



**MAINE TURNPIKE AUTHORITY
MEETING**

January 25, 2024

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

The following were present:

Michael Cianchette, Vice Chair
Jane Lincoln, Member
Andrew McLean, Member
Bettyann Sheats, Member
Thomas Zuke, Member
Bruce Van Note, Member Ex-Officio

Vice Chairman Michael Cianchette presided over the meeting as Acting Chairman.

2. On motion of Acting Chairman 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 December 21st meeting.
3. John Sirois, Director of Finance and Treasurer, reported on traffic and revenue. He said that 2023 had been a record year for the MTA overall, with 91.7 million transactions, a number that exceeded pre-COVID levels. Mr. Sirois said that the MTA's annual debt service and principal payment for July had already been provided for. He reported that the MTA was making a 5.3 % to 5.6 % return on investments.
4. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Andrew McLean, it was voted to approve investments of money to the credit of Maine Turnpike Authority funds made during the month of December, 2023, as detailed on a report submitted to this meeting by Bangor Savings Bank, dated January 9th, 2024.
5. Executive Director Peter Mills reported on various matters, including recent discussions among MTA staff on the possible use of sticker tags on the turnpike. Mr. Mills said that

even though other states do not have the ability to read sticker tags, a driver with a sticker account that had an account with the MTA would be processed as an I-Toll in those states. Therefore, while out of state use would not be seamless with the sticker tags, it would be possible. Mr. Mills reviewed the two current priorities for changes to the MTA's customer service software, which were tokenization for security and providing functionality to process violations online.

6. Commissioner Van Note commented that he believed a significant advantage of sticker tags was that their inexpensive nature meant they could be provided along with violation notices in order to encourage people to set up an account.
7. Michael Cianchette reviewed the minutes of the January 11th Long Range Planning meeting with the board, making note of the proposed studies on AET and cash use, the shifting of the timing of the Biddeford and Wells interchange projects on the MTA's planning documents, and a review of MTA staff's plan for the 2024 engineering consultant selection process.
8. Tim Cote of HNTB Corporation reviewed the proposed AET and cash studies with the board. He likened the AET study to a "road map" developing and comparing different potential routes to an AET conversion.
9. Michael Cianchette asked for a sense of the board on whether the proposed studies should be pursued and asked if there were any objections or concerns with going forward on them both. There were none.
10. Chief Operations Officer Peter Merfeld presented charts on engineering design work distribution, which were modified versions of the documents presented to the Long Range Planning Committee, noting that these versions were meant to more clearly delineate the design work obtained by HNTB from the work obtained by other consultants.
11. Purchasing Manager Nate Carll presented a list of 2023 sole source vendor payments on a document entitled "Sole Sourced Vendor Payments Over \$ 25,000.00 Not Directly Approved by Vote of the Board", and dated January 19th, 2024. Michael Cianchette asked if there had been any material change on this list from the January 2023 list. Mr. Carll answered that the lists were essentially the same. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Andrew McLean and with unanimous approval of the members present, the payments on the list were approved.
12. Director of Maintenance John Cannell reported on winter maintenance activities to the board. He said that he only had data on man hour and salt use through December, 2023 at this point, though most of the winter's activity had taken place in January. Mr. Cannell reported that of the new plow trucks recently ordered, four were in service and four more were being outfitted and would be ready for use by the end of February.

13. Director of Building Maintenance Shawn Laverdiere presented two proposed contracts for the purchase and installation of HVAC controls at the MTA's headquarters as well as upgrades of the HVAC system at the MTA's five service plazas.
14. On motion of Jane Lincoln, seconded by Thomas Zuke it was voted to approve the award of two contracts to XL Automation, in the combined amount of \$ 706,889.73, for the purchase and installation of automation upgrades to the MTA's HVAC system at its headquarters building and five service plaza.
15. On motion of Bettyann Sheats, seconded by Thomas Zuke, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve the following Right of Way related items:
 - A license to Gray Water District for a crossing of the Maine Turnpike mainline north of Shaker Road in Gray Maine, as shown on plans by Gorrill Palmer Engineering presented to the board.
 - An easement to the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority (NNEPRS) for construction of a passenger rail bridge and appurtenances, some of which would be constructed on MTA property at the Wells Intermodal Facility, as shown on a plan by VHB Corporation, dated January 4, 2024, and titled "Exhibit A to Easement Deed."
16. Acting Chairman Michael Cianchette asked if any board members had any questions or concerns with the items on the January Contract Consent Agenda, which included sole source payments for the purchase of network hardware components, toll system receipt printers, and spare OPUS units. There being no questions or objections, the items on the consent agenda were considered approved.
17. On motion of Bruce Van Note seconded by Bettyann Sheats, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve final payment on contract 2022.06 – Superstructure Replacement Route 197, to Scott Construction, in the amount of \$59,782.72, for a final contract amount of \$ 3,094,680.10.
18. Chief Operations Officer Peter Merfeld reported that there was only one update to report on this month regarding ongoing projects, which was to report that the Saco Interchange project was shutting down for the winter.
19. Erin Courtney, Public Relations Manager, reported on items related to her department, including legislative activities and staff preparation for the Gorham public involvement process.
20. Acting Chairman Michael Cianchette asked if there were any members of the public present who wished to address the board. There were none.

21. On motion of Andrew McLean, seconded by Tom Zuke, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to enter executive session for the following purposes:

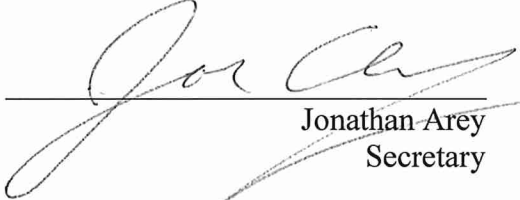
- Discussion, pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(6)(C), of the acquisition or use of real property in connection with the Saco Interchange project.

The executive session began at 9:45 A.M. It was paused at 10:00 A.M., with the board temporarily resuming public session to act on a right of way matter.

22. On motion of Bruce Van Note, seconded by Bettyann Sheats, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to authorize MTA staff to acquire a utility easement from Northeastern Hospitality Holdings in Saco, Maine, provided that arrangements for a voluntary grant of the easement could not be made within a reasonable time.

23. The board resumed its executive session at 10:05 A.M. , which continued until 10:30 A.M.

24. On motion of Bruce Van Note, seconded by Jane Lincoln, the board adjourned at 10:30 A.M.


Jonathan Arey
Secretary
2/25/24
Date