ITEM #19:   CHESAPEAKE BAY BRIDGE-TUNNEL (CBBT) PARALLEL THIMBLE SHOAL TUNNEL CONSTRUCTION AND PARALLEL CHESAPEAKE TUNNEL PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING: UPDATES
Michael Crist, CBBTD

The Parallel Thimble Shoal Tunnel (PTST) project is being undertaken by the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Tunnel District (the District) to provide a second tunnel under Thimble Shoal Channel. When complete, the new tunnel will carry two lanes of traffic southbound and the existing tunnel will carry two lanes of traffic northbound, thereby improving the safety of the traveling public. The new tunnel will be approximately 6,500 feet in length and will be 42 feet in diameter.

The design-build delivery method was used for procurement and the contract was awarded in July 2016 to Chesapeake Tunnel Joint Venture (CTJV), in the amount of $756 million. The project is scheduled for completion in 2027.

Currently, the contractor (Chesapeake Tunnel Joint Venture) is working on modifying One Island and Two Island as necessary to create the Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) launching and receiving pits. In addition, CTJV is constructing engineered berms to extend the islands into the Chesapeake Bay to accommodate the TBM construction.

The TBM is in transit from Germany and will arrive in port mid-July. The TBM will be assembled over the second half of the year and will begin tunneling operations in early 2023.

The Parallel Chesapeake Tunnel project is in the preliminary engineering (PE) phase. The Parallel Chesapeake Tunnel project will complete the overall parallel project that was initiated in the 1990s to create a 4-lane facility from toll plaza to toll plaza.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements have been completed. Geotechnical investigations have been completed and the technical requirements have been drafted for the project. The project is ready for construction, pending funding identification.

Mr. Michael Crist, P.E. CBBTD Deputy Executive Director, Infrastructure, will brief the HRTPO Board on this item.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Informational purposes.