



**MAINE TURNPIKE AUTHORITY
MEETING**

April 24th, 2025

1. Pursuant to notice, a meeting of the Maine Turnpike Authority was held at 9 a.m. on April 24th, 2025.

The following were present:

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

2. Chairman Michael Cianchette called the meeting to order. He introduced Emily Becker, who had been appointed to the board by Governor Mills, and was observing the meeting today. He noted that Ms. Becker had been approved by the Transportation Committee and would likely be confirmed by the Maine Senate later in the morning. Chairman Cianchette also noted that this was the first board meeting for the MTA's new executive director, Andre Briere.
3. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Jane Lincoln, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve the minutes of the board's March 20th meeting.
4. John Sirois, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, reported on financial matters. He noted that, due to a compromise of TransCore's system on March 19th, there were gaps in transactions that were affecting the numbers on his written report, currently showing negative transactions and revenue growth, though before March 19th these numbers were slightly positive. Mr. Sirois reported that there were 600,000 images backlogged from the incident, many of which were I-Tolls, and he hoped to have a clearer picture of March's actual traffic and revenue by the end of this month. Thomas Zuke asked if an insurance claim was being pursued to recover lost revenue from the incident and Mr. Sirois replied that it was.

5. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Jane Lincoln, and 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, 2025, as detailed on a report submitted to this meeting by Bangor Savings Bank, dated April 17th, 2025.
6. John Sirois, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, reported that the MTA's refunding bonds had closed last week, resulting in a savings of approximately \$ 5.3 million. He introduced James Calpin of Bank of America Securities, which had underwritten the bonds, and Monika Conley, of PRAG, who gave a more detailed presentation on the refunding via Zoom. Mr. Calpin reported that Revenue Refunding Bonds had been 3.8 times oversubscribed but that the Special Obligation Bonds had not been as popular. He said that his firm, BofA Securities, had purchased the remaining special obligation bonds and resold them the next morning. He reported that the Revenue Bonds accounted for \$4.4 million of the savings and the Special Obligation Bonds represented approximately \$800,000 in savings. Mr. Calpin noted the decision to move the sale up by one day, due to market volatility, which he felt had helped considerably.
7. Executive Director Andre Briere introduced highway maintenance employees Matt Millett, Highway Maintenance Foreman, and Kevin Long, Equipment Maintenance Foreman, who both worked out of the Gray Maintenance facility. He described a voice mail left by a thankful customer who had been impressed with the professionalism and helpfulness of Mr. Millett and Mr. Long when they assisted him on the highway.
8. Chairman Cianchette thanked Mr. Millett and Mr. Long for their efforts, which he believed reflected well on the Maine Turnpike Authority, but also on the state of Maine in general, and encouraged repeat visitors who felt they were appreciated here.
9. Executive Director Briere introduced Benefits Specialist Val Tait, who was retiring from the MTA after twenty years of service. Director of Human Resources Lauren Carrier praised Mr. Tait's accounting abilities and interpersonal skills and said he had been an inspiration to work with. She said that he had been a key element of the department for many years and that it was hard to express how much his kindness, hard work and support over the years had meant to her.
10. Val Tait thanked the board and Ms. Carrier and said that the MTA was a great place to work, filled with great people, many of whom he had gotten to know very well during his career here.
11. Executive Director Andre Briere reported to the board on various matters. He said that he had spent some of his first few weeks learning about the people, processes and procedures at the MTA. He said he had been impressed by both the skill and enthusiasm of the people who worked here. He said that he agreed with one of the MTA directors, who had told him that there was nothing to prevent the MTA from becoming the number one toll agency in the country. Mr. Briere said that he planned to visit every MTA work site in the coming weeks and that this summer there would be a planning session with staff to work on the MTA's strategy for the next couple of years.

12. Mr. Briere noted that he had spent a lot of his time working on legislative issues with Erin Courtney, Sean Paulhus, and Rebecca Grover. He reported on the Work Session for the proposed Work Zone Speed Enforcement bill that had been held the day before and praised the efforts of Gary Ouellette and Jeff Stevens, two MTA Highway Maintenance employees who had given extremely effective testimony to the committee on the need for the bill.
13. On motion of Nina Fisher, seconded by Andrew McLean, and with unanimous approval of the members present, the following resolution was adopted:

Whereas, the MTA wishes to specifically affirm the authority of its Executive Director to execute certain instruments on behalf of the MTA:

Whereas, the MTA believes it is important to have a senior management employee available to execute certain instruments and documents when the MTA's Executive Director and Treasurer are not available to do so;

Now, Therefore, be it Resolved as Follows:

- Without intending to limit the inherent authority of the MTA's executive director, the board of the MTA affirms that the MTA's Executive Director has the authority to sign requisitions, checks, contracts, and other instruments binding the Authority.
 - The Chief Operations Officer will have the authority, equivalent to the Executive Director's authority to sign requisitions, checks, contracts, and other instruments binding the Authority.
 - This resolution is effective immediately and will remain in effect until rescinded by the board.
 - The Chairman and Executive Director of the Maine Turnpike Authority are authorized to execute any necessary documents and take all other actions required to give this resolution effect.
14. Deputy Director of Maintenance Ralph Norwood reported on winter maintenance activities. Mr. Norwood said that he believed the report showed the effectiveness of the MTA's efforts to increase the use of brine, with the use of brine up to 9.5 gallons per ton of salt in 2025 from 6 gallons per ton in 2023.
 15. On motion of Bruce Van Note, seconded by Thomas Zuke, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to amend the MTA's Contributions and Memberships Budget, as adopted in December, 2024 and amended in March, 2025, to include \$500 for sponsorship of the Maine chapter of American Society of Civil Engineers.
 16. Director of Information Services William Yates introduced a proposed contract for Automatic License Plate Recognition services. Mr. Yates said that the proposal was the

result of a formal RFP, under which five firms had been solicited and two had submitted proposals. He reviewed the process by which the proposals had been scored. He said that MTA staff was recommending an award to Perceptics because that firm had obtained a much higher accuracy on data tests, had been more responsive to questions, and provided “truthing” services, which were manual reviews of the software’s performance to ensure that it was conforming to MTA processes. Mr. Yates said that, while the MTA video enforcement system did incorporate OCR, currently every image produced by the system was reviewed by a human. He said that the MTA’s engineering consultant, Gannet Fleming, had estimated that a more fully automated service such as Perceptics was proposing would save the MTA approximately \$400,00 a year.

17. Nina Fisher asked how these savings would be realized. Mr. Yates replied that, while the MTA would retain some of its current temporary employees as reviewers to audit the system, there would not be a need for nearly as many as were employed not. Thomas Zuke asked if the system would be ready to implement by summer. Mr. Yates answered that he thought it was too late for summer, and that the implementation would probably take from 5 to 6 months.
18. On motion of Nina Fisher, seconded by Jane Lincoln, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to authorize staff to enter into a five year contract with Perceptics for an Automatic License Plate Recognition Solution, with a not to exceed amount of \$ 431,675.32.
19. Chairman Cianchette 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.
20. Deputy Director of Engineering Kristi Van Ooyen presented the sole bid received on Contract 2025.07 – Culvert Repairs. Ms. Van Ooyen noted that the bidder, CLH & Son, would be new to the MTA as a prime contractor, though they had worked as a subcontractor on MTA contracts. She said that CLH had also worked for the MaineDOT, and the department was satisfied with their work.
21. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Nina Fisher, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to award Contract 2025.07 – Culvert Repairs, Various Locations, in the amount of \$ 3,002,508.00, to CLH & Son, Inc.
22. Deputy Director of Engineering Kristi Van Ooyen presented three contracts for final payment. She noted that the haunch removal contract was significantly over the bid price because MTA staff had added bridges to the contract, finally amounting to approximately what the program estimate had originally been for the haunch removal.
23. On motion of Nina Fisher, seconded by Thomas Zuke, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve final payment on the following contracts:

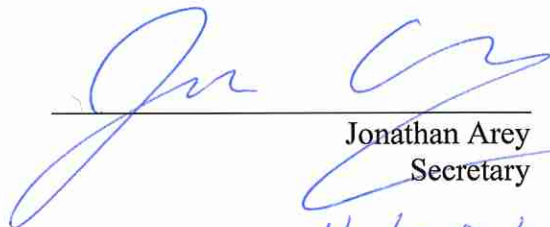
- Contract 2024.17 – Stevenstown Road Bridge Repair, to CPM Constructors, in the amount of \$ 36,754.90, for a final contract amount of \$ 153,982.00.
 - Contract 2025.05 – Widened Concrete Haunch Removal, to CPM Constructors, in the amount of \$ 61,893.00, for a final contract amount of \$ 807,850.00.
 - Contract 2025.10 – Auburn Maintenance Debris Removal, to Copp Excavating, in the amount of \$ 1,422.00, for a final contract amount of \$18,960.00.
24. Project Manager Jamie Mason reported on ongoing construction projects. Mr. Mason said that the contractor on the Saco Interchange Project continued to work on sign foundations and other preparations for the Route 112 summer work. He said October was the planned opening for the new interchange. He said that the contractor on the headquarters renovation project was working on the first floor renovations, which should be done by the end of May, after which the HVAC units in the basement and on the roof would be replaced. He said that the fuel system at the Cumberland Service Plaza, which was 35 years old, was being replaced. He said crews were working on a temporary fuel system currently, after which the permanent system would be replaced, with a projected completion date in mid-June. He said that the contractor on the Portland area paving project would be starting to mill in mid-May with paving commencing as soon as the nights were warm enough.
25. Public Relations Manager Rebecca Grover updated the board on subjects relating to Work Zone Awareness Week, including a press conference with the MaineDOT, Go Orange Day, and pieces on radio and social media. Ms. Grover played a radio spot featuring the voice of Project Manager Jamie Mason for the board. She said that MTA staff had held a “lunch and learn” with Nicole Chase from Highway Maintenance, who talked, among other things, about changes in safety practices she had seen over her years at the MTA.
26. Chairman Cianchette asked if there were any members of the public present who wished to address the board. There were none.
27. On motion of Nina Fisher, 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), § 405(6)(E), and §405(6)(F), of the use of the MTA’s toll infrastructure, the legal rights and duties of the MTA under its contract for maintenance of that toll system, and information contained in records made confidential by statute that relate to the toll collection system and the maintenance thereof.
 - Discussion, pursuant to 1 § 405(6)(E) and §405(6)(F), of the legal rights and duties of the MTA in relation to currently proposed legislation and of information contained in records relating to positions on legislation.

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- Discussion, pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(6)(C), of the possible acquisition of property in Scarborough, Maine and Wells, Maine

The executive session began at 10:20 A.M. and ended at 11:22 A.M.

28. On motion of Jane Lincoln, seconded by Thomas Zuke, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to authorize MTA staff to purchase from E.B. Realty Trust, for up to \$ 85,000.00, easement rights necessary to construct an emergency vehicle ramp connecting the Maine Turnpike to Captain Thomas Road in Ogunquit, Maine.
29. Adjourned at 12:00 P.M.



Jonathan Arey
Secretary
4/25/25

Date