



**MAINE TURNPIKE AUTHORITY  
MEETING**

**February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

1. Pursuant to notice, a meeting of the Maine Turnpike Authority was held at 9 a.m. on February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

The following were present:

Michael Cianchette, Chair  
Jane Lincoln, Vice Chair  
Andrew McLean, Member  
Thomas Zuke, Member  
MaineDOT Commissioner Dale Doughty

2. Chairman Michael Cianchette called the meeting to order at 9 A.M.
3. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Jane Lincoln, the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the board's January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026 meeting.
4. John Sirois, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, reported on traffic and revenue. He said that the Perceptics system had gone live for image review the weekend before. He said the annual independent audit was progressing well, with nothing to report on so far.
5. Chairman Cianchette asked about the reason for the improvement in Applegreen concession revenue. Mr. Sirois said he believed it was fuller staffing and new management.
6. Director of E-Z Pass Samantha Kaherl described two of her employees – Christine Taylor and Allison Sharples - who had both received multiple favorable comments for customer service. Executive Director Andre Briere thanked Ms. Taylor and Ms. Sharples for their good work and presented them with MTA mugs. He said that he took pride in the fact that, in a time when so much customer service was outsourced or replaced by AI, the MTA continued to perform this function with real, local people.
7. Executive Director Briere presented a draft memorandum of agreement setting out a process by which the MaineDOT and MTA would agree on what department projects

would be funded by MTA and eligible to count towards the MTA's statutory 5 percent funding requirement.

8. On motion of Jane Lincoln, seconded by Thomas Zuke, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve the agreement titled "Memorandum of Agreement Between the Maine Department of transportation and the Maine Turnpike Authority Regarding General Terms and Process Related to Joint Use Funds from MTA Operating Revenue Pursuant to 23 MRS § 1961(7)", as presented to the board.
9. Executive Director Briere reported to the board on various matters, including the proposed lease revisions that were almost complete and ready to send to Applegreen. He said that outside counsel had submitted comments yesterday, and that the proposal should be ready to send to Applegreen next week.
10. Director Briere reported on LD 1457, the bill to establish an automated work zone speed enforcement pilot program on the turnpike, saying that the work session had been moved up to this afternoon. He said he was cautiously optimistic that this would be the last work session on this bill. Andrew McLean asked about opposition to the bill. Mr. Briere answered that he believed the bill had broad support in the center of the political spectrum, but that there was opposition both on the extreme left and right, mostly expressed as concern about privacy issues.
11. Director Briere reported that he had talked to employees at every MTA maintenance area and conveyed the message that employees not only had the right, but the obligation to speak up when they had safety concerns. He had also promised those employees that, when and if they did speak up on a concern, that work would stop until the concern was addressed.
12. Chief Administrative Officer Erin Sullivan introduced Rick Stewart, MTA's new Human Resources Director and described his background in the military and business. She thanked Deputy Human Resources Director Cecille Thompson for all of her assistance in the recent several months of transition.
13. Ms. Sullivan went over some data on call statistics from customer service with the board. She reported that customer service had taken around 23,000 calls in January, which was an average of 831 calls for each employee. She said that staff had better data on the subject of calls now, and it looked like about 1,200 calls a week were on simple subjects that could probably be automated to some extent. He said that there had been a number of promotions and some restricting in customer service, with the creation of a position in the Business Account group equivalent to the "lead" position that existed on the Personal Account side. She said that the performance of the Perceptics system in violation review had thus far been more accurate than anticipated.
14. Ms. Sullivan shared a summary of results from the latest employee survey showing strengths and areas for improvement. She said that the results confirmed that employee training and development continued to be a high priority for employees.

15. Thomas Zuke asked if MTA staff had information on how these results compared to poll results in similar organizations. Executive Director Briere answered that this survey had been developed to allow benchmarking and that key benchmark questions would continue to be included in subsequent surveys.
16. Chief Operations Officer Peter Merfeld presented two proposed adjustments to the MTA's 2026 Sponsorships and Memberships budget – a \$250 MTA membership in GIS Users Group and a \$1,500 sponsorship for a Bring Back the Trades Skill Expo. Mr. Merfeld noted that this was the lowest sponsorship level, but allowed for the MTA to have a table or a truck at the event. Executive Director Briere said that he saw sponsorships like this as part of a refreshed MTA recruitment effort aimed at young graduates.
17. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Jane Lincoln, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approved the recommended amendments to the MTA's 2026 Sponsorship and Memberships Budget.
18. Deputy Director of Engineering Kristi Van Ooyen presented a proposal to extend the MTA's current contract for document scanning to include the scanning of construction files. She said the scope of the contract had originally been limited to right of way records and had been very successful, less expensive and faster than planned, and had resulted in files that were fully searchable and much efficient than previously.
19. Commissioner Dale Doughty asked if the scanned files were back up offsite, and Ms. Van Ooyen replied that they were.
20. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Andrew McLean, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve a contract with Records Management Center for scanning services in the amount of \$115,000.00, on the terms described in a proposal from the vendor as presented to this meeting.
21. Deputy Director of Engineering Kristi Van Ooyen presented a proposal that furniture from her department that had been rendered unnecessary by recent renovations be donated to Ruth's Reusable Resources, an organization that supplied office furniture to local schools.
22. On motion of Andrew MacLean, seconded by Jane Lincoln, and with unanimous approval of the members present, the donation of furniture to Ruth's Reusable Resources was approved, with the donation to be limited to those items described in an e-mail from Jacqueline Hansen dated February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026, and such other similar items as may have been rendered unnecessary by recent renovations that might be volunteered in response to said e-mail.
23. Director of Highway Maintenance John Cannell reported on winter maintenance activities. He noted that his written report was current through the end of January, which had been a hard month, but not completely untypical for number of storms. He said it had been an extremely cold month, however, being the coldest month in Portland since 1996. Mr.

Cannell said these extreme temperatures meant much more magnesium chloride than usual had been used this year.

24. Staff Attorney Jonathan Arey presented a draft Remote Participation Policy to the board. He said the purpose of the policy was to outline how and when remote means would be used by members to participate in meetings, and what provisions for remote public participation would be made. He reviewed the terms of the policy with the board, most of which were specifically required by the Maine statute that required the policy.
25. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Jane Lincoln, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve the Remote Participation Policy as presented.
26. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Jane Lincoln, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to amend the Policy on MTA Vehicles to add four positions to the list of positions assigned an MTA vehicle which they could use and take home, with the stipulation that changes to this list would, in the future, be made at the discretion of the MTA's Executive Director, without need for board approval.
27. Staff Attorney Jonathan Arey presented the MTA's Whistleblower Policy to the board, explaining the proposed revisions. He said that this would be the board's first look at the revisions and that the policy would be brought back to the board for approval in March. Chairman Cianchette requested that the Vice Chair of the board be added to the whistleblower complaint distribution list described in the policy.
28. Director of Maintenance John Cannell presented proposed variable message sign purchases to the board. Mr. Cannell said that more of the smaller message boards were needed to supplement signage for work zones now that the MTA had discontinued signage in the medians. He said the large variable message signs were replacements and had been included in the previously approved equipment replacement plan.
29. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Jane Lincoln, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve the purchase of six full sized message boards from White Sign, for a total of \$ 137,988.00 and sixteen mini and compact message boards from Vere-Mac, for a total of \$283,600.00, as presented to the board.
30. Director of Building and Equipment Maintenance Shawn Laverdiere, presented a proposed purchase of EVR Barrier Gate systems. Mr. Laverdiere explained that this would be a sole source contract because this vendor was the only company in New England that could supply support for this equipment when needed.
31. Chairman Cianchette asked if the prices for this equipment from this company had increased. Mr. Laverdiere answered that it had, but not by much. He said that cheaper gate equipment could be purchased online, but without the support.

32. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Jane Lincoln, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve the purchase of ten Door King Gate Barrier Systems from Overhead Door for a total of \$ 115,049.00, as presented to the board.
33. Director of Building and Equipment Maintenance Shawn Laverdiere, presented a proposed purchase of Wrong Way Prevention Signs. Mr. Laverdiere said that the MTA's original purchase of these signs had been competitively bid two years ago, and that staff would like to purchase more signs from the same vendor for uniformity and consistency's sake.
34. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Jane Lincoln, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve the purchase of twenty "Do Not Enter" and twenty "Wrong Way" signs, with solar panels and batteries, in the total amount of \$118,240.00, from Trastar, Inc., as presented to the board.
35. Director of Engineering Steve Tartre presented a lease between the town of Falmouth and Falmouth Crossing to use part of Falmouth Crossing's parking area as a park and ride. Mr. Tartre explained that this park and ride serve turnpike users at Exit 53 where the MTA had been unsuccessful in obtaining property rights to establish its own park and ride in a suitable location. He asked for the board's approval to negotiate and enter into an agreement with the Town of Falmouth to pay half of their rent on this lease until a more permanent arrangement was created. He said that the town's rent on this lease was \$7,600 a year.
36. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Jane Lincoln, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve an agreement whereby the MTA would contribute half of the Town of Falmouth's rental costs for the park and ride at Falmouth Crossing.
37. Chairman Michael Cianchette asked if there were any objections to the purchases contained on the February, 2026 Consent Agenda. There being no objections, the consent agenda was considered approved.
38. Deputy Director of Engineering Kristi Van Ooyen presented a software purchases consent agenda, containing several software purchases that had been approved by the MTA's Data and Technology Work Group. Executive Director Briere explained that this would be the first of many purchases the board would see as part of a technology modernization program. There being no objections, the Data and Technology Consent Agenda was considered approved.
39. Deputy Director of Engineering Kristi Van Ooyen presented the bids received on three contracts. She said that three competitive bids had been received for the paving contract, with the low bid well below estimate. She said that the low bid on the bridge repair contract was a little high, but that there were some unique challenges with this project. She said that the MTA's highway maintenance department would be providing traffic

control on Contract 2026.14 because the asphalt joint contractors weren't set up to provide that.

40. On motion of Andrew McLean, seconded by Jane Lincoln, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve award of the following contracts:

- Contract 2026.03 – Pavement Rehabilitation and Safety Improvements, in the amount of \$ 7,823,579.50, to Pike Industries.
- Contract 2026.10 – Bridge, Toll and Culvert Repairs, in the amount of \$1,970,955.00, to CPM Constructors.
- Contract 2026.14 – Asphaltic Plug joint Replacements, in the amount of \$90,941.00, to Nicom Coatings.

41. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Jane Lincoln, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve final payments on the following contracts:

- 2023.11 – York Maintenance Electrical Repairs, to St. Laurent & Son, in the amount of \$ 8,284.82, for a final contract amount of \$ 552,321.57.
- 2024.09 – York Maintenance Vehicle Garage Storage, to Optimum Construction, in the amount of \$ 22,613.96, for a final contract amount of \$ 2,197,097.29.
- 2024.12 – Bridge Cleaning and Painting, to Saffo Contractors, in the amount of \$22,809.50, for a final contract amount of \$1,587,300.00.
- 2025.01 – Pavement Rehabilitation, to Pike Industries, in the amount of \$204,318.31, for a final contract amount of \$13,364,335.26.
- 2025.04 – Bridge Repairs, to CPM Constructors, in the amount of \$9,914.33, for a final contract amount of \$ 660,955.92.

42. Project Manager Jamie Mason reported on ongoing construction projects. Mr. Mason said that the contractor was continuing winter work on the Androscoggin Bridge, which was proceeding slowly. He said that the concrete haunch removal contract, by contrast, was suited to the winter because the work occurred underneath bridges. He said the contractor had two more bridges to work on under that contract. Mr. Mason reported that the clearing project had been progressing very well and was almost complete.

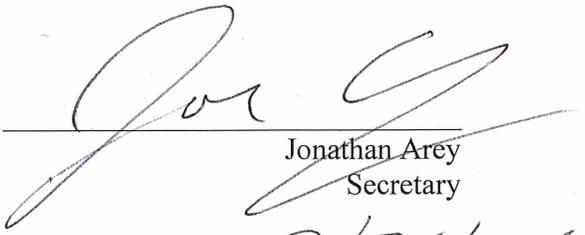
43. Director of Communications Rebecca Grover reported on activities relating to her department. She described the recent Hall of Flags event and press conference in support of the proposed work zone automated enforcement pilot program bill. She shared footage from a recent WGME story on MTA winter maintenance that had been picked up

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nationally. She also described some upcoming projects in her department, including several short videos designed for social media.

44. Purchasing Manager Nate Carll presented a proposed purchase of license plate mounted E-Z Pass transponders to supplement current inventory.
45. On motion of Andrew McLean, seconded by Thomas Zuke, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve the purchase of 3,500 exterior license plate tags, in the total amount of \$56,000.00, from Kapsch, as presented to the board.
46. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Andrew McLean, 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 the employment, appointment, assignment, duties, promotion, demotion, compensation, evaluation, resignation or dismissal of an individual or group of MTA employees where public discussion could reasonably be expected to violate the right to privacy of the individual or individuals involved.
  - Discussion, pursuant to 1 MRSA §405(6)(C), of the acquisition of real estate pursuant to an option agreement under which the land owner has requested the MTA purchase the property involved.
  - Discussion, pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(6)(E), of the MTA's legal rights and duties under its existing ETC system maintenance contract with Transcore, and discussion on the renewal or re-procurement of that contract upon its expiration where premature public knowledge would put the MTA at a substantial disadvantage.
47. The executive session began at 10:32 AM and ended at 11:40 A.M.

Adjourned at 11:40 A.M.

  
Jonathan Arey  
Secretary  
3/26/26  
Date