



**MAINE TURNPIKE AUTHORITY
MEETING
April 30th, 2026**

1. Pursuant to notice, a meeting of the Maine Turnpike Authority was held at 9 a.m. on April 30th, 2026.

The following were present:

Michael Cianchette, Chair
Emily Becker, Member
William Benson, Member
Nina Fisher, Member
Thomas Zuke, Member

2. Chairman Michael Cianchette called the meeting to order at 9 A.M.
3. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Nina Fisher, the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the board's March 26th, 2026 meeting.
4. John Sirois, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, reported on traffic and revenue. He said that commercial traffic appeared to be lagging, especially the heavier vehicles, with commercial traffic up overall only .6% from April, 2024 numbers.
5. Mr. Sirois said that staff had received ten responses to a recent request for proposals for a new accounting system, and that he expected to return to the board with a recommended vendor in a month or two.
6. Chairman Cianchette asked about the possible reasons for Applegreen's increased concession sales. Mr. Sirois said he believed the company may have been focusing more on performance in Maine after having missed concession opportunities in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.
7. On motion of Thomas 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 March 2026, as presented in a report from Bangor Savings Bank dated April 15th, 2026.
8. Director of Fare Collection Rick Barra introduced Fare Collection Superintendent Tim Harris, who was retiring after nearly forty years of service at the MTA, having started as a

toll collector in 1987. He said that Mr. Harris was the son of a chaplain and a bass guitar player who had played in several local bands. He said that Mr. Harris had a great work ethic and had four grandchildren, one of who was at the meeting today, along with his wife and two of his daughters. Executive Director Andre Briere and the board thanked Mr. Harris for his service.

9. Executive Director Briere reported to the board on various matters. He said that agreements had been essentially finalized with the Red Sox, Sea Dogs and Hearts of Pine for the use of those teams' logos on E-Z Pass sticker tags. He said that the MTA had also entered into a sponsorship agreement with Hearts of Pine for this year, and that he expected to be returning next year with a renewal and expansion of that agreement focused on promotion of the MTA's safety initiatives.
10. Director Briere reported that Applegreen would be installing electric vehicle chargers at Cumberland and Gray this spring, utilizing grant funds from Efficiency Maine. He said that negotiations with Applegreen continued, with another meeting to take place tomorrow.
11. Director Briere reported on the coming "bow wave" of IT infrastructure improvements coming to the MTA. He cited a planned ADP redeployment to add functionality while also cutting costs and a NIST cybersecurity certification process that was long overdue.
12. Director Briere reported that the MTA's work zone speed enforcement bill, LD 1457, had unexpectedly failed in the senate. He said that the MTA would be partnering with MaineDOT to bring a version of the bill back next session and that in the meantime he was hoping to use some of the money that would have been spent on developing this enforcement effort on other means to increase worker safety. He noted a recent incident where a driver had collided with an MTA pickup parked on the side of the road. He said that one MTA employee had been in the vehicle at the time, and had fortunately not been injured. He said that, while this was not a work zone accident, it did illustrate the daily perils faced by the MTA's highway workers.
13. Director of Highway Maintenance John Cannell reported to the board on a mobile work zone barrier that is used in other states. He played a video demonstrating how the barrier functioned and said he would be reporting back on possible uses for Maine. He said that staff was also looking at less expensive initiatives such as intrusion detection systems that use audio and haptic signals to warn workers when a vehicle entered a work zone.
14. Chief Administrative Officer Erin Sullivan reported on customer service related matters, noting that a lot of customers were still calling on issues for which functionality was available on the website, like adding funds to an account. She said that customer service would be increasing its hours on holiday weekends. Chairman Cianchette asked if there was a best time of day to call customer service. Ms. Sullivan said that she could look into that and get back to him next month.
15. Ms. Sullivan also reported on issues related to human resources. She said that data showed it was now taking an average of 31 days to fill a vacant position as opposed to 52

last year. She also reported on a proposed ADP redeployment, which would be capable of integrating payroll functions and other HR related functions. She said that staff had looked at several options and described the cost comparison that had been done between transitioning to ADP's Workforce Now and upgrading the MTA's current Ev6 environment. Director Briere supported this recommendation, noting that Ev6 is geared towards very large, world-wide organizations, and had originally been selected by the MTA because of the complexities and varieties of its various employee positions. He said that Workforce Now was geared more towards mid-sized organizations and was more suitable for use at the MTA.

16. Chairman Cianchette said he supported this transition but was wondering if it might lead to fewer employees at some point because of efficiencies. Ms. Sullivan said she did not think so, and believed it would free up employee time for new efforts that were currently not pursued due to all the staff time spent on manual processing of routine functions. She said she believed that this system would allow MTA staff to be more effective but was not likely to reduce head count.
17. On motion of Emily Becker, seconded by Thomas Zuke, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve the implementation of ADP Workforce Now in accordance with a proposal presented to the board by Chief Administrative Officer Erin Sullivan.
18. Chief Operations Officer John Cannell reported on winter maintenance activities. He said that March had not been as interesting as the preceding months, and was about average temperature wise. He said that there were a lot more employee hours this winter overall as compared to recent winters, however. He noted that the use of brine was increasing and said that he monitored this monthly, aiming to achieve a ten to one ratio of brine to salt.
19. Nina Fisher said that she hoped MTA staff would communicate with the public more on winter maintenance activities, with numbers and facts. Mr. Cannell said that there had been a fairly substantial increase in coverage and social media communications relating to winter maintenance recently. Chairman Cianchette asked Mr. Cannell to give all MTA plow drivers his thanks for an excellent job over an especially hard winter.
20. Chairman Cianchette recused himself for the discussion on vehicle purchases due to the involvement of relatives in one of the companies involved, and Thomas Zuke presided as chairman for that agenda item.
21. On motion of Emily Becker, seconded by Nina Fisher, and with the unanimous approval of all members voting, Michael Cianchette abstaining, it was voted to approve the purchase of an electrician's truck, a one ton truck with dump and plow, and a rack truck from Casco Bay Ford, for a total purchase price of \$ 330,446.28, as presented to the board by Chief Operations Officer John Cannell.
22. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Nina Fisher, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve the purchase of 61,000 E-Z pass transponders for

a total purchase price of \$ 430,000.00, as proposed to the board by Director of E-Z Pass Samantha Kaherl.

23. Director of E-Z Pass Samantha Kaherl presented a proposed two phase scanning project to digitize customer service files. She said the proposal included indexing of the files as searchable pdfs, redaction of sensitive information, and shredding of older documents with certified records of destruction. Ms. Kaherl said the cost of the proposal was \$410,000 overall, for 810 boxes and approximately two million scans, though the initial phase would consist of 100 boxes.
24. On motion of Nina Fisher, seconded by Thomas Zuke, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve a contract with Records Management Center for the digitization of customer service files, in the not to exceed amount of \$ 410,574.00, as presented by Director of E-Z Pass Samantha Kaherl.
25. Staff Attorney Jonathan Arey presented and briefly described some proposed revisions to the MTA's current Policy on Road Access Points and Median Openings. There were no objections or questions regarding the proposed revisions.
26. On motion of Nina Fisher, seconded by Emily Becker, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve the grant to GoNetSpeed of a license to install a fiber line across the turnpike on existing poles as mile marker 30.3 in Arundel, all as presented to the board by Director of Engineering Steven Tartre.
27. Purchasing Manager Nate Carrll pointed out a correction on the April, 2026 Consent Agenda, noting that the purchase from Perceptics should have been listed as \$76,000, rather than \$46,000. He said the \$30,000 difference was the price for two additional processors and licenses.
28. Chairman Michael Cianchette asked if there were any objections to the purchases contained on the April 2026 Consent Agenda, as corrected by Mr. Carrll. There being no objections, the consent agenda was considered approved.
29. On motion of Nina Fisher, seconded by Emily Becker, and with unanimous approval of the members present it was voted to award Contract 2026.18 – Pavement Repairs, in the amount of \$224,315.00, to Coastal Road Repair.
30. Project Manager Jamie Mason reported on ongoing construction projects. He said that all traffic on the Androscoggin Bridge had been transferred to the northbound side, and that he hoped that project would be complete by July 4th. He said that the contractor was finishing up the underside of the Forest Avenue Bridge and then would just have to work on a few bridge joints on top before moving on to a bridge in Saco. He said the Crosby Maintenance Building project was at a standstill, waiting for a power line relocation, though he hoped the contractor would have its full force working on the foundation by the middle of May. Mr. Mason noted that MTA maintenance workers were providing traffic control on Contract 2026.14- Asphalt Plug Joint Replacements, a practice that facilitated

the use as prime contractors of companies that were usually subs, due to their lack of resources for traffic control.

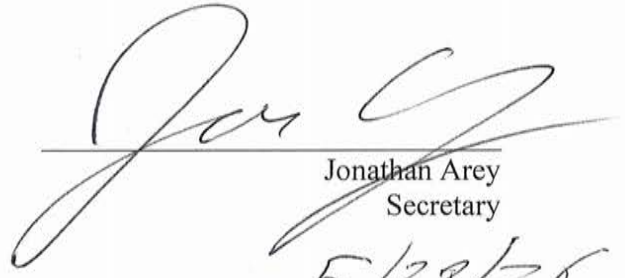
31. Director of Communications Rebecca Grover reported on activities related to her department. She noted that this was Work Zone Safety Awareness Week, and described several initiatives related to that, including an online pledge posted by MaineDOT, and a work zone themed door decorating contest at Waterville High School, sponsored by the MTA. She also noted that several social media segments on the topic had been done, each featuring a different MTA maintenance worker, and played two of the videos for the board.
32. Staff Attorney and Board Secretary Jonathan Arey discussed the 2026 meeting schedule with the board. It was decided to move the September 24th workshop to September 17th. It was also decided that staff would pursue finding a venue for a remote board meeting in the Augusta area for July.
33. Director of Information Technologies Bill Yates presented several proposed consulting contracts to facilitate the MTA's compliance with NIST (National Institute of Standards and Technology) cybersecurity standards. He noted that the contracts would all be with Optiv Security, Inc., which had secured the state contract for NIST compliance. Mr. Yates said that Optiv had examined MTA practices and found them mostly positive, but lacking in documentation and regimentation. Executive Director Briere said that the MTA was beginning to require NIST compliance from contractors it worked with, as well. He added that, since the MTA developed software in-house they were subject to a higher than average standard in this process.
34. Chairman Cianchette asked if this level of certification would assist the MTA in obtaining cyber insurance or more favorable premiums. Chief Financial Officer John Sirois replied that staff was currently considering dropping cyber insurance and self-insuring, which was becoming a prevalent practice.
35. On motion of Nina Fisher, seconded by Tom Zuke, and with the unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve five contracts with Optiv Security, Inc., with a total not to exceed figure of \$396,149.95, as presented to the board by Director of Information Technology William Yates.
36. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Nina Fisher, 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 acquisition of property in Portland, Maine necessary for an MTA construction project.
 - 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)(E), of the MTA's legal rights and duties in connection with the MTA's existing toll system maintenance contract.

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The executive session began at 10:55 AM and ended at 11:39 A.M.

37. On motion of Nina Fisher, seconded by Thomas Zuke, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve the purchase of a property at 1782 Forest Avenue in Portland Maine, for the purchase price of \$ 455,000.00.

Adjourned at 11:39 A.M.



Jonathan Arey
Secretary
5/28/26

Date