MAINE TURNPIKE AUTHORITY
MEETING
September 3rd, 2026

1. Pursuant to notice, a meeting of the Maine Turnpike Authority was held at 9 a.m. on September 3rd, 2026. The meting was held at the headquarters of the Maine Turnpike Authority in Portland, Maine.

   The following members participated:

   Michael Cianchette, Chair
   Jane Lincoln, Vice Chair
   Emily Becker, Member
   William Benson, Member
   Nina Fisher, Member
   Thomas Zuke, Member
   Dale Doughty, MaineDOT Commissioner and Member Ex-Officio

2. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Nina Fisher, the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the board's July 23rd, 2026 meeting, with the provision that Emily Becker's absence from the list of member participating be corrected. Chairman Cianchette noted for the record that the board appreciated Maine Motor Transport Association's willingness to host that MTA meeting.

3. John Sirois, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, reported on traffic and revenue. He said that comparisons with last year's number could be a little difficult due to the fact that I-Tolls were being processed much more quickly now, whereas in previous years there had always been a large backlog of unprocessed transactions at this time of year. He said that transactions were up about 1 percent and revenue growth was basically flat as compared to last year. Mr. Sirois said that his prediction was for slightly less than one percent growth over the course of 2026 and that it looked like this would be accurate.

4. Executive Director Andre Briere said that there was no specific employee recognition scheduled this month, but that he wanted to congratulate the Communications Department for the excellent work they had been doing the last several months. He said the recent "pup cup" day held at the Kennebunk Service Plaza in conjunction with the Animal Welfare Society had been a great success.

5. Executive Director Andre Briere reported to the board on various matters. He said the Applegreen Lease had been finalized and signed and the transition was underway. He reported that training on Sharepoint was ongoing, and the release of the MTA's mobile app would take place later this month. He said that more "town hall" style meetings with employees would take place this fall and that he would share the presentation with the board when complete.

6. Director Briere discussed the recent retreat, held one year after commencement of the current strategic planning initiative. He said that, from the beginning, one of the key goals of this process had been to empower employees to take the initiative on projects and that it had been a success in that regard. He noted that some of the best ideas from the committees, such as the public service subcommittee and development of a mobile E-Z Pass service, had been from employees who were not in management, and those employees were currently taking the lead in implementation of those ideas.

7. Chairman Cianchette described the purpose and function of board liaisons to the MTA's cross functional workgroups and pointed out the list of liaisons to the board. He said that unless there were objections to the current assignments he would leave them as is. There were no objections.

8. Chairman Cianchette noted that this was the MTA's annual meeting and that the board was statutorily required to elect its officers and vice chair at this meeting.

9. On motion of Nina Fisher, seconded by Emily Becker, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve the existing slate of officers for the 2026-2027 term, as follows:

Vice Chair	Jane Lincoln
Executive Director	Andre Briere
Treasurer	John Sirois
Secretary	Jonathan Arey

10. Executive Manager of Special Projects Bruce Van Note reported to the board on Phase 2 of the Portland Area Mainline Safety Program. He reviewed the history of Phase 1 of the project, then gave a presentation on the current status of Phase 2.

11. William Benson said that he would like staff to look at moving up the start of construction on this project from 2029. He asked if the MTA could set a goal for 2028, and fall back on the next year if necessary. Commissioner Dale Doughty noted that the MaineDOT's I-295 bridge replacements would have impacts on this project, as well as downtown Portland, and that he intended for the MTA and MaineDOT to work closely together on staging of both projects to minimize the negative impacts.

12. Jane Lincoln noted that the cost allocated to the additional lane was only $4.4 million. She asked if this was because much of the additional pavement would be added in the bridge expansions and that the through lane paving would only involve the areas between those

projects. Mr. Van Note replied that this was true. He said that the MTA needed the additional pavement in the vicinity of the expanded bridges for maintenance, and the increased safety of a wider shoulder.

13. On motion of Jane Lincoln, seconded by Nina Fisher, and with unanimous approval of the members present, voting by roll call, the following resolution was adopted:

Background. Phase 2 of the Portland Area Mainline Safety Program will improve approximately three miles of the Maine Turnpike (I-95) mainline between Exits 48 and 53. Construction of Phase 1 was completed in 2024 and improved the segment from Exit 44 to point north of Exit 48. The purpose of Phase 2 is to improve safety between Exits 48 and 53, remedy infrastructure condition deficiencies, enhance the regional transportation system, and mitigate traffic noise in accordance with MTA, state, and national standards.

Consideration of improvements to the Portland Area Mainline (Exit 44 to 53) has a long history which is summarized and referenced in a memo from MTA senior staff and the
General Engineering Consultant to the Board dated August 31, 2026, and in a PowerPoint presentation to the Board of even date herewith.

Board Action: Based upon analysis and information provided to date, the Board hereby ratifies the MTA staff and General Engineering Consultant recommendation to the Board that the proper scope for PAM Phase 2 is the Full Safety Option, which includes the
replacement of five bridges* with approaches, wider shoulders, a concrete center median barrier, a third travel lane in each direction, and noise walls south of Forest Avenue in Portland. The Board also hereby authorizes the Executive Director, other MTA staff, and
consultants to take all necessary and appropriate action to fully design and permit the Full Safety Option.

Provided, however, that if MTA staff receive significant new or different public comment by the end of September 2026 that would significantly affect the technical validity or practical deliverability of the Full Safety Scope, the Executive Director will brief the Board and
recommend any additional appropriate Board action.

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*There is another project with independent utility within the physical limits of PAM Phase 2, being the Falmouth Spur overpass bridge with related approach and ramp work at Exit 52.

This project is currently being advanced as a separate project for design and permitting purposes.

14. Executive Director Andre Briere presented the results of an RFP issued for consultants in the human resources field, including workforce training, change facilitation and investigative services. He stated that the contracts presented would be awarded on a not to exceed basis, and that these consultants would be issued task orders to execute various projects as needed. He said that one of the goals of this process was to regularize the treatment of "on call" services in a manner similar to the treatment that engineering on call contracts.

15. On motion of Nina Fisher, seconded by Thomas Zuke, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve the three year contracts as presented, to the following firms:

    - ANA HR Partners, in a not to exceed amount of $150,000 a year and $450,000 for the entire contract
    - Dirigo Safety, in a not to exceed amount of $150,000 a year and $450,000 for the entire contract
    - Switch Innovation Lab, in a not to exceed amount of $100,000 a year and $300,000 for the entire contract
    - The Abbott Advantage, in a not to exceed amount of $100,000 a year and $300,000 for the entire contract

16. Staff Attorney Jonathan Arey presented a policy on harassment for board review. He said that changes to this policy has been reviewed by the board in July. He said that several board members had made suggestions on changes to the policy that he had tried to reflect in this new draft. The board had no objections to this version of the policy.

17. Mr. Arey reviewed a policy on references with the board. He explained that updates to this policy had been reviewed by the board in December, 2025, but that staff was recommending additional changes to specify that MTA employees could give references based on their personal opinions, provided that these references included a disclaimer that the references did not necessarily reflect the opinion of the MTA as an organization. The board had no objections to this version of the policy.

18. Mr. Arey reviewed proposed changes to the board's Contributions and Membership Policy. Mr. Arey explained that the law which had required enactment of this policy had required the board to adopt a contributions budget and receive updates on expenditures under that budget, but had not required that every expenditure increase be individually approved by the board. He said that the present policy required multiple board votes a year to authorize spending increases when annual membership fees increased by even a small amount. He said that the changes proposed would set a maximum annual budget and allow staff to

change the amounts paid to various groups so long as those changes were regularly reported to the board.

19. Nina Fisher requested that a short explanation for the reasons for each expense be included when the annual budget for contributions was submitted for board approval next December.

20. William Benson asked if staff was expecting to add any new memberships to the list. Executive Director Briere replied that staff was expecting to add a membership to Maine and Company within the next few weeks.

21. On motion of Nina Fisher, seconded by Emily Becker, with William Benson opposed, and Thomas Zuke temporarily absent from the room, it was voted to approve the revisions to the MTA's Contributions and Membership policy as presented, and to increase the existing contributions and memberships budget to $300,000, with five votes in favor and one opposed.

22. Director of Finance Matt Elliott presented proposals received to insure the MTA for the 2025-2026 term. He said the results represented a wider range than usual, with commercial liability increasing 10 percent and auto increasing 25 percent. He said that staff had asked Chubb for a new auto quote based on raising the deductible to $25,000 and said that staff was recommending discontinuance of the cyber insurance policy.

23. Executive Director Briere said that claims were notoriously difficult to collect on with cyber insurance. He said that about 45% of businesses were foregoing this insurance and the State of Maine had very low coverage, and was essentially self -insured.

24. Chairman Cianchette asked if staff had considered self-insuring across the board with a catastrophic policy for back up. Executive Director Briere answered that this was something that could be evaluated.

25. On motion on Thomas Zuke, seconded by Emily Becker, and with unanimous approval of the members present it was voted to approve the policies presented, with the caveat that staff should explore changes to the business auto policy and was authorized to secure a policy that served the MTA's interests and did not exceed the quote presented today.

26. Chairman Michael Cianchette asked if there were any objections to the purchases contained on the September, 2026 Consent Agenda. There were no objections, and the consent agenda was considered approved.

27. Chief Engineer Kristi Van Ooyen reviewed the contract advertising schedule with the board. She said that contract 2026.09 was a new addition to the schedule and involved upgrades to the West Gardiner and New Gloucester tunnels. She said that contract 2027.01, involving mainline paving work and rehab of the Presumpscot River bridge, had been moved forward to get it out of the way before the Falmouth Spur Bridge contract.

28. Chairman Cianchette thanked Ms. Van Ooyen and asked that new projects added to this schedule be highlighted in the future for emphasis.

29. On motion of Jane Lincoln, seconded by Nina Fisher, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve final payment on the following contracts:

    - Contract 2025.14 – Pavement Repairs, in the amount of $ 6,788.51, to Coastal Road Repair, for a final contract amount of $ 452,567.20.

    - Contract 2025.16 – Concrete Haunch Removal, in the amount of $ 120,066.65, to CPM Constructors, for a final contract amount of $ 790,795.04.

30. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Emily Becker, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve the following engineering consultant contracts:

    - Contract 2024.103h – Construction Inspection Services, to VHD, Inc., with a not to exceed amount of $2,000,000 and an expiration of December 21st, 2029.

    - Contract 2026.104 – Real Estate Appraisals, to Goulet and Associates, with a not to exceed amount of $100,000 and an expiration of December 21st, 2029.

31. Project Manager Jamie Mason reported on ongoing construction projects. He said that the paving would be complete on the southbound Androscoggin River Bridge by next week and then the contractor would be switching back to the northbound bridge. He noted that on the Auburn pavement rehabilitation project the contractor was doing the paving and after that MTA crews would stripe the new surface. He said that the walls were up on the Auburn vehicle garage project and that we were waiting for the slab. Mr. Mason reported that the paving project in Arundel was nearly done, though stalled while the contractor waited for replacement machine parts. The goal was to complete this project within a couple of weeks. He said that there were more repairs needed on the I-295 underpass then previously expected, so it was likely that the bridge repair contract, 2026.05, would end up over the bid price. He said that staff was expecting the pre-fabricated building for the Crosby project to be delivered mid-month. He said that the tunnel repair project had been a little more extensive than expected, due to more required crack filing.

32. Director of Communications Rebecca Grover reported on items related to her department. She shared a link to an article in Downeast magazine that featured MTA maintenance workers who worked on trash pick up duty and the interesting or strange items they sometimes encountered. She described the upcoming issue of MTA maintenance employee trading cards and showed some samples to the board. She reported on the recent employee event at the Sea Dogs game and the pup cup event held at the Kennebunk Service Plaza. She described upcoming events, including the annual Labor Day event at the Kennebunk Service Plazas and the partnership with the creator of the ALRM app, which would be featured at MTA service plazas.

33. Government Relations Manager Sean Paulhus presented comments received on the MTA's Four Year Capital Plan to the board. He said that in his visits with town managers he always brought a draft of this plan. He referenced the comment from Auburn on Washington Avenue and Exit 75 upgrades and said that it was in the MTA's ten year plan to participate in some kind of improvements there.

34. Chairman Cianchette asked if there were any members of the public present who wished to address the board. There were none.

35. On motion of Jane Lincoln, 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 the lease of two properties owned by the MTA.

    - Discussion, pursuant to 1 MRSA §405(6)(A), of the evaluation and compensation of the MTA's executive director.

    The executive session began at 11:15 A.M. and ended at 12:05 P.M.

36. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Emily Becker, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to authorize MTA staff to lease two residential properties owned by the MTA, one in Portland, and one in Scarborough, on such terms as staff believed prudent, with the provision that the properties should be publicly listed through a real estate agent before renting for no less than a week.

37. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Jane Lincoln, with Commissioner Dale Doughty abstaining, and with unanimous approval of the members voting, it was voted to approve an increase in compensation for the Executive Director Andre Briere to step 12 on the pay plan, effective retroactively to the one year anniversary of the executive director's hire date.

38. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Jane Lincoln, the meeting was adjourned.

    Adjourned at 12:05 P.M.

Jonathan Arey
Secretary

10/26/26
Date