



**MAINE TURNPIKE AUTHORITY
MEETING**

July 24th, 2025

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

The following were present:

Michael Cianchette, Chair
Jane Lincoln, Vice Chair
Emily Becker, Member
Nina Fisher, Member
Thomas Zuke, Member
Andrew McLean, via Zoom
Deputy Commissioner Dale Doughty, for Bruce Van Note, Member Ex-Officio

2. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Jane Lincoln, the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the board's June 26th meeting.
3. John Sirois, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, reported on financial matters. He noted that revenue had been fairly flat this month, with not as much traffic as last year, but with commercial traffic up slightly to compensate. He said that he was currently estimating that Canadian traffic had declined about 50 percent compared to 2024. Mr. Sirois reported that a \$5 million dollar payment had been received from New York to make up for earlier reconciliation payments that had been delayed.
4. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Nina Fisher, the board voted unanimously to approve investments of money to the credit of Maine Turnpike Authority funds made during the month of June, 2025, as detailed on a report submitted to this meeting by Bangor Savings Bank, dated July 14th, 2025.
5. Executive Director Andre Briere reported to the board on various matters. He said that Canadian border crossings were down this year by about 90,000 and that this might be having an impact on the MTA's sluggish traffic numbers this summer. He introduced Erin Courtney in her new role as the MTA's first Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). He noted that there had been over sixteen nationwide applications for the job, with six finalists who were extremely qualified, but Ms. Courtney had clearly shown herself to be the most

qualified and prepared of them all. Mr. Briere described an upcoming strategic plan meeting for staff in Freeport on August 5th, which would be coordinated by Cambridge Systematics. He reported that negotiations had been opened with Applegreen on amendments to the existing service plaza lease, which could allow revamping of the service plazas with new food concepts, new bathrooms, facilities for children and a focus on Maine products. He said staff was expected a proposal from Applegreen in August.

6. Executive Director Briere described the Transportation Working Group process that the MTA and MaineDOT had participated in for several years, and which had issued recommendations in 2024. One of those recommendations had been development of a plan to mitigate for greenhouse gas emissions from any new capacity project. Director Briere noted that the two agencies were currently working together to develop such a plan over the next year, and had engaged Cambridge Systematics to assist in this process.
7. Chief Operations Officer Peter Merfeld updated the board on two parcels of real estate that had recently been acquired by the MTA. He said the farm house and barn on the Black property in Gorham had remained vacant since its acquisition in 2023 and was a target for break ins and vandalism. He said that the MTA was working with the town of Gorham to determine the best process for demolishing this building. Mr. Merfeld also reported that William Gooch's property on Saco Street in Scarborough, Maine, had been acquired on July 22nd. He said that the MTA had committed to purchase the property a few years previously, while planning for a Gorham corridor, and had wanted to honor that commitment, but that the property had 2,000 square feet of road frontage and held independent value for the MTA in that it provided access to a landlocked parcel the MTA owned adjacent to it.
8. Tim Cote of HNTB Corporation updated the board on recent changes to federal bridge inspection standards and how they would affect upcoming annual inspections of the MTA's facilities. He said that a tightening of the definitions used for bridge conditions meant that some of the MTA's bridges that were currently classified as "Fair" might now have to be classified as "Poor" condition bridges. Mr. Cote said he currently expected that about 10 bridges and 3 minor spans might fall into this category, but that all of them were programmed for work within the next six years.
9. Chief Operations Officer Peter Merfeld presented the current draft of the MTA's Four Year Capital Plan to the board, noting that staff was planning to invite public comment on the plan for the rest of the summer and through part of September, with the plan coming back to the board for final review and approval in November or December.
10. On motion of Nina Fisher, seconded by Jane Lincoln, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to award a contract to supply winter salt to the MTA for the 2025-2026 season to Eastern Salt, at the prices set forth in Eastern's bid as presented to the board by Purchasing Manager Nathan Carll.

11. On motion of Nina Fisher, seconded by Thomas Zuke, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to award a contract to supply propane to the MTA for the 2025-2026 season to Dead River Company, at \$1.25 a gallon.
12. Director of Highway Maintenance John Cannell presented proposals received for snow plow equipment and installation. Mr. Cannell noted that this was the first time in several years that the MTA had bid out the fitting of its chassis in this way, and that four good bids had been received. Mr. Cannell recommended an award to the low bidder, H.P. Fairfield, contingent on a successful pre-award meeting and a definitive determination that Fairfield could meet the MTA's specifications on schedule.
13. On motion of Nina Fisher, seconded by Jane Lincoln, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve the award of a contract for the fit out of MTA plow truck chassis to H.P. Fairfield, in accordance with the bid submitted by that company and in the amount of \$ 3,739,554.00, provided that this award would be conditional upon MTA staff being satisfied as to the ability of H.P. Fairfield to satisfactorily meet MTA specifications within an acceptable time frame.
14. Director of Highway Maintenance John Cannell presented a proposed amendment to the MTA's Sponsorships and Memberships Budget, to include \$ 3,273.00 annually for memberships in the American Public Works Association (APWA). Mr. Cannell said that he believed that becoming a Public Agency Member of the APWA would provide value in allowing 16 individual memberships at a discount of about \$400 per person. He said that there was a lot of interest in the organization, both in his department and the engineering department, because of the training and other benefits it provided.
15. On motion of Nina Fisher, seconded by Thomas Zuke, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve addition of the APWA to the MTA's Sponsorship and Membership Budget as proposed.
16. Chairman Michael Cianchette drew the board's attention to the July Contract Consent Agenda and asked if there were any questions or objections. There were none, and the Consent Agenda was considered approved.
17. Deputy Director of Engineering Kristi Van Ooyen presented two engineering consultant contracts. The first was a new contract with Gorrill Palmer for design services, most of which would involve design work on additional truck parking at the Cumberland and Gray Service Plazas. The second was the extension of an existing contract with Colby Company, for fire protection services, including designs for each of the maintenance camps Colby had inspected thus far.
18. On motion of Nina Fisher, seconded by Thomas Zuke and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to:

- Award Contract 2024.102 – Engineering Design Services, to Gorrill Palmer, in the not to exceed amount of \$500,000 and an expiration date of December 31st, 2029.
 - Amend Contract 2025.101 – Fire Protection Services, with Colby Company, LLC, to increase the not to exceed amount to \$ 500,000 and extend the expiration date to December 31st, 2029.
19. Project Manager Jamie Mason reported on ongoing construction projects. Mr. Mason said that the contractor on the Saco Interchange Project was wrapping up the Route 112 work and looking at completion dates. He said that replacement of the rooftop HVAC units at MTA headquarters was complete, and that most major work on the contract was expected to be finished within a couple of weeks, with change order and punch list items to follow. Mr. Mason said the plan on the Cumberland Service Plaza fuel system replacement project was to switch the system over next week, with a shutdown of approximately 24 hours while that happened. Chairman Cianchette asked what the cause of delay had been on that project, and Mr. Mason replied that it had been partly material delays and partly faulty contractor logistics. He reported that great progress was being made on the Portland area paving project. He said that one bridge on the Androscoggin Bridge project would be closing soon, with all traffic moving over to a single bridge, but that both bridges were intended to reopen before winter.
20. Chief Administrative Officer Erin Courtney reported on several items, including the recent union election, in which Cal Paquet had been re-elected as president, with the other officers being Jim Kelly, Amanda Wilcox and Jamie Tishim. She reminded the board of the upcoming Portland Sea Dogs event for employees. She described a recent work zone safety radio spot featuring MTA employee Jeff Nadeau, and played it for the board. She then played a short video featuring customer service employee Peter McNamara, demonstrating how to properly mount E-Z Pass sticker tags. Ms. Courtney said that she was very excited about her new position as Chief Administrative Officer and that Rebecca Grover would be acting as interim Director of Communications in her stead.
21. On motion of Nina Fisher, seconded by Thomas Zuke, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to ratify an Amendment to the MTA's existing Services Agreement with the MaineDOT, under which the MTA would contribute an estimated \$ 85,000 towards installation of "Weigh in Motion" equipment at the Truck Enforcement Area located at mile 5.4 northbound, with said contribution to be regarded as a Department Project for the purposes of 23 MRSA § 1961(7).
22. 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)(A), of duties and compensation for a new administrative MTA staff position.


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- Discussion, pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(6)(C), of the use of MTA property in connection with contractual negotiations regarding the MTA's service plazas.
- Discussion, pursuant to 1 § 405(6)(E) and §405(6)(F), of the legal rights and duties of the MTA in relation to proposed legislation and of information contained in records relating to positions on legislation.

The executive session began at 10:15 A.M. and ended at 11:00 A.M.

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

Adjourned at 11:00 A.M.


Jonathan Arey
Secretary
9/16/25
Date