



**MAINE TURNPIKE AUTHORITY
MEETING**

April 25, 2024

1. Pursuant to notice, a meeting of the Maine Turnpike Authority was held at 9 a.m. on April 25, 2024

The following were present:

Daniel Wathen, Chair
Michael Cianchette, Vice Chair
Jane Lincoln, Member
Thomas Zuke, Member
Bruce Van Note, Member Ex-Officio

2. On motion of Michael Cianchette, seconded by Thomas Zuke, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve the minutes of the board's March 28th meeting.
3. John Sirois, Director of Finance and Treasurer, reported on traffic and revenue. He stated that volumes of all vehicle classes were up except for delivery vehicles. Thomas Zuke asked if the discount program figures were higher than expected. Mr. Siois answered that the numbers were high in real dollars, but not more than expected when viewed as a percentage of revenue.
4. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Jane Lincoln, with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve investments of money to the credit of Maine Turnpike Authority funds made during the month of March, 2024, as detailed on a report submitted to this meeting by Bangor Savings Bank, dated March 6th, 2024.
5. Executive Director Peter Mills said that most of the comments he had for the board related to items that would be reviewed in executive session and that he would therefore forego his usual report.
6. Director of Maintenance John Cannell reported to the board on winter maintenance activities. He said that March and April had been particularly big months due to two large

storm events and that 5,000 tons of salt had been used just in those months. He noted that, even so, employee hours and salt use were down significantly from previous years.

7. Commissioner Bruce Van Note asked how much a large storm event cost the MTA. John Sirois answered that he had calculated that the last storm cost a million dollars, including salt, overtime and lost revenue. Commissioner Van Note asked for a delta showing MTA savings for this season when compared to the 2022-2023 season. John Cannell said that could be provided, noting that, for salt, \$70 a ton multiplied by 10,000 tons would be a rough approximation of the savings.
8. Director of E-Z Pass Pam Lambert presented bids received for a contract to process and mail the MTA's E-Z Pass statements. She said that the contract would be for three years with two one year optional renewals. She noted that staff currently did all printing, inserting and mailing and that the machine used to do that was nearing the end of its usefulness and out of order frequently. She also noted that the MTA currently paid the regular first class mail rate, whereas the company that had submitted the low bid would save 9 cents per piece, amounting to approximately \$10,000 a year for postage alone.
9. On motion of Jane Lincoln, seconded by Thomas Zuke, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve a three year contract for the MTA's E-Z Pass account statement processing to Mailings Unlimited in the amount of \$ 202,657.05.
10. Chairman Wathen asked if there were any questions or objections related to items on the consent agenda. There were none, and the April Contract Consent Agenda was considered approved.
11. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Michael Cianchette, and with the unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to grant the Portland Water District a license to install a 16 inch iron water main under the Maine Turnpike north of Blackstrap Road in Cumberland, Maine, all in accordance with documents presented to the board.
12. Chief of Operations Peter Merfeld, discussed the current advertisement schedule for contracts with the board. He said that the slope failure in New Gloucester he had described to the board in March had been stabilized and that staff was putting together a set of plans to advertise for repair of the culvert.
13. On motion of Michael Cianchette, seconded by Thomas Zuke, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve the award of the following contracts:
 - Contract 2024.07 – Bridge Repairs, in the amount of \$ 2,517,008.00, to CPM Constructors.
 - Contract 2024.09 – York Vehicle Storage Garage, in the amount of \$2,228,630.39, to Optimum Construction, Inc.

14. Engineering Program Manager Kristi Van Ooyen presented a proposal to amend five of the MTA's current engineering consultant contracts in order to increase the dollar limit of those contracts and/or to extend them through 2025 in order to allow time for completion of task orders issued thus far in 2024, all as shown on a document provided to the board entitled "Consultant Contracts for 2020-2024."
15. On motion of Michael Cianchette, seconded by Thomas Zuke, and with unanimous approval of the members present the following contract modifications were approved:
 - An increase in the not to exceed amount of Contract 2019.105c – Contract Inspection Services, from \$5,000,000 to \$5,500,000.
 - An increase in the not to exceed amount of Contract 2019.105g – Contract Inspection Services, from \$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000.
 - An increase in the not to exceed amount of Contract 2019.110a – Engineering Design Services, from \$12,000,000 to \$16,000,000, and an extension of that contract's expiration date to December 31st, 2025.
 - An extension of the expiration date of Contract 2019.110b – Engineering Design Services to December 31st, 2025.
 - An extension of the expiration date of Contract 2019.110c – Engineering Design Services to December 31st, 2025.
16. Construction Project Manager Jamie Mason updated the board in regard to ongoing projects. Mr. Mason said that the contractor had returned earlier than expected to the Saco Interchange project, and was currently working on the collector-distributor roadway. He said there was some utility work by CMP that needed to be completed on the project in order to avoid delay. He said that the Route 122 project was on schedule to be open to traffic by the end of November. He reported that prep work and milling were underway on the two paving projects in Kittery and Scarborough. Mr. Mason said that the contractor on the Wells paving project was working on emergency repairs, mostly at night, and would resume the paving project when those were complete. He said the clearing project was pretty much complete and that three lanes were now open on the Stroudwater Bridge after bridge joint repairs from CPM constructors.
17. Erin Courtney, Public Relations Manager, reported on items related to her department. She said the regular legislative session had ended, though veto day had not yet been set. She said that no special session was expected so that the MTA was likely to be short one member until the fall. She shared a report on public comments received regarding the Gorham project with the board, as well as some recent winter storm photography. She shared a copy of a letter from GPCOG to the four towns in the project area advocating for MTA support of transit in the area, among other things.

18. Chairman Wathen asked if there were any comments or questions from members of the public. There were none.
19. On motion of Michael Cianchette, 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)(C), of property acquisitions necessary for construction of a Gorham Connector.
 - Discussion, pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(6)(E), of the legal rights and duties of the MTA in regard to the permitting process for the Gorham Connector.

The executive session began at 9:40 A.M. and ended at 10:20 A.M.

20. On motion of Michael Cianchette, seconded by Thomas Zuke, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to ratify the purchase and sale agreement entered into by MTA staff with Brian and James Hebert for the purchase of property in Gorham, Maine.
21. On motion of Michael Cianchette, seconded by Thomas Zuke, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to adjourn.

Adjourned at 10:23 A.M.


Jonathan Arey
Secretary

11/4/24
Date