

March 23, 2020

Dear MDOT SHA Consultant/Contracting Community:

I wanted to provide you with an update as it relates to the continuation of operations of MDOT SHA Construction, Maintenance, Finance and Procurement. The COVID-19 situation changes at least daily and, in many cases, hourly. One item that remains constant is our core mission to keep our highways operational and our construction program moving forward with the resources we have available to deliver it. We will balance the delivery of that core mission with proper health practices and social distancing in our operations to minimize the spread COVID-19.

State and federal guidelines deem transportation an essential and critical function. As it relates to MDOT SHA, that includes state and consultant personnel who are supporting or delivering transportation functions. This includes, but is not limited to, construction, maintenance, dispatch, vehicle recovery, inspections, planning and design. We will continue to perform these critical functions while protecting the health and well-being of our MDOT SHA team.

During the past week, to practice social distancing, we have delivered critical tasks in virtual formats like Pre-Construction meetings, Partnering & Progress meetings, etc. We have also continued to advertise contracts and open bids; continued processing invoices and monthly pay estimates. To maximize time in the field while practicing social distancing to minimize office time, we have staggered shifts to continue construction and maintain critical transportation infrastructure for Marylanders. In some cases, lower traffic volumes have provided us opportunities to accomplish more in a typical work shift by allowing for an extended lane closure with no impact to safety of mobility. We appreciate your patience as processing administrative items may take a little longer than usual, however, MDOT SHA remains open for business.

You have also shown a tremendous amount of perseverance and creativity to mitigate COVID-19's impact on our projects. We appreciate the flexibility and dedication of our contracting community to keep Marylander's moving during these unprecedented circumstances.

If any employee becomes ill or has known contact with a person exposed to COVID-19, the employee must be sent home, and we ask that you contact your MDOT SHA Contract Manager immediately. If an employee feels ill prior to coming to work, the individual should remain home. If any employee tests positive for COVID-19, please report this to the MDOT SHA Contract Manager immediately. MDOT SHA appreciates your cooperation to keep Marylanders safe on our roadways.

Please continue to funnel any questions through your MDOT SHA Contract Manager and use the MDOT SHA website as a resource. We will continue to update and be transparent on our plans via our website.

Sincerely,



Tim Smith, P.E.
Acting Administrator