



**MAINE TURNPIKE AUTHORITY  
MEETING**

**January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026**

1. Pursuant to notice, a meeting of the Maine Turnpike Authority was held at 9 a.m. on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026.

The following were present:

Michael Cianchette, Chair  
Jane Lincoln, Vice Chair  
Emily Becker, Member  
Nina Fisher, Member  
Thomas Zuke, Member  
Acting MaineDOT Commissioner Dale Doughty

2. Chairman Michael Cianchette called the meeting to order at 9 A.M.
3. Acting Commissioner Dale Doughty proposed a moment of silence in memory of James Brown and Dwayne Campbell, two MaineDOT employees who had recently lost their lives in a work zone crash in Waterville, Maine. The board and all others present observed a moment of silence.
4. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Jane Lincoln, the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the board's December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meeting.
5. John Sirois, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, reported on traffic and revenue. He stated that revenue was down about 4.5% and transaction as about 1.5%, which was a small improvement from his written report. He said that he believed a significant reason for this was the weather, with January, 2025 having been pretty much storm free while this January there had been several snow events.
6. Mr. Sirois reported that the implementation of purchasing cards to replace paper purchase orders had begun, with U.S. Bank having been selected from among several vendors.
7. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Nina Fisher, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve the investments of the Authority for the month of

December, 2025, as presented in a report from Bangor Savings Bank dated January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

8. Executive Director Andre Briere reported to the board on various matters. He noted that the purchasing cards John Sirois had mentioned were a result of the current effort to re-examine internal processes. Mr. Briere said he believed the cards would lessen administrative burden while increasing efficiency and accountability. He said that staff was proceeding to negotiations with Applegreen, with the condition that Applegreen conclude a final agreement with the current fuel vendor, C.N. Brown. He said that the MTA's work zone enforcement bill, LD 1457, was "on the five yard line", noting that a lot of meetings with legislators had taken place and that the governor had authorized MaineDOT to support the bill as well. He said that a Hall of Flags event and press conference to educate on the bill was planned for January 27<sup>th</sup>.
9. Director Briere spoke about recent efforts to focus MTA employees more on workplace safety, a topic he had addressed in a meeting with highway maintenance foremen the day before. He said that he was trying to communicate to employees that they should know it was not only their right, but their duty, to declare safety issues when they see them and that, when this happens, all work should stop until the issue is resolved or up-channeled.
10. Chief Administrative Officer Erin Sullivan reported on customer service and violation processing. Chairman Cianchette questioned why the IBM "system i" had a much higher rate of acceptance of violations than human reviewers. Director of Information Technology, William Yates, said that this was likely because only plates that had been reviewed and accepted three times by human reviewers were allowed to be processed by the automated system, so these were all plates that had been matched to registered owners previously.
11. Ms. Sullivan reported that a new Human Resources Director had been hired and would be starting in early February. She said that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Labor Management Committee meeting had taken place the week before and that they would be meeting every six weeks from now on.
12. Director of Finance Matthew Elliott reported to the board on an increased premium in the MTA's workers compensation excess insurance policy. Mr. Elliott said that in 2024, the board had approved a policy with Arch Insurance with a two-year rate lock. He said this would be the second year of the contract, and the overall premium had gone up because the rate was based on the MTA's estimated payroll, which had increased for 2026. He noted that this might be subject to adjustment at the end of the year if the payroll estimates the MTA had reported to Arch were high, which they usually were.
13. Tim Cote of HNTB Corporation presented a report summarizing the findings of his firm's study of cash paying users of the Maine Turnpike. He said a survey of cash users would be the next step, and would be implemented this year. Emily Becker suggested that the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard should be targeted in this outreach.

14. Executive Director Briere said that he had been surprised by the number of young people he had observed paying cash tolls and said that he hoped the upcoming mobile app would encourage them to switch to E-Z Pass. Emily Becker agreed that she thought this might be the case, noting that one young person she knew had called the E-Z Pass website “clunky” and said that required automatic replenishment levels were too high. Nina Fisher seconded this, saying she had heard similar things, and suggested that the MTA ask toll takers what they had been hearing on the subject, and try to reach out on social media for feedback as well.
15. Director of Maintenance John Cannell reported on winter maintenance activities. He noted an error in the written report, clarifying that 72,061 gallons of salt brine had been used in December, not 55,915, as in the report. He said December had been a very busy month, with three major storm events affecting the entire turnpike, and double the consumption of salt over December, 2024 usage. He said that December had also been extremely cold, one of the 20 lowest months on record.
16. Mr. Cannell next introduced proposed snow plow blade purchases. He explained that usually the annual purchase was about \$300,000, but that last year the MTA had only ordered about half the usual amount because tariffs had been imposed and the decision had been made to wait for further purchases. Mr. Cannell said that, of the amount proposed today, about \$38,000 resulted from tariff charges and there were also 25 new trucks to be outfitted.
17. On motion of Nina Fisher, seconded by Emily Becker, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve the purchases of plow blades from Jordan Equipment in the amount of \$299,911.33, and from Kueper, in the amount of \$423,037.71.
18. Staff Attorney Jonathan Arey reviewed proposed changes to the MTA’s Benefits Policy and Confidentiality of Records policy with the board. There were no questions or comments on the changes.
19. Mr. Arey reviewed a presentation with the board on Maine’s Freedom of Access Act, in order to meet training requirements for board members on the Freedom of Access Act. Mr. Arey explained that the training requirements had been enacted by the legislature in 2025.
20. Purchasing Manager Nate Carll presented a list of 2025 sole source vendor payments on a document entitled “Sole Sourced Vendor Payments Over \$ 25,000 Not Directly Approved by Vote of the Board”, and dated January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026.
21. On motion of Tom Zuke, seconded by Nina Fisher, and with unanimous approval of the members present, the payments on the list were approved.
22. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Nina Fisher, the board voted to approve and accept an easement from the town of Gray, allowing an entrance to Weymouth Road in Gray for the MTA’s existing emergency vehicle ramp there. The easement was granted in

favor of the MTA and an abutter jointly, with the understanding that the MTA's existing entrance would be used for access by both parties.

23. Chairman Michael Cianchette asked if there were any objections to the purchases contained on the January, 2026 Consent Agenda. There being no objections, the consent agenda was considered approved.
24. Deputy Director of Engineering Kristi Van Ooyen presented two contracts for awards. Ms. Van Ooyen said that two competitive bids had been received on the paving contract, but on the tunnel repair contract only one bid had been received, which was well above the engineer's estimate. She said that this project had been previously put out to bid unsuccessfully, and repackaged by staff. She said that the need for repairs was pressing, and staff recommended award of this contract in spite of the high bid. She said that there were a lot of logistical issues with this contract that were difficult to estimate for.
25. Chairman Cianchette asked if any other bidders had attended the pre-bid meeting on the tunnel repair contract. Purchasing Manager Nate Carll answered that CPM had been the only one at the meeting and the only bidder.
26. On motion of Nina Fisher, seconded by Emily Becker, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve award of the following contracts:
  - Contract 2026.02 – Pavement Rehabilitation and Safety Improvements, in the amount of \$ 7,279,558.50, to Pike Industries.
  - Contract 2026.22 – Toll Tunnel Repairs, in the amount of \$ 876,700.00, to CPM Constructors.
27. Project Manager Jamie Mason reported on ongoing construction projects. Mr. Mason said that the contractor was working southbound on the Androscoggin Bridge, chipping concrete and building forms. He said that the Auburn Vehicle Storage Garage's footing was about 60 percent done. He said the contractor working on the concrete haunch removal project was working at night, rotating crews due to the cold. He reported that the contractor on the Saco River Bridge project was removing and reconstructing the concrete curbs on either side of the bridge.
28. Director of Communications Rebecca Grover reported on activities relating to her department. She described recent Portland Press Herald stories on the MTA's dispatch center and other aspects of its storm response. She shared a WGME televised segment on the MTA's weather stations, noting that this story had been picked up nationally. She described a method used to calculate the value of "earned media" like this that her department intended to use in the future.
29. Ms. Grover shared a list of legislative bills that were being followed by her department, described the upcoming Hall of Flags event and press conference on the pending work zone enforcement bill, and said that the 2025 Annual Report was in the works.

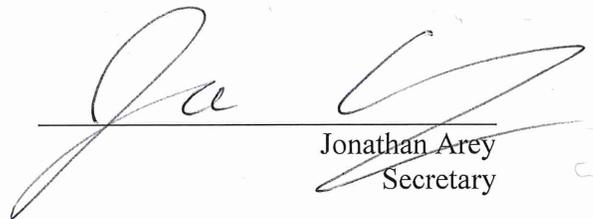
January, 2026

30. On motion of Nina Fisher, seconded by Thomas Zuke, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to enter executive session for the purposes of:

- Discussion, pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(6)(A), of personnel issues relating to the employment of an individual or group of individuals where public discussion could reasonably be expected to violate one or more of the individuals' right to privacy.

31. The executive session began at 10:47 A.M. and ended at 11:13 A.M.

Adjourned at 11:13 A.M.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jonathan Arey  
Secretary

3/26/26  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date