



## Lt. Governor visits Cecil on 'economic development' tour

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Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown spent most of the day in Cecil County Monday, addressing the business community at a luncheon, touring Bainbridge and stopping for a visit at the YMCA and ATK.

"Quite impressive," said Brown, after seeing the historic buildings that remain from the old Tome School property adjacent to the former U.S. Naval Training Center at Bainbridge. "I think they are truly worth saving, but it's sad to see them in such disrepair."

Brown was asked to view the site by members of the Bainbridge Development Corporation and Delegate David Rudolph (D-Cecil).

BDC Executive Director Donna Tapley told Brown they wanted to give him a "small glimpse" of the 1,200-acre site that faces yet another environmental cleanup before it can be redeveloped.

"We want your support with this project, which we think is really important to the state," said Tapley.

After briefing Brown on the site's history she suggested that Bainbridge's redevelopment could be a high priority project to be considered by a new state process that Brown said he's been appointed to chair.

Maryland Made Easy is a new process Gov. Martin O'Malley announced earlier this year to coordinate state agencies in an effort to simplify regulation, permit and license requirements for major development projects in the state.

Tapley said the BDC has made progress at working toward a cleanup by bringing the Navy to the table with the Maryland Department of the Environment.

"After four to six months of technical work on remediation options, we'll need funding," Tapley said.

"I'll talk to (MDE Secretary) Bob Summers to see his take on this," Brown said.

"It seems the BDC has broad support for this project and it seems to be moving forward - all of which is encouraging news. A project the size of Bainbridge would likely meet the criteria for our consideration," he added.

Earlier in the day, Brown addressed about 100 business leaders at a Cecil County Chamber of Commerce lunch meeting in Charlestown where he was hit with questions about the proposed toll hike.

"We know the Maryland Transportation Authority has proposed toll increases, which will be subject to about seven public hearings around the state this summer," said Brown.

"We also know that Maryland has crumbling infrastructure that requires maintenance and resources to pay for it," he added, calling the subject a "thorny issue."

"I encourage everyone to weigh in on this debate," Brown said.

A public hearing on the issue will be held in Cecil County on June 16 at 6 p.m. at Perryville High School.