



**MAINE TURNPIKE AUTHORITY
MEETING
March 26th, 2026**

1. Pursuant to notice, a meeting of the Maine Turnpike Authority was held at 9 a.m. on March 26th, 2026.

The following were present:

Michael Cianchette, Chair
Jane Lincoln, Vice Chair
Emily Becker, Member
William Benson, Member
Nina Fisher, Member
Thomas Zuke, Member

2. Chairman Michael Cianchette called the meeting to order at 9 A.M. He introduced the MTA's newest member William Benson, and congratulated Jane Lincoln and Thomas Zuke on their reappointments. He also noted that this would be the first board meeting for John Cannell in his role as Chief Operating Officer and Kristi Van Ooyen in her role as Chief Engineer.
3. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Nina Fisher, the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the board's February 26th, 2026 meeting.
4. John Sirois, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, reported on traffic and revenue. He noted that the new automated image review software was working very well, and congratulated Matthew Whiteside and Eric DeRoss, from the IT Department, for their work on its implementation. He said that the annual audit was complete and had gone very well.
5. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Nina Fisher, and with unanimous approval of the members voting, William Benson abstaining, it was voted to approve the investments of the Authority for the month of February, 2026, as presented in a report from Bangor Savings Bank dated March 11th, 2026.
6. The board and executive director recognized Purchasing Manager Nate Carll for outstanding service. Director of Finance Matthew Elliott described Mr. Carll's recent actions, placing an order to fill all MTA tanks at his own initiative because he anticipated

that diesel prices were likely to rise sharply after the outbreak of war with Iran. He said that Mr. Carll's action that day probably save the MTA at least \$20,000.

7. Chief Administrative Officer Erin Sullivan reported on various matters. She reviewed reports on customer service call volume and topics, noting that she was particularly interested in watching the volume of calls related to functions that were now being offered through the website. She said that Customer Service was also trying to lessen the time involved with transfers of calls by implementing a call tree.
8. Executive Director Briere reported to the board on various matters. He noted that he had recently participated in an IBTTA CEO conference call in which heads of other toll agencies had discussed their dissatisfaction with customer service and back office contracts. He said that it reminded him of how valuable MTA's in house capabilities were.
9. Director Briere reported on LD 1457, which had been voted out of committee with only one negative vote. He said that Sean Paulhus and his team were working diligently and having a lot of conversations. He said that he felt that if the bill failed, it would be close, and that he believed this would be worth fighting for again if necessary.
10. Director Briere reported on the recent six month strategic plan check in with Cambridge Systematics, noting that John Kalinski of Cambridge had said the MTA team had accomplished more in six months than most teams he saw did in an entire two year cycle. He said the goal was to rotate people in positions of responsibility in this effort, to avoid straining the same people constantly and to enable others to rise to leadership positions. Director Briere said he continued to have faith in the effort.
11. E-Z Pass Manager Melissa Benware described the activities of the Customer Experience Work Group. Ms. Benware reviewed the "quick wins" achieved by the group, and described ongoing efforts, including a translation service which could be used to assist motorists as well as E-Z Pass customers. Emily Becker asked if that service could be used in the context of public meetings as well, and Director Brier confirmed that it could.
12. Chief Engineer Kristi Van Ooyen gave a short presentation on the activities of the Data and Technology Work Group. Director Briere noted that Ms. Van Ooyen would be the new chair of this group and that the function of this group was to inject the "voice of the customer" into the I/T process, particularly when prioritizing needs and I/T projects.
13. Director of Public Safety and Special Services Greg Stone reported on activities of the Organization, Culture, and Empowerment Work Group.
14. Director of Communications Rebecca Grover reported on activities of the Public Perception and Engagement Work Group and described the three subcommittees formed under that work group to pursue ongoing projects. She introduced Piper Weatherby, who was the chair of one of those subcommittees, the Public Service Subcommittee.

15. Piper Wetherby of the accounts payable department described the efforts of the Public Service Subcommittee, which included promotion of a spring cleaning drive and community race in May, both of which would support the local charity, Maine Needs. Ms. Weatherby said that the longer term goals of the subcommittee included a lasting model to support and encourage charitable work by MTA employees.
16. Tim Gill of RKO, the MTA's independent auditors reported on results of the recent audit. He said that there had been a very tight window of time in which to complete this audit and the finance team had done well preparing all the materials. He said that his firm was offering an unmodified, clean opinion, with no recommendations.
17. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Nina Fisher, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to accept the 2026 Independent Auditor's Report.
18. Chief Operations Officer John Cannell reported on winter maintenance activities. He said that the provided report on hours and material usage was current through February which, unlike other months this winter, had been fairly average. He noted that overall this had been the coldest winter in twelve years.
19. Peter Merfeld reviewed proposed amendments to the boards Sponsorship and Memberships Budget. Chairman Cianchette said that the board should look at a new process for this, such as setting an overall budget for smaller items, and receiving reports on what was spent, rather than approving each individual expenditure.
20. On motion of Nina Fisher, seconded by Jane Lincoln, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to amend the 2026 Contributions and Memberships Budget to include \$250 for sponsorship of a University of Southern Maine engineering event, \$250 for a University of Maine engineering event, and to approve \$800 for the American Public Works Association to pay for MTA's registration in the APWA's 33rd Annual Highway Congress.
21. Director of Public Safety and Special Services Greg Stone gave a presentation on possible changes to the MTA's Safety Service Patrol. He said the proposal would add 153 hours or patrol time per week, including weekend coverage, which did not now exist and would add an additional truck. He said that the estimated annual cost of the proposal was \$679,572, which was a significant increase from the current \$134,976, but would hopefully be offset by an increase in sponsorship funds. He said that the proposal today was for informational purposes only.
22. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Jane Lincoln, the purchase of six trailer mounted crash attenuators, in the total amount of \$ 238,278.00, from Royal Truck and Equipment, was approved.
23. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Nina Fisher, the purchase of five LaneBlade roadway clearing devices from J-Tech, in the total amount of \$197,500.00, was approved,

with the purchase being made on a sole source basis due to the fact that only one company made this product.

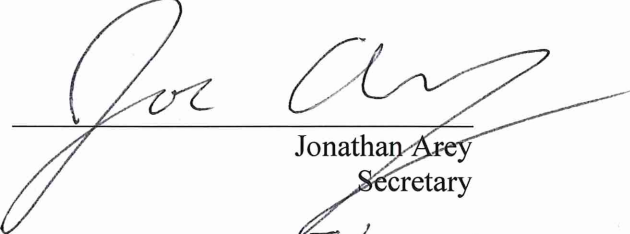
24. Director of ITS Eric Barnes presented a proposal to buy four variable message boards from Daktronics on a sole source basis. He explained that other MTA over the road boards were made by this company and that his reason for choosing Daktronics was for consistency and in order to maintain only one supply of replacement parts. Chairman Cianchette asked if the pricing on this purchase was similar to pricing on earlier purchases, and Mr. Barnes affirmed that it was.
25. On motion of Nina Fisher, seconded by Thomas Zuke, and with unanimous approval of the members present it was voted to approve the purchase of four variable message boards and associated equipment from Daktronics, for \$410,000.00, on a sole source basis.
26. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Nina Fisher and with unanimous approval of the members present it was voted to approve the purchase of traffic paint from Franklin Paint in the total amount of \$384,786.25, and the purchase of Visi-Loc beads from Potters Industries in the total amount of \$ 159,260.00, all as shown on a breakdown presented to the board titled "Traffic Paint and Glass Beads/Visi-Loc 2026."
27. On motion of Nina Fisher, seconded by Emily Becker, and with unanimous approval of the members present, the approval of guardrail components from CA Newcomb, in the total amount of \$330,320.00, was approved. Chairman Cianchette recused himself from the vote because of a family relationship with one of the bidding companies.
28. Chairman Michael Cianchette asked if there were any objections to the purchases contained on the March, 2026 Consent Agenda, noting that he would be recusing himself to any discussion on the van purchase contained on the agenda due to a family relationship with the company involved. There was no discussion on any of the items. There being no objections, the consent agenda was considered approved.
29. On motion of Jane Lincoln, seconded by Nina Fisher, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve award of Contract 2026.06 – Bridge Repairs, in the amount of \$ 1,891,406.10, to CPM Constructors.
30. On motion of Nina Fisher, seconded by Thomas Zuke, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve award of Contract 2026.12 – Culvert Repairs, in the amount of \$ 1,729,872.00, to C.L.H. and Son.
31. On motion of Nina Fisher, seconded by Emily Becker, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve award of Contract 2026.20 – MTA HQ Improvements, in the amount of \$289,091.20, to Great Falls Construction.
32. On motion of Nina Fisher, seconded by Thomas Zuke, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve final payments on the following contracts:

- 2024.01 – Pavement Rehabilitation, to Pike Industries, in the amount of \$328,235.54, for a final contract amount of \$18,630,266.78.
 - 2024.03 – Pavement Rehabilitation, to Pike Industries, in the amount of \$173,431.85, for a final contract amount of \$8,882,925.51.
33. Chief Engineer Kristi Van Ooyen reviewed the monthly Engineering Contract and Task Order Reports with the board. Chairman Cianchette requested that in the future these reports be presented with break outs of what the changes from the previous month had been.
34. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Jane Lincoln, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve the extension of the term of Contract 2025.104 – Work Zone Pilot to December 31st, 2030, and to increase the not to exceed amount of that contract to \$1,000,000.00.
35. Project Manager Jamie Mason reported on ongoing construction projects. Mr. Mason reported that about two-third of the foundation had been placed on the Auburn vehicle storage garage, which was good progress in bad weather. He said that the concrete haunch removal project should be complete in a week or so. HE said that the contractor on the Saco Bridge project was working on cleaning up before shutting this down until the summer. He said the contractor on the roadside clearing project was concentrating on completing all the cutting by April due to endangered species requirements.
36. Director of Communications Rebecca Grover reported on activities related to her department. She said that a recent snowplow video featuring Nicole Chase had been a great success and reviewed a new educational video featuring LT. Wilkinson of Troop G. She said that the annual report was very near completion and a lot of focus now was going into planning for work zone safety week, including a contest for work zone safety designs at Waterville High School sponsored by the MTA.
37. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Nina Fisher, 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 acquisition of rights in real estate for a culvert project in New Gloucester.
 - Discussion, pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(6)(E), of the MTA’s legal rights and duties in connection with streaming of its meetings and public participation in those meetings.
 - Discussion, pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(6)(E), of the MTA’s legal rights and duties in connection with the issuance of tax-exempt bonds.
38. The executive session began at 11:12 AM and ended at 11:45 A.M.

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39. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Emily Becker, and with unanimous approval of the members voting, it was voted to authorize the acquisition of up to 5,000 square feet of easement rights from David Clark for a culvert rehabilitation project in New Gloucester, said rights to be acquired by eminent domain if necessary. William Benson abstained from this vote.
40. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Emily Becker, and with unanimous approval of the members voting, revisions to the MTA's Whistleblower Policy presented to the board by Staff Attorney Jonathan Arey were approved.

Adjourned at 11:48 A.M.


Jonathan Arey
Secretary
5/12/26
Date