

Maryland Coordinated Permitting Review Council

Permitting Council Meeting #1

Executive Order 01.01.2024.39 Strengthening Maryland's Business Climate to
Bolster Economic Competitiveness

[Web Link](#)

Permitting Council Meeting #1

MEETING IS BEING RECORDED AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Agenda

Wednesday, April 9, 2025 – 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting

[Teams Meeting Link](#)

Agenda

- 1:00-1:10 Call to Order – Opening Round (10 min)
- 1:10-1:15 Executive Order Overview (5 min)
- 1:15-1:30 Research Findings (15 min)
- 1:30-1:50 Pilot Project Selection Criteria – ACTION (20 min)
- 1:50-2:10 Potential Pilot Projects (20 min)
- 2:10-2:30 Agency Permit Systems (20 min)
- 2:30-2:40 Intake System & Dashboard Concepts (10 min)
- 2:40-2:45 Appointed Council Seats (5 min)
- 2:45-3:00 Timeline & Next Steps (15 min)
- 3:00 Adjourn

Permitting Council Meeting #1

Introductions & Opening Round

Permitting Council Members

MDP, Lead Agency

Secretary **Rebecca Flora**, Chair

Staff: **Jason Dubow, Mike Haxel, Darius White, Sylvia Mosser, Melanie Gross**

MDA: Assistant Secretary of Plant Industries and Pest Management **Michael Calkins**

DNR: Secretary **Josh Kurtz**

Commerce: Director of Governor's Office of Business Advancement **Luis Cardona**

MDOT SHA: Assistant Secretary for Project Development and Delivery **Joe McAndrew**

MDE: Deputy Secretary **Suzanne Dorsey**

MEDCO: Executive Director **Tom Sadowski**

DHCD: Deputy Secretary **Julia Glanz**

MDSP, OSFM: Acting State Fire Marshal **Jason Mowbray**

DoIT: Deputy Secretary, Digital Experience **Marcy Jacobs**

MEA: Chief of Staff **Jenn Aiosa**

Permitting Council Meeting #1

Executive Order Overview

Core Purpose of Council (D.2.)

“The purpose of the Council is to facilitate interagency coordination and efficient processing of approvals required to **advance priority infrastructure and place-based projects** within the State to bolster transparency, ensure predictability, and foster interagency coordination to grow Maryland's economy *while safeguarding the health and safety of residents.*”

- Executive Order 01.01.2024.39

Core Areas of Responsibility (D.3.)

- Project Eligibility Criteria & Application Process
- Interagency Coordination (i.e., Working Group)
- Online Internal Intake and Public Facing Dashboard
- Reporting
- Establish Processes for Working Group Success

Permitting Council Meeting #1

Research & Inventory Findings

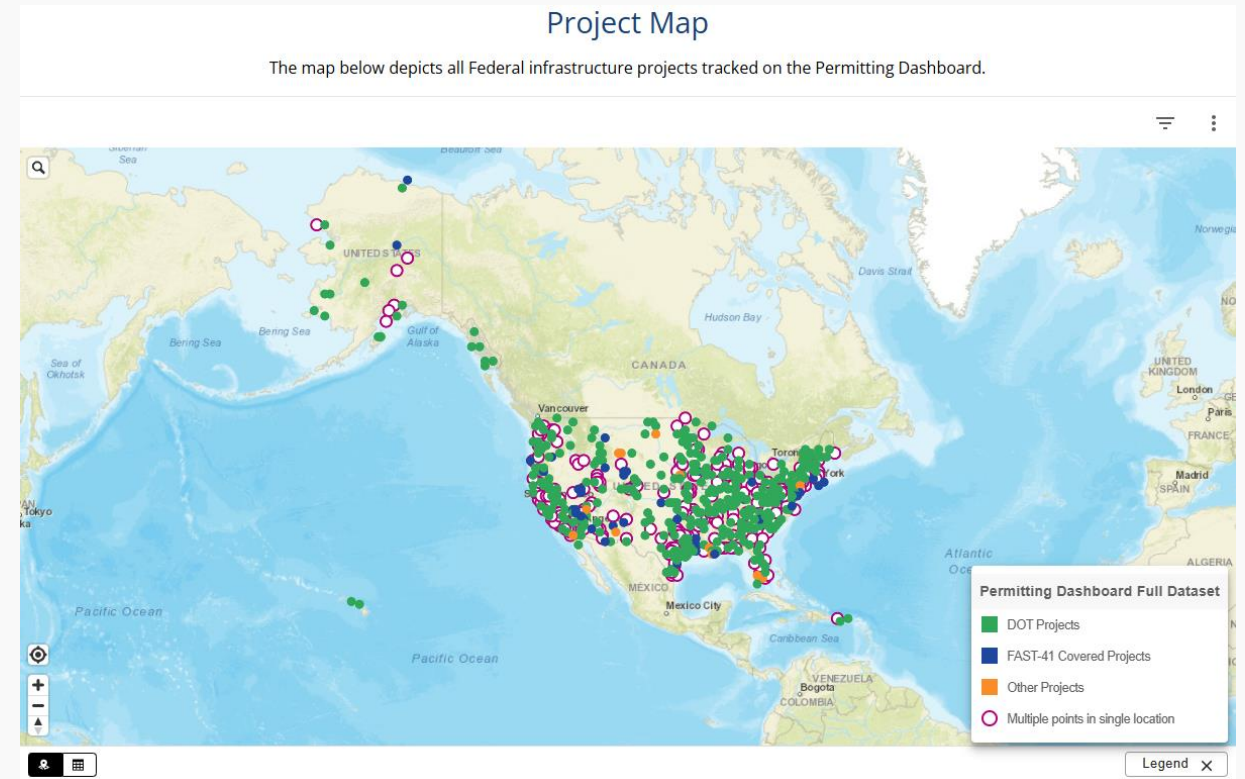
FAST-41 Model Program

A legislatively established process for improving federal agency coordination and timeliness of environmental reviews for infrastructure projects.

[Title 41 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act \(FAST Act\)](#) established the [FAST-41](#) review process and the Permitting Council to implement it.

The Permitting Council provides focused, hands-on permitting support to infrastructure projects and improves efficiency through clearer timelines and better coordination across federal agencies.

All projects in the FAST-41 project portfolio are tracked on the public [Permitting Dashboard](#).



<https://www.permits.performance.gov/>

Government Efficiency Commission (GEC)

The Government Efficiency Commission was established by the [Transparent Government Act of 2024](#).

Members of Commission

Co-Chairs: Asma Mirza; Manny Welsh

Business Community Representatives: Balfour “Rico” E. Albacarys-Roop; Raymond G. Jackson; Linda L. Singh, Ph.D.

Delegate Tiffany T. Alston

Department Representatives: Kevin A. Anderson, Secretary of Commerce; Serena C. McIlwain, Secretary of the Environment; Clint Hackett, Deputy Secretary of Health for Operations; Jacob R. Day, Secretary of Housing & Community Development; Marcy Jacobs, Chief Digital Experience Officer; Portia Y. Wu, Esq., Secretary of Labor; Rebecca L. Flora, Secretary of Planning; Tony Bridges, Assistant Secretary of Transportation; Yolanda Maria Martinez, Special Secretary of Small, Minority, & Women Business Affairs

Commission Staff: Brad Fallon, Giselle Campos Ramirez

Key Findings

In total, 1,283 permits, licenses, certifications were identified through the cataloging process. To the Commission’s knowledge, this is the first comprehensive catalog of such credentials maintained by the State. Of the 1,283 credentials identified, 311 are permits, 755 are licenses, and 236 are certifications, including tax credit certificates.

GEC, Cont.

Government Efficiency Commission

December 2024 Report

*Respectfully submitted to the Governor and
the General Assembly of Maryland
December 2024*

Recommendations

1. Establish a Maryland Coordinated Permitting Review Council modeled after the federal Permitting Council to foster efficient interagency coordination of reviews for priority projects.
2. Establish a unified permitting portal.
3. Ensure that all credentialing units have access to digital infrastructure necessary for expedient and efficient collection and processing of application and timeline tracking.
4. Focus initial reform efforts on 10 priority credentials and approval processes.
5. Criminal history background impact of credential eligibility.
6. Establish a reporting system to ensure compliance with reporting requirements of the Transparent Government Act of 2024.
7. Each credentialing unit should review credentials that receive fewer than 50 applications annually to determine whether state approval is necessary.

<https://governor.maryland.gov/Documents/Government%20Efficiency%20Commission%20-%20Report.pdf>

Virginia Permit Transparency (VPT)

Virginia developed an interagency permit application tracking system to address permit piling concerns and a lack of transparency.

VPT currently includes 8 agencies, and 4 additional agencies are onboarding into the system now/soon (this will encompass ~90% of all state permits, certifications, and licenses).

They hired a consultant who developed the system, and used a top-down approach to inform agencies they needed to comply. Based on our research, VA is currently the only state with a public-facing interagency permit system.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Virginia Permit Transparency (VPT) system. The header is dark blue with the title 'Virginia Permit Transparency (VPT)' and navigation links for 'About VPT', 'Participating Agencies', and a red 'Search Applications' button. The main content area is light blue and features a 'Home' link, the text 'Commonwealth of Virginia', and the title 'Application Tracking System'. A welcome message explains the system's purpose. Below this are three main sections: 'Track Submitted Applications' with a search icon and a 'Search Applications' button; 'How to Use VPT' with an information icon and a 'Learn About VPT' button; and 'Learn Where to Apply for a Permit, License, or Certification' with a checklist icon and a 'View Participating Agencies' button. The footer is dark blue with links for 'VPT's Mission', 'Technical Support', and 'Application Help'.

<https://permits.virginia.gov/>

VPT Results

We spoke with staff from the Virginia Governor's Office, Office of Regulatory Management (ORM), and the Virginia IT Agency (VITA) on March 12, 2025 about the results of the VPT.

- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality permit processing time is down by 70%
 - Public-facing = management tool
 - Re-allocated permits among divisions
- Buy-in from agencies who were initially skeptical
 - The system clarified that permit delays are often not the state agency's fault
- Dashboard Gantt Chart allows users to view how well (or not) the actual permit process timeline is meeting the anticipated timeline

VPT vs. MCPR

VPT

- ✓ Top-down order issued to comply
- ✓ Agency by agency enlistment
- ✓ Permits, certifications, and licenses

MCPR

- ✓ Interagency collaboration to ID solutions
- ✓ Comprehensive review of pilot projects
- ✓ Specific types of permits only

Other Findings

- [San Diego Permitting](#)
 - comprehensive overview of the Development Services Department's (DSD) permit data, inspections and code enforcement
- [Prince George's County](#)
 - uses Momentum for online application of certain permit types
- [D.C.'s Department of Buildings](#)
 - regulates construction activity
- [Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection](#)
 - provides environmental permit tracking to the public
- [West Virginia's Department of Environmental Protection](#)
 - has an E-Permitting Application Search

Permitting Council Meeting #1

Pilot Projects Selection Criteria - ACTION

Criteria Categories—Council Approval

- E.O., D.7.b. Project Criteria (Required Considerations)
 - Cost Range
 - Complexity Level
 - Type
 - Geographic Location
 - Design/Development Stage
- E.O., F. 1. a. & b. Priority Industries and Emerging Sectors (Optional Considerations)
 - Priority Industries
 - Emerging Sectors

Criteria Categories

- Project Criteria
 - Cost Range
 - \$0 - <\$100,000
 - \$100,000 - < \$500,000
 - \$500,000 - < \$1 MILLION
 - \$1 MILLION - < \$10 MILLION
 - \$10 MILLION - < \$100 MILLION
 - \$100 MILLION - < \$500 MILLION
 - \$500 MILLION - < \$1 BILLION
 - \$1 BILLION - < \$5 BILLION

Criteria Categories

- Project Criteria
 - Complexity Level
 - Low (simple problem; no special resources or procedures needed)
 - Medium (complicated problem; analysis and coordination needed)
 - High (complicated problem; extra resources and experts needed)
 - Extreme (complex problem; extra resources, experts, and innovation needed)

Criteria Categories

- Project Criteria
 - Type
 - Residential
 - Mixed-Use (combined commercial and residential)
 - Commercial (e.g. retail, restaurant, office, hotel, grocery)
 - Institutional (e.g. hospital, school/university)
 - Industrial (e.g. factory, manufacturing, warehouse)
 - Energy Infrastructure (e.g. solar, wind, nuclear, fossil fuel generating and distribution systems)
 - Transportation Infrastructure (e.g. bridge, road, rail, airport)
 - Telecommunications Infrastructure (e.g. data center, broadband internet, mobile towers, radio broadcasting)
 - Water/Sewer Infrastructure (e.g. treatment plants, dam, levee, drainage)
 - Waste Management Infrastructure (e.g. landfill, recycling, hazardous waste transport)
 - Recreational (e.g. stadium, amusement park, theatre, park, playground, beach)

Criteria Categories

- Project Criteria
 - Geographic Location
 - Western Region (Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties)
 - Capital Region (Frederick, Montgomery, and Prince George's Counties)
 - Central Region (Baltimore City, and Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard Counties)
 - Southern Region (Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties)
 - Eastern Shore Region (Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot, Caroline, Dorchester, Wicomico, Somerset, Worcester, and Cecil)

Criteria Categories

- Project Criteria
 - Design/Development Stage
 - Schematic Design
 - Design Development
 - Construction Documents
 - Bidding/Negotiation
 - Pre-Construction
 - Construction

Criteria Categories

- Priority Industries and Emerging Sectors
 - Priority Industries
 - Life Sciences
 - Information Technology
 - Aerospace
 - Defense
 - Emerging Sectors
 - Computational Biology
 - Quantum Technology
 - Position, Navigation, and Timing (PNT)

Pilot Projects Selection Criteria – ACTION

Motion to approve the Project Selection Criteria as presented.

Potential Projects Submitted To-date – Future Council Approval

Potential Pilot Projects

13 potential pilot projects have been proposed by Working Group members:

- 6 high impact projects
- Representation of 4 out of the 8 proposed project cost ranges
- Representation of 8 out of the 11 proposed project types (e.g. industrial, energy infrastructure, etc.)
- Representation of 4 out of the 5 proposed geographic regions
- Representation of 4 out of the 6 proposed design/development stages

Coordinated Project Plans

A Coordinated Project Plan is a Microsoft Projects work plan for each pilot project—Working Group members will take the lead on these.

Coordinated Project Plans should go beyond “business as usual,” so we are promoting better outcomes.

- Microsoft Projects work plan for each pilot project
 - Developed by Working Group members
 - Project plans should be elevated beyond standard practice
 - Consider potential efficiency improvements
 - Promote more successful outcomes

Bainbridge FME1 Project



Permitting Council Meeting #1

Agency Permit System Highlights

Agency Permit Systems Overview

- Current Systems
 - Microsoft Power BI (MDOT)
 - OneStop (Statewide)
 - Egov/Business Express (Statewide)
 - Salesforce (MDA)
- Efficiency Reviews
 - MDOT SHA—identifying bottlenecks in the permitting process for road access management requests
 - DoIT—evaluating technologies and developing work flow maps for every permit in Maryland
- New Systems
 - MDE—developing online permit application system and dashboard
 - DNR—Forest Conservation Act permitting software effort



MDE Current System and Work in Progress



MDOT SHA Current System and Work in Progress



DoIT Systems Approach

Permitting Council Meeting #1

Intake System and Dashboard

Intake System and Dashboard

- MDP is reviewing the Government Efficiency Council (GEC) report, established under the Transparent Government Act of 2024, which mandates a statewide assessment of licensing, permitting, and certification processes to improve efficiency and transparency.
- Findings from this report, along with research on external models, will guide the Permitting Council's collaboration with DoIT and other agencies in developing a comprehensive framework to streamline permitting processes and improve transparency.

Permitting Council Meeting #1

Project Milestones and Timeframes

Project Milestones and Timeframes – *draft*

Milestone	Timeframe	Status
Form Council, Working Group, and Dashboard Focus Group	Jan.-Mar. 2025	Complete
Dashboard Focus Group Meets	Mar. 18, 2025 & as needed	In Progress
Working Group Meets	Mar. 24, 2025 & regularly	In Progress
Council Meets	Apr. 9, 2025 & regularly	In Progress
Select Pilot Projects	Apr.-May 2025	Pending
Obtain Gov. Office approval for system concept/design	May 2025	Pending
Develop Project Coordination Plans for Pilot Projects	May-Dec. 2025	Pending
First quarterly report due to Governor	Jun. 30, 2025	Pending
Form User Focus Group to vet the system	Jun.-Jul. 2025	Pending
Design System	Jul. 2025-Mar. 2026	Pending
Run Pilot Projects through the System	Mar.-Jun. 2026	Pending
Comprehensive report on preliminary findings and outcomes due to Governor	Jul. 1, 2026	Pending

Permitting Council Meeting #1

Next Steps & Closing Round

NEXT STEPS

- April 21, May 19: Working Group Meeting
 - Review and Recommend Project List
- Tech Design Task Group
- Agency Assessment Task Group
- June 16: Next Permitting Council Meeting (third Monday's through 2025)
 - Approve Project List
 - Appointed Council Seats Filled
 - Agency Assessment Update
 - Tech Design Update
 - Identify Capacity Gaps & Needs
 - Draft Quarterly Report to the Governor - Review

Permitting Council Members

MDP, Lead Agency

Secretary **Rebecca Flora**, Chair

Staff: **Jason Dubow, Mike Haxel, Darius White, Sylvia Mosser, Melanie Gross**

MDA: Assistant Secretary of Plant Industries and Pest Management **Michael Calkins**

DNR: Secretary **Josh Kurtz**

Commerce: Director of Governor's Office of Business Advancement **Luis Cardona**

MDOT SHA: Assistant Secretary for Project Development and Delivery **Joe McAndrew**

MDE: Deputy Secretary **Suzanne Dorsey**

MEDCO: Executive Director **Tom Sadowski**

DHCD: Deputy Secretary **Julia Glanz**

MDSP, OSFM: Acting State Fire Marshal **Jason Mowbray**

DoIT: Deputy Secretary, Digital Experience **Marcy Jacobs**

MEA: Chief of Staff **Jenn Aiosa**