



**MAINE TURNPIKE AUTHORITY
MEETING
May 28th, 2026**

1. Pursuant to notice, a meeting of the Maine Turnpike Authority was held at 9 a.m. on May 28th, 2026.

The following members participated:

Michael Cianchette, Chair
Jane Lincoln, Vice Chair
Emily Becker, Member
William Benson, Member (*via Zoom*)
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 Jane Lincoln, the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the board's April 30th, 2026 meeting.
4. John Sirois, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, reported on traffic and revenue. He said that commercial traffic continued to lag and traffic as a whole seemed to have been dampened by the poor weather. He said that the new Perceptics automated system for VES was contributing to a significant increase in production in that department, which he estimated represented an approximately \$270,000 savings that would otherwise have been spent on wages for temporary employees. He said that at this rate the Perceptics system could pay for itself by the end of the year.
5. 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 April, 2026, as presented in a report from Bangor Savings Bank dated May 14th, 2026.
6. Director of E-Z Pass Samantha Kaherl introduced Shannon Rouillard, from her department, who had recently successfully completed Maine Tourism's Leadership Academy. Ms. Kaherl said that Ms. Rouillard consistently performed above expectations and was well regarded by others in the department.

7. John Sirois, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer reported that the administrative assistant in the finance department, Kathy Moulton, was retiring after 24 years of service with the MTA. He said that Ms. Moulton had not wanted a conspicuous recognition of this, but he wanted the board to know that she was leaving and to thank her, on the record, for her long and meritorious service with the MTA.
8. Executive Director Briere reported to the board on various matters. He said that preparations for the Portland Area Modernization program were progressing well, with Bruce Van Note and HNTB leading the process. He said the process was expected to continue through the summer, and would include an update of the 2018 data and engagement with the community.
9. Director Briere described the MTA's attendance at a recent Bring Back the Trades event, which he believed had been a success and should be repeated, as a way to introduce the MTA as an option to upcoming workers in the trades. He introduced two MTA summer interns, Olivia Guinard in Policy and Communications and Brayden Winship in Finance.
10. Director Briere reported that Chief Operations Officer Peter Merfeld was retiring from the MTA this week. The board thanked him for his service, particularly during the period when he had served as acting executive director prior to Director Briere's arrival at the MTA.
11. Vice Chair Jane Lincoln said that she believed Peter Merfeld to be a true leader, and was someone who lead in a quiet, kind and thoughtful way that was strong but showed respect for others. She said that he had made the transition between executive directors much smoother and calmer than it might otherwise have been.
12. Director of Special Services Greg Stone updated the board on efforts to expand the MTA's Highway Safety Patrol. Mr. Stone said that the MTA's current vendor, Autobase, had put forth a good plan, but that staff had determined it made sense to do an abbreviated RFP in order to test the market for alternatives. He said he would report back to the board in future months on the RFP's progress.
13. Chief Administrative Officer Erin Sullivan reported on customer service and human resources related matters. She said that extended E-Z Pass hours had been implemented for Memorial Day weekend, with only one additional walk-in customer on Thursday, but with many more on Friday, so that she thought it made sense to do this again on future long weekends, with possibly only Friday hours extended. She shared human resources statistics with the board showing that the time it was taking for the MTA to fill vacant positions continued to decrease.
14. Staff Attorney Jonathan Arey presented and briefly described some proposed revisions to the MTA's current Personal Communications Devices Policy. He said that the most significant change was a switch to reimbursement based upon a representative annual bill, as opposed to the current practice, which was to require employees to present their actual bill every month. Executive Director Briere said that this was a change mutually developed in

the Labor Management Committee. He said that reimbursement of these costs historically required a lot of processing time, so this change was expected to save money for the MTA while making the process easier for employees.


15. Chairman Michael Cianchette asked if there were any objections to the purchases contained on the May, 2026 Consent Agenda. There being no objections, the consent agenda was considered approved.
16. On motion of Nina Fisher, seconded by Emily Becker, and with unanimous approval of the members present it was voted to award the following contracts:
 - Contract 2026.19 – Ramp Improvements Biddeford, in the amount of \$1,251,948.75, to R.J. Grondin and Sons.
 - Contract 2026.28 – Kennebunk Maintenance Fire Protection, in the amount of \$1,406,872.91, to Doten’s Construction.
17. On motion of Jane Lincoln, seconded by Nina Fisher, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve final payment on the following contracts:
 - Contract 2025.02 – Portland Area Pavement Rehabilitation NB, in the amount of \$ 153,447.31, to Coastal Road Repair, for a final contract amount of \$7,984,396.71.
 - Contract 2025.03 – Pavement Rehabilitation and Safety Improvements, to Coastal Road Repair, in the amount of \$122,712.40, for a final contract amount of \$6,450,327.15.
18. Chief Engineer Kristi Van Ooyen presented a proposal to hire a consultant to undertake a LIDAR survey of the Maine Turnpike, to include bridge clearances, signs and condition of guardrail and pavement. She said this was a safe and quick way to perform this survey, scanning the highway from a vehicle, and was very conducive to digitizing the information.
19. On motion of Nina Fisher, seconded by Thomas Zuke, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to award Contract 2026.101 – LIDAR Mobile Scanning Services, in the not to exceed amount of \$250,000.00, to Greenman-Pedersen, Inc.
20. Project Manager Trevin Cobb reported on ongoing construction projects. He said that the Saco Interchange contractor was working on punch list items, including cross walks and landscaping restoration, and would install the overhead sign masts when they arrived later this summer. He said he expected the entire project to be wrapped up by early fall. Mr. Cobb said that work on the Androscoggin Bridge project was currently focused on southbound bridge joint replacements. He said that the New Gloucester culvert replacement that had been rescheduled from last year’s work due to permitting delays was set to go ahead, and would likely be complete by late summer. He reported that guard rail work on the New Gloucester / Auburn paving project was complete and that milling would

start the first week in June. He said that milling was complete northbound on the Arundel paving project and that next week work would start southbound. Mr. Cobb said that work on the Crosby Maintenance building project currently involved utility and water relocations to allow for installation of the building foundation. He said there were only two locations left on the asphalt plug joint replacement project. He said that the toll plaza tunnel repairs were progressing and that he hoped for completion in late summer or early fall.

21. Director of Communications Rebecca Grover reported on activities related to her department. She shared a recent new story on milkweed planting at the Crosby Maintenance location, some photos from the recent MTA Roadeo, and reported on MTA participation at the Bring Back the Trades event, which had included about 1,500 students. She reported on the Memorial Day activities at the Kennebunk Service Plaza, featuring Turnpike Pete and Miles the Moose. She said that the Portland Press Herald would be doing a story soon on “unsung heroes of tourism” which would focus on MTA toll collectors, and that DownEast magazine would be doing a story on MTA litter collectors for their August issue.
22. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Nina Fisher, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to amend the MTA’s Contributions and Memberships Budget to include \$1,500 for an MTA membership in the Government Finance Officers Association.
23. 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 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.

The executive session began at 10:20 AM and ended at 10:58 A.M.

Adjourned at 10:58 A.M.



Jonathan Arey
Secretary
6/26/26

Date