

2021: The Launchpad Into a New Era of Growth and Success

In 2020, the Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP), with input from our stakeholders, put forward these recommendations to lead the Port of Baltimore into a period of growth and innovation that will benefit our economy, environment and communities for years to come.

» Funding & Policy Recommendations

Engage the Congressional Delegation as well as federal and state partners to support sufficient funding for priority DMMP projects and ensure available funding is optimized.

Work via the American Association of Port Authorities to ensure favorable legislation for the Corps navigation program and projects that benefit Port channels.

Evaluate external risks and assure the DMMP successfully adapts to changing fiscal and other circumstances while accommodating port growth and dredging needs.

» Planning & Operations Recommendations

Conduct capacity and demand planning beyond a 20-year timeframe to support long-term sustainable dredged material management options and considerations related to climate resiliency.

Incorporate the potential impacts resulting from climate change into DMMP project planning, DMCF design, and project implementation while leveraging the best science available to quantify carbon sequestration benefits from beneficially using dredged material.

Implement the 2020 Innovative Use and Beneficial Reuse Strategy and continue to pursue the acquisition of the Tronox property for implementation of long-term, large-scale Innovative Reuse and capacity recovery efforts.

Advance MDOT MPA Critical Project priorities:

- Expansion of Cox Creek DMCF
- Mid-Chesapeake Bay Island Ecosystem Restoration Project (Mid-Bay Project)
- Seagirt Marine Terminal Loop Study & Berth 3 Improvements
- Restore funding for Masonville DMCF vertical expansion

Evaluate future alternative management solutions such as CAD in Baltimore Harbor.

Establish an agreement with DNR to clearly establish roles and responsibilities regarding habitat design and future management of Hart-Miller Island.

Engage the Corps, Commonwealth of Virginia, resource agencies, and other stakeholders to identify suitable, cost-effective dredged material placement options for the Virginia Channels.

» Outreach & Education Recommendations

Engage all stakeholders equitably to increase the public's knowledge of the Port of Baltimore, port operations and dredging program, and their importance to the State of Maryland.

Recruit DMMP committee members and engage stakeholders that reflect the diversity of the communities adjacent to, and impacted by, the Port of Baltimore, and ensure the benefits of MDOT MPA restoration projects and programs are distributed equitably without disproportionate impacts on vulnerable populations.

Pivot outreach and education programs to align with COVID precautions while continuing to effectively engage a diverse array of constituents in decisions regarding dredged material management to ensure that the DMMP is executed in an inclusive, timely, and mutually-beneficial manner.



Reporting in on 2021

Despite unprecedented uncertainty and challenges, the DMMP continues to deliver on the mission to maintain the Port's 50-foot-deep channel system and its commitment to sound engineering and science-informed stakeholder engagement.

Q1 : January - March

» Funding & Policy

- The Mid-Bay Project is the Maryland Congressional Delegation's top priority for the Port. MDOT MPA is advocating for \$38 million in federal construction funding on behalf of the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and tracking its inclusion in either the President's FFY 2022 Budget, the Corps FFY 2022 Work Plan, or as a Congressional community-designated project.

» Planning & Operations

- Cox Creek Expanded base dikes were widened to approximately 200' and a uniform elevation of +36' using material reclaimed from the Cox Creek property to build the foundation needed to raise the dikes to +60'.
- Implementation of the 2020 Innovative Reuse and Beneficial Use Strategy has begun:
 - > MD Board of Public Works approved a series of contract awards that will allow MDOT MPA to identify high-volume, sustainable reuse applications to assist in identifying critical steps to making large-scale innovative reuse a reality.
 - > Ridgley's Cove, the largest demonstration project conducted to date and the first instance in which blended dredged material was used as remedial capping material, was completed.
- Construction of Poplar Island Expansion project was completed, which increases the site's placement capacity by an additional 575 acres, creating a total of approximately 1,715 total acres of habitat that will be restored
- A 5-Year Hart-Miller Island Interagency Agreement between the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), MDOT MPA, and MD Environmental Service was finalized. It renews each agency's role and responsibilities for continuing cost-effective operations in the South Cell, owned and operated as a state park by DNR, and the North Cell, currently in the habitat development phase and managed by MDOT MPA with assistance from MD Environmental Service.
- MDOT MPA, the Corps, and VMRC are actively coordinating a workgroup with scientific, regulatory, and technical managers to identify, rank, and recommend potential alternative solutions for placement of dredged material in the Commonwealth of Virginia from the Virginia Chesapeake Bay Approach Channels subset of the Baltimore Harbor and Channels Civil Works Project.
- The Mid-Bay Project Pre-Construction Engineering and Design phase continues.

» Outreach & Education

- MDOT MPA launched a new webinar Spotlight Series to enable stakeholders to engage with the Port and learn about relevant topics such as climate resiliency and the Mid-Bay Project.
- Baltimore Port Alliance hosted a Virtual Hiring & Career Expo, bringing together 29 employers and over 275 job-seekers.
- Friends of HMI was created to ultimately replace the Citizens Oversight Committee, formed 40 years ago in 1981.
- Stakeholder engagement and education programming expanded as all outreach and education work transitioned to an all-digital format via virtual platforms and relationships were forged with local Historically Black Colleges & Universities.



Q2 : April - June

» Funding & Policy

- In coordination with the American Association of Port Authorities, MDOT MPA supported implementation guidance for Water Resources Development Act 2020 submitted to Corps. Congress included renewed support for beneficial use projects like the Mid-Bay Project, solidifying support for aquatic ecosystem restoration projects that deliver substantial economic and environmental benefits.

» Planning & Operations

- Planning and site investigation studies are underway for Confined Aquatic Disposal within Baltimore Harbor to inform location siting for the next pilot cell.
- The CCE +60' dike raising and expansion contract was re-advertised. Once complete, the +60' Dike Raising Project will provide 8.8 mcy of additional capacity.
- The Seagirt Berth 3 dredging, which included wideners and a turning basin to 50' was completed.
- MDOT MPA is exploring updating the Coastal Resilience and Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment which will include dynamic modeling of sea-level rise and result in site-specific adaptation plans for the DMCFs among other MDOT MPA facilities.

» Outreach & Education

- New guidelines for public access to DMMP sites are being developed to adhere to safety protocols in preparation for phased reopening, and MDOT MPA is exploring hybrid approaches to outreach events.
- Gwynnda: The Good Wheel of the West - was installed at the mouth of the Gwynns Falls. MDOT MPA contributed to what is the State's largest trash wheel as part of the mitigation associated with Masonville DMCF construction.
- Masonville Education Center remains closed however, outdoor events continue on campus
 - > MD Geocaching Society's annual Cache Across MD attracted more than 200 visitors.
 - > Opened for the first time for Memorial Day weekend, which attracted 46 visitors, 20 of whom were first time visitors.
 - > Three eaglets hatched in the Masonville Cove uplands area under the watchful eyes of Captain Trash Wheel.

Q3 and Q4 Expected Milestones:

- Masonville dike raising design and construction to begin
- Negotiations continue for acquisition of additional property adjacent to Cox Creek Expanded
- Virginia Channels BEWG to provide recommendations on placement alternatives
- Test and implement COVID safe tours & events
- Advertisement of public notice and hearing for Barren Island (Mid-Bay) permitting
- Fleming Park offshore restoration/resiliency design and engineering plans will be completed
- Launch IRBU website tool to serve as a resource for stakeholders and provide a formal dredged material request process

