner Hertz abstained from voting. **Motion passed.**