



**MAINE TURNPIKE AUTHORITY  
MEETING**

**December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

1. Pursuant to notice, a meeting of the Maine Turnpike Authority was held at 9 a.m. on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025

The following were present:

Michael Cianchette, Chair  
Jane Lincoln, Vice Chair  
Emily Becker, Member  
Thomas Zuke, Member  
Acting MaineDOT Commissioner Dale Doughty

2. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Jane Lincoln, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to adopt the minutes of the November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meeting of the Authority as presented.
3. John Sirois, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, reported on traffic and revenue, stating that revenue was down very slightly, at about .5 percent, which was most likely due to commercial traffic which had been flat overall for the year but erratic. He reported that the new exit 35 in Saco was generating a substantial amount of traffic. He said that balances in the MTA's funds were slightly lower than this time last year, and that expenses had been about \$1 million higher than anticipated, but still well within the contingency of the operating budget.
4. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Jane Lincoln, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve the investments of the Authority for the month of November, 2025, as presented in a report from Bangor Savings Bank dated December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
5. Executive Director Andre Briere reported to the board on various matters. He said he would discuss the ongoing negotiations with the Authority's service plaza operator, Applegreen, in executive session. He said a communications effort with legislators had begun on the Authority's work zone speed enforcement bill, noting that 88 percent of vehicles were regularly speeding through work zones and that combined with inattentive driving this was a dangerous situation. He reported that the MTA's strategic planning work

groups had identified several “quick wins” and were prioritizing and staffing longer range goals. Director Briere said that the MTA’s lack of investment in IT over the last decade was a serious challenge, but that upgrading would save money and time in the long run. He said that the public education campaign had been progressing well and that outreach to corridor communities seemed to be appreciated.

6. Chief Administrative Officer Erin Sullivan reported on activities related to her departments. She said that the MTA’s company store was not online, with 150 employees having taken advantage of their complimentary code so far. She said she was working on developing a competitive process for engaging public relations consultants so as to avoid sole source procurement in that area s much as possible. She said there had been 16 applicants for the human resources director position and that she expected interviews to start next week. She said that HR was working on posting the Chief Operations Officer position in anticipation of Peter Merfeld’s retirement later this year.
7. Ms. Sullivan said that she expected sales of E-Z Pass sticker tags to commence within 6 to 8 weeks. She said that starting January 5th customer service hours would change to 8 Am to 5 PM daily, partly due to the fact that customer calls from 5 to 6 PM currently accounted for only 3 to 5 % of call volume. She said that this would result in fewer shifts being needed, though staff would be looking at the possibility of extending hours in the summer months or around some holidays, especially for walk in traffic. Executive Director Briere mentioned that the MTA’s E-Z Pass app was expected to release in mid-2026 and that this would hopefully relieve some pressure on customer service.
8. Director of Maintenance John Cannell reported on winter maintenance activities, stating that November had been fairly typical compared to the last few years.
9. Staff Attorney Jonathan Arey reviewed proposed changes to the MTA’s Attendance and Punctuality and Employee Verification policy with the board. There were no questions or concerns expressed with either policy.
10. Mr. Arey reviewed the proposed MTA Ethics Code and Ethics Policy with the board, noting that these had been provided for the board’s first review in November and that this month staff was asking for board approval of the policy and code.
11. On motion f Jane Lincoln, seconded by Emily Becker, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to adopt the MTA Ethics Code and Policy on Ethics as presented.
12. Director of Information Technology William Yates reviewed a revised Information Technologies/ Telecommunication Disaster Recovery Plan with the board. He said that this plan was focused on continuity of IT operations and that it would be accompanied by a policy on business continuity that was being developed and would be presented to the board at a later date. Mr. Yates said that the procedures in the plan would be tabletop tested by his department as well.

13. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Emily Becker, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to adopt the Information Technologies/ Telecommunication Disaster Recovery Plan as presented to the board.
14. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Emily Becker, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve a five year contract with Petroleum Maintenance Systems, Inc, for annual underground fuel tank inspections and maintenance at the cost of approximately \$34,561.40 per year, for a total estimated cost of approximately \$ 172,807.00 for the length of the contract.
15. Director of Intelligent Transportation Systems Eric Barnes presented estimated costs for toll system upgrades to the board for 2026, which costs constituted phase three of a four year upgrade plan estimated to cost approximately \$11,249,695.00.
16. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Jane Lincoln, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve the expenditure of funds in the amount of \$2,656,820.00 for 2026 toll system upgrades, in accordance with the schedule presented to the board.
17. Deputy Director of Engineering Kristi Van Ooyen reviewed the currently proposed Four Year Capital Plan with the board, and described comments received on the plan by GPCOG, the city of Augusta, the city of Auburn and the town of Gray.
18. On motion of Jane Lincoln, seconded by Emily Becker, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve the Four Year Capital Plan as presented to the board.
19. Chairman Michael Cianchette asked if there were any objections to the purchases contained on the December, 2025 Consent Agenda. There being no objections, the consent agenda was considered approved.
20. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Jane Lincoln, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve award of the following contracts:
  - Contract 2026.01 – Pavement Rehabilitation and Safety Improvements, in the amount of \$ 10,132,469.25, to Coastal Road Repair.
  - Contract 2026.05 – Bridge Repairs, in the amount of \$ 2,356,493.40, to CPM Constructors.
  - Contract 2026.07 – Crosby Maintenance Office Building, in the amount of \$3,977,392.00, to BenchMark.
21. Project Manager Jamie Mason reported on ongoing construction projects. Mr. Mason reported that the contractor on the Saco Interchange project was shutting down for the winter, and would return in the spring to complete punch list items, including installation of

back ordered equipment. He said that there was still only one lane open southbound on the Androscoggin Bridge, though if the weather was warm enough the contractor would do some concrete work before winter break. He said that he expected the repair work on the Forest Avenue bridge to be complete by the end of the month, and that the contractor would then transition to work on the Saco River Bridge.

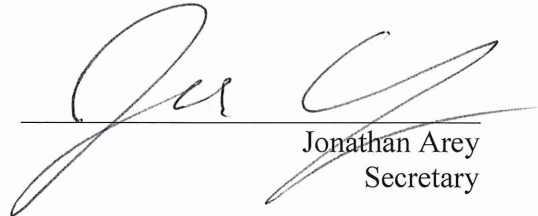
22. Director of Communications Rebecca Grover reported on activities relating to her department. She described the transportation conference held in Augusta earlier in the month, and the participation of MTA highway maintenance workers in the Gardiner holiday parade. She said that staff was preparing for the upcoming legislative session, specifically in regards to the MTA's proposed work zone speed enforcement bill, which had been carried over from last session. She said that about half of the town visits for the year had been conducted, and reminded board members that they were invited to the MTA office holiday lunch to take place after the meeting.
23. Director of Public Safety and Special Services Greg Stone reported to the board on a request by the Maine State Troopers Foundation to erect a memorial to fallen state troopers at the northbound Kennebunk Service Plaza. Mr. Stone said that the foundation had raised the necessary funds for the monuments and presented a site to the MTA. He said that he would report to the board in the future on the progress of these talks.
24. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Jane Lincoln, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve a three year contract for generator maintenance and testing to Cummins Sales and Service, in the amount of \$201,920.28, or, in the event that Cummins was not determined to meet MTA qualifications, to one of the other of the three bidders who submitted bids who, in the judgment of MTA staff was the lowest qualified bidder.
25. 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), on negotiations regarding the lease of MTA's concession areas.
  - Discussion, pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(6)(E), of the legal rights and duties of the MTA in connection with a policy on tolls and emergency vehicles.
  - Discussion, pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(6)(E), of the legal rights and duties of the MTA in connection with the MTA's policing contract with the Department of Public Safety.
26. The executive session began at 10:18 A.M. and ended at 10:55 A.M.
27. On motion of Jane Lincoln, seconded by Thomas Zuke, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve an amendment to the MTA's current agreement with the Department of Public Safety for Policing Services that would extend

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that agreement until December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, or whenever a successor agreement was successfully negotiated, whichever came sooner, and to agree that the MTA was amenable to negotiating an increase in the full compliment of the turnpike troop by four troopers, one corporal and two sergeants, if said increase were to be approved in the upcoming legislative session.

28. On motion of Jane Lincoln, seconded by Thomas Zuke, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to adjourn,

Adjourned at 10:55 A.M.

  
Jonathan Arey  
Secretary

2/2/26  
Date