



**MAINE TURNPIKE AUTHORITY
MEETING
July 23rd, 2026**

1. Pursuant to notice, a meeting of the Maine Turnpike Authority was held at 10 a.m. on July 23rd, 2026. The meeting was held at the headquarters of Maine Motor Transport Association in Augusta, Maine.

The following members participated:

Michael Cianchette, Chair
Jane Lincoln, Vice Chair
Emily Becker, Member
William Benson, Member
Nina Fisher, Member
Thomas Zuke, Member
Dale Doughty, MaineDOT Commissioner and Member Ex-Officio

2. Chairman Michael Cianchette called the meeting to order at 10 A.M. He thanked Brian Parke, President of Maine Motor Transport Association, for allowing the board to meet there and use MMTA's facilities. He said that the MTA and Maine Motor Transport had a long and fruitful history of collaboration. Mr. Parke agreed, and said that the relationship had always been an honest one with open communication, and that even on those occasions when the two entities had not agreed he had always enjoyed working with the MTA.
3. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Nina Fisher, the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the board's June 25th, 2026 meeting.
4. John Sirois, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, reported on traffic and revenue. He said that commercial traffic was up 7.1% this month, with passenger vehicles up 2.6%. He said that the MTA had made its annual debt service payment. He reported that the MTA's operating expenses were currently about \$2.2 million into its contingency funds.
5. Jane Lincoln asked about Canadian traffic. Mr. Sirois answered that it was currently down 7% over last year, and 2% for commercial vehicles. He said these calculations were based on Canadians with Maine E-Z Passes, which was a fairly small sample size.
6. Commissioner Dale Doughty joined the meeting at this time.

7. On motion of Tom Zuke, seconded by Nina Fisher, and with unanimous approval of the members voting, it was voted to approve the investments of the Authority for the month of June, 2026, as presented in a report from Bangor Savings Bank dated July 13th, 2026.
8. Director of Human Resources, Rick Stewart, spoke to the board about Cecille Thompson, Deputy Director of Human Resources. He praised her depth of knowledge and professionalism, her leadership during the interim when she had filled the role of acting HR Director, and said that she had made his assumption of the role immeasurably smoother than it might otherwise have been. He said that Ms. Thompson was ‘the most knowledgeable, honest, compassionate, and capable HR professional I have had the privilege of working with.’”
9. The board and Executive Director Briere congratulated Ms. Thompson. Chief Administrative Officer Erin Sullivan echoed Mr. Stewart’s sentiments, saying that she did not know how she would have succeeded in her role, without Cecille’s help during the transition. Chairman Cianchette said that a well-run human resources department was key to enabling the MTA run smoothly and thanked Cecille for her service.
10. Executive Director Andre Briere reported to the board on various matters. He said he was pleased today to be able to present the complete Applegreen lease, which had taken the better part of a year to negotiate. He said he believed that the renovations which Applegreen intended to make would create a showcase for Maine visitors. Director Briere said that MTA staff had recently presented the proposed Phase Two Portland Area Mainline project to the Portland City Council. He said there had been a fulsome, exciting discussion of the project. He said that staff anticipated winding up the public process phase at some point in September. He said that the State Police were in the midst of a maximum enforcement effort in MTA work zones and that Rebecca Grover would show the board some coverage that came out of last night’s enforcement efforts.
11. E-Z Pass Manager Melissa Benware gave a slideshow on achievements of the Cross-Functional Work Groups over the last three months. Ms. Benware had recently taken on the role as coordinator of the work groups, a role previously held by Chief of Operations John Cannell.
12. Director of Public Safety and Special Services, Greg Stone, explained the recent RFP process to obtain bids on operation and sponsorship of the MTA’s Safety Patrol. He said that only one company had bid, and it was the current operator. He said he expected the cost to be around \$745,000 a year, with greatly expanded coverage in hours and area covered. He said a contract with one year terms and one year renewal terms would be negotiated. He said the short term was primarily because of the sponsorship function, with most potential sponsors not willing to sign on for more than a year at a time.
13. On motion of Jane Lincoln, seconded by Nina Fisher, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to authorize MTA staff to negotiate with Travelers

Marketing, LLC, for sponsorship and operation of the MTA Safety Patrol, in accordance with the proposal submitted by Travelers and presented to the board.

14. Mr. Stone next presented two bids received to install CCTV systems in the MTA's service plaza parking lots. He said that staff recommended an award to Engine Hill, but there was still some need for further investigation of their proposed solution, in order to ascertain that the poles they wanted to use could accommodate the equipment they had proposed.
15. Executive Director Briere noted that the cameras to be installed were "dumb-cams", with no AI or OCR components. Nina Fisher asked what the retention period for the video should be and whether there was a policy on this. Staff Attorney Jonathan Arey said a policy was being developed and Director Briere said it would be brought to the board for review.
16. 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 award a contract to install CCTV systems at the MTA's service plazas, in the amount of \$ 455,564, as presented to the board.
17. Chief Administrative Officer Erin Sullivan reported on customer service and human resources related matters. She said that E-Z Pass sticker tags had gone on sale, with 73 selling the first night. She said that sticker tags featuring Red Sox, Portland Sea Dogs, and Hearts of Pine logos would be released for sale in September. She said that the E-Z Pass department had recently changed its business rules so that dual wheeled vehicles were no longer required to get commercial accounts, a requirement that had often been a frustration to customers. She reviewed call statistics from E-Z Pass for June. She said that the average time for human resources to fill empty positions was around 38 days from time of job posting to accepted offer, and that she would like to see this be shorter.
18. Commissioner Doughty asked when the MTA phone app was expected to be ready for release. Director Briere said that staff was hoping for a release in the first part of September.
19. Staff Attorney Jonathan Arey presented some proposed revisions to the MTA's Harassment Policy. Commissioner Doughty said that the responsibility of a supervisor to recognize and respond to complaints should be addressed, in order to avoid situations where employees felt ignored because a supervisor did not recognize the significance of a complaint. Emily Becker suggested that the list of examples in the policy be broadened. She also said that the statement that employees should address issues with "alleged harassers" directly should be qualified to make clear that this was not a requirement, especially if a person did not feel comfortable doing so. Mr. Arey took notes of the comments and said he would revise the policy appropriately.
20. Chief Operations Officer John Cannell discussed a proposal to rent a mobile work zone barrier with the board. He said that MaineDOT was currently renting a unit, which would become available for rent on August 7th. He said that he had previously presented the possibility of buying one of these units, but that he thought renting was preferable at this point because it would give staff time to familiarize themselves with the unit and ensure that

it would be something they could work with. Mr. Cannell said that the cost would be around \$25,000 a month for up to two months, plus additional transportation costs.

21. On motion of Nina Fisher, seconded by Tom Zuke, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve rental of a mobile work zone barrier unit in accordance with the terms described by Chief of Operations John Cannell.
22. Purchasing Manager Nate Carll presented two bids received for mechanical boom street sweepers.
23. On motion of Jane Lincoln, seconded by Tom Zuke, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to authorize staff to purchase a street sweeper from the lower of the two bidders presented offering a product that met MTA specifications.
24. Mr. Carll presented bids received to supply road salt to the MTA for the 2026-2027 season. He noted that the low bidder, Eastern Salt, was the MTA's current supplier.
25. On motion of Tom Zuke, seconded by Emily Becker, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to authorize staff to enter into a contract with Eastern Salt for supply of road salt to all MTA locations over the 2026-2027 season, at the prices presented to the board.
26. Mr. Carll presented bids received to supply propane to the MTA for the 2026-2027 season. Mr. Carll said that propane prices changed daily and that the Dead River bid had gone up to \$1.3453 a gallon since the prices in the board book had been received. He said that consumers paid an average of \$3.17 a gallon for propane.
27. On motion of Tom Zuke, seconded by Emily Becker, and with unanimous approval of the members present, Dale Doughty having stepped out of the room on other business, it was voted to authorize staff to enter into a contract with Dead River to supply propane for heating to the MTA over the 2026-2027 season, at the price of \$1.3453 a gallon.
28. Mr. Carll presented three bids received to supply pest control services to the MTA. He said this was prompted, in part, by the fact that the MTA's service provider had found a lot of mice when servicing MTA generators. He said the contract included rodents and all insects except for ticks. He said the annual cost was \$47,181.60, with a five year cost of \$235,908. He said the actual contract would be year to year with the MTA having an option to opt out of auto renewal with 60 days' notice.
29. On motion of Emily Becker, seconded by Tom Zuke, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to authorize staff to enter into a contract with Ehrlich for pest control services, for up to five years, for a total five year cost of up to \$235,908.
30. On motion of Nina Fisher, seconded by Tom Zuke, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to authorize the purchase of seven message boards from Daktronics, for a total cost of \$437,150.00, said purchase being made on a sole source basis

due to the fact that brand consistency in these boards allowed for a consolidated inventory of spare parts and more consistent communication with the MTA's dispatch center.

31. Purchasing Manager Nate Carll presented bids received to supply electricity to the MTA. He noted that the MTA usually did this in November, to be effective December 1st, but that the MTA's broker had suggested it might be advantageous to lock in prices now, in a market where prices seemed to be rapidly increasing. He said that these prices were updated daily and that the price offered by the low bidder, BP Energy, was now .129 a kwh.
32. On motion of Nina Fisher, seconded by Tom Zuke, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to authorize MTA staff to enter into a one year contract for the supply of MTA's electricity with BP Energy, at .129 per kwh, effective December 1st, 2026.
33. Chairman Michael Cianchette asked if there were any objections to the purchases contained on the July, 2026 Consent Agenda. There were no objections, and the consent agenda was considered approved.
34. On motion of Nina Fisher, seconded by Tom Zuke, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve final payment on the following contracts:
 - Contract 2025.12 – Slop and Culvert Repairs, in the amount of \$ 5,982.14, to CCC Construction, LLC, for a final contract amount of \$ 398,808.87.
 - Contract 2026.11 – Captain Thomas Emergency Vehicle Ramp, in the amount of \$ 26,247.95, to R.J. Grondin & Sons, for a final contract amount of \$315,513.35.
35. Director of Public Safety and Special Services, Greg Stone, presented bids received in response to an RFP for proposals to provide the MTA with an Intelligent Traffic Management System. Mr. Stone said that the system would integrate existing MTA ITS systems and, among other things, be able to predict dangerous situations that could lead to crashes. He said that some of the respondents had offered all-inclusive traffic management software but that staff had looked more closely only at those who were offering products that could integrate into the MTA's existing system.
36. Chairman Cianchete asked who had been on the scoring committee. Mr. Stone answered that the committee had included John Cannell, Kristi Van Ooyen and Andrew Constantine. William Benson asked why the recommended vendor, Valerann, had offered a cost that was significantly lower than the others. Mr. Stone said the Valerann product was a "plug in" product, rather than a turn key solution, and that they were a younger, more aggressive company than some of the others.
37. 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 Valerann to supply the MTA with an Intelligent Traffic Management System, in accordance with the

documents provided to this meeting, at the cost of up to \$ 1,610,000 for five years of system operation.

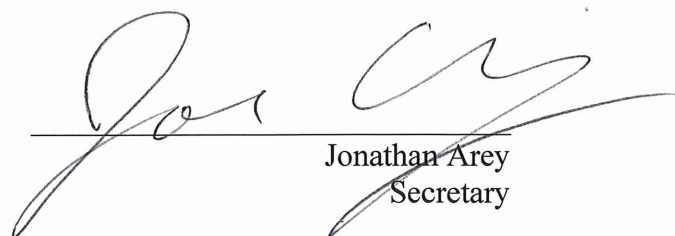
38. Project Manager Jamie Mason reported on ongoing construction projects. He said that the bridge joints had been replaced on the southbound Androscoggin Bridge, and the concrete on that side was just being finished, after which the contractor will mill and pave that side before switching to the northbound bridge. He said there had been three nights of paving northbound on the New Gloucester to Auburn paving project. He said that the paving project in Arundel had a few more nights of paving left, then would be wrapping up for completion by September. He said the contractor would then move on to the Falmouth area paving project, which was currently on hold. He said the bridge painting contractor had been finishing about one bridge a month. He reported that the contractor was getting ready to install the foundation for the new maintenance building. He said that by the end of the floors the concrete work and slab floors should be complete, and the structure should go up fairly quickly after that.
39. Communications intern Olivia Guinard presented to the board on her summer at the MTA.
40. Director of Communications Rebecca Grover reported on the recent Maine State Police work zone speed enforcement effort. She said that Representative Bishop, of the transportation committee, was writing an op-ed in support of the effort and had ridden along with a trooper for part of a day.
41. Nina Fisher congratulated the communications department on the significant increase in the MTA's social media presence. She said she was looking forward to the website update as well.
42. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Emily Becker, 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 renegotiation of the MTA's current lease for operation of the MTA's service plazas.
 - Discussion, pursuant to 1 MRSA §405(6)(D), of the existing contract between the MTA and MSEA, as well as proposals and procedures for the 2026 renewal negotiations for that contract.
 - Discussion, pursuant to 1 MRSA §405(6)(E), of the legal rights and duties of the MTA in regard to negotiations for extension of its existing ETC Maintenance Contract

The executive session began at 12:43 P.M. and ended at 1:25 P.M.

July, 2026

43. On motion of Nina Fisher, seconded by Thomas Zuke, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve an Amended and Restated Lease for Concessions with the MTA's current concessions operator, Applegreen Maine Welcome Centers, LLC, and to authorize staff to take all actions necessary to finalize the Lease as presented to the board.

Adjourned at 1:25 P.M.



Jonathan Arey
Secretary

9/8/26
Date

