



**MAINE TURNPIKE AUTHORITY  
MEETING**

**May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

1. Pursuant to notice, a meeting of the Maine Turnpike Authority was held at 9 a.m. on May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

The following were present:

Michael Cianchette, Chair  
Jane Lincoln, Vice Chair  
Emily Becker, Member  
Nina Fisher, Member  
Thomas Zuke, Member  
Dale Doughty, for Bruce Van Note, Member Ex-Officio

2. Chairman Michael Cianchette called the meeting to order. The MTA's newest board member, Emily Becker, introduced herself, stating that she was delighted to be serving on the board and to bring her perspective to the MTA.
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 April 24th meeting.
4. John Sirois, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, reported on financial matters. He noted that revenue and transaction numbers were improving, but that this was primarily due to the MTA catching up on transactions that had been lagging since the system issues in March. He noted that it had rained every weekend for the last twelve weekends. Mr. Sirois also reported that deposits were down about \$4 million from last year, partly due to New York agencies back office difficulties causing delays in settlement of transactions with other agencies, including the MTA. He said that MTA staff would be discussing this with New York staff later that day. He observed that issues like this that could cause temporary disruptions in cash flows highlighted the importance of maintaining cash reserves.
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 April, 2025, as detailed on a report submitted to this meeting by Bangor Savings Bank, dated May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025.

6. Executive Director Andre Briere introduced highway maintenance employees Eric Lunn and Mike Somerset, who worked out of the Crosby Maintenance facility. He described a phone call left by a thankful customer who had been impressed with the professionalism and helpfulness of Mr. Lunn and Mr. Somerset when they assisted him with a tire change on the highway, noting that the two employees had been a "class act and very professional." Mr. Briere also congratulated the winning teams from the MTA's recent Snow Plow Rodeo – Eric Lunn and Mike Somerset, and John and Glen Davis.
7. Executive Director Briere reported to the board on various matters. He said that he was still in the process of getting out and meeting employees at the MTA's various work sites, and that a lot of legislative work had slowed that process down somewhat. He said that he believed MTA employees were generally a step above those of similar organizations he had seen. He described the work zone safety speed enforcement bill that had been introduced this session as a top priority that MTA staff would be working on over the summer, gathering data and arranging visits for legislators to work zones so that they could experience the environment first hand.
8. Director of Maintenance John Cannell presented bids received to supply the MTA with twenty five plow truck chassis, noting that this represented three years of the MTA's replacement schedule, and would also replace trucks lost in fires at maintenance camps and on the highway. Mr. Cannell noted that the low bidder had not met the MTA's specifications because the truck engine they had proposed was not on the MTA's approved list, but that all the bids were in a range he considered competitive. Mr. Cannell said that staff's recommendation was to award the contract to O'Connor Motor, which was the second lowest bidder.
9. On motion of Nina Fisher, seconded by Jane Lincoln, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve the purchase of twenty five heavy duty truck chassis from O'Connor Motor Company, at the prices submitted to the board, with a not to exceed price of \$4,152,750.00.
10. Chairman Cianchette asked if there were any questions or objections related to items on the consent agenda. There were none, and the May Contract Consent Agenda was considered approved.
11. Deputy Director of Engineering Kristi Van Ooyen presented the bids received on three contracts. She reported that the low bidder on the slope and drainage repair contract, CCC Construction, was a company that had never worked for the MTA before and that staff had asked CCC for more information on its qualifications. She said that staff was asking the board for permission to award that contract to CCC, subject to that company offering satisfactory pre-bid qualifications, and, if CCC were unable to do that to MTA staff's satisfaction, to the second lowest bidder, Chase Excavating.
12. Miss Ooyen pointed out that the sole bid received on Contract 2025.13 – Exit 45 Interchange Paving, had been significantly higher than the engineer's estimate. She said

MTA staff had worked with the bidder, Coastal Road Repair, to find savings, and that Coastal had agreed to do the work, subject to a change order, for \$1,255,800.

13. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Nina Fisher, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to award Contract 2025.12 – Slope & Drainage Repairs, to CCC Construction in the amount of \$ 266,240.00, provided that CCC must furnish evidence of qualification for the work that is acceptable in the sole judgment of MTA staff and, if not, to Chase Excavating, in the amount of \$ 339,560.00.
14. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Nina Fisher, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to award Contract 2025.13 – Exit 45 Interchange Paving, to Coastal Road Repair, in the amount of \$1,255,800.00.
15. On motion of Nina Fisher, seconded by Thomas Zuke, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to award Contract 2025.14 – Pavement Repairs, to Coastal Road Repair, in the amount of \$ 324,625.00.
16. Project Manager Jamie Mason reported on ongoing construction projects. Mr. Mason said that the contractor on the Saco Interchange Project had found some unexpected corrosion on the interchange bridge that was slowing work down a little. He said that drainage work continued on the ramps, and installation of toll plaza hardware was progressing. Mr. Mason said that caulking of windows and bridge work continued on the headquarters project, with the punch list review of the first floor work scheduled for next week. He said that work on the customer service renovation would commence soon, as would replacement of the rooftop units, once the permit for the rooftop work had been obtained from the FAA. He said that the southern paving project, 2024.01, was almost complete, and that occupancy was expected at the York Maintenance Garage by the end of June. He said that the Cumberland fuel tank replacement project was about a month late and probably would not be complete until August. He said that the contractor on the Portland area paving project had applied crack sealer to the lanes, was completing shoulder repairs, and hoped to be able to commence paving by the end of the month.
17. Director of Policy and Communication Erin Courtney reported on activity related to her department. She reported that new artwork had been hung in the atrium, and that Chief Operations Officer Peter Merfeld had been honored at a recent ASCE ceremony for his contributions to that organization, in particular his work on the quadrennial report card for Maine's infrastructure. She said that press interest in Memorial Day traffic had been lower than normal, but that the traffic itself had been robust, with only 1,100 transactions less than the MTA's record year of 2019.
18. Director of Highway Maintenance John Cannell presented a proposal to purchase seventeen variable message signs as part of an upcoming pilot program that would discontinue the practice of having workers set up signs in the median for work zones. Mr. Cannell noted that Ver-Mac had agreed to sell the signs for the same price they had submitted as part of a competitive procurement in January.



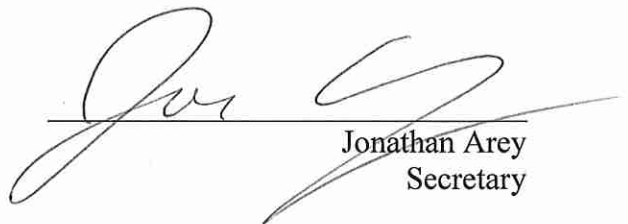
19. On motion of Nina Fisher, seconded by Jane Lincoln, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve the purchase of seventeen variable message signs from Ver-Mac, at a total not to exceed amount of \$ 277,350.00, as presented to the board.
20. On motion of Jane Lincoln, 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 a property acquisition necessary for reconfiguration of the MTA's interchange in Biddeford, Maine, the grant of a utility license in Scarborough, and the use of right of way in Saco, Maine for construction of improvements on Route 112.
  - Discussion, pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(6)(C), of the use of the MTA's concession areas under its lease with its current vendor.
  - 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.
  - Discussion, pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(6)(E), of the legal rights and duties of the MTA in connection with the funding of one or more transit initiatives.
  - Discussion, pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(6)(E), of the legal rights and duties of the MTA in connection with contractor claims.
  - Discussion, pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(6)(A), of implementation of a policy on step increases and COLA adjustments for non-union MTA employees.
  - Discussion, pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(6)(A), of duties and compensation for a new administrative MTA staff position.
  - Discussion, pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(6)(A), of the duties of existing MTA administrative employees.
  - Discussion, pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(6)(F), for discussion of a proposed consultancy contract with Cambridge Systematics, where discussion of the contract is expected to involve trade secrets of the consultant which are made confidential by statute.

The executive session began at 9:40 A.M. and ended at 12:30 A.M.

21. On motion of Nina Fisher, seconded by Jane Lincoln, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve the purchase of a 2.1 acre parcel of property in Biddeford, Maine, needed for the construction of a future reconfiguration of the MTA's Biddeford Interchange, for \$ 625,000.00, with a provision granting the current owner, from

the Saco Valley Credit Union, a right of first refusal to repurchase the property should it not be needed for said project.

22. On motion of Nina Fisher, seconded by Thomas Zuke, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve a license to Unitil for the installation of electrical and telecommunication lines on existing poles across MTA land to service Unitil's natural gas facility.
23. On motion of Nina Fisher, seconded by Jane Lincoln, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve an agreement with Five Star Holdings, LLC, under which the MTA would modify its planned work on Route 112 in Saco to accommodate an extra turning lane that would facilitate Five Star's planned development, subject to reimbursement of the MTA's actual costs, in an amount up to 10 percent over the MTA's current estimate of the work.
24. On motion of Nina Fisher, seconded by Thomas Zuke, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve revisions to the MTA's Non-Union Step Increase and Cost of Living Adjustments Policy, as presented to the board in a document entitled "Non Union Step Increases and Cost of Living Adjustments - Draft 05/20/25."
25. On motion of Nina Fisher, seconded by Jane Lincoln, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to authorize MTA staff to enter into a contract with Cambridge Systematics, Inc., for strategic planning consulting services, with a not to exceed amount of \$90,000.00, as outlined in a proposal presented to the board.
26. Adjourned at 12:33 P.M.

  
Jonathan Arey  
Secretary

7/9/25  
Date