

**MINUTES
MID-BAY BRIDGE AUTHORITY
THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2021**

**CITY OF DESTIN BOARD ROOM
4200 INDIAN BAYOU TRAIL
DESTIN, FLORIDA**

I. OPENING

Members present: Gordon E. Fornell
 James D. Neilson, Jr.
 Parker Destin
 Kim Wintner
 James T. Wood, Jr.

Also present: Van Fuller Executive Director
 Michelle Anchors Legal Counsel
 Cathy Demoreski Administrative Assistant
 Bryant Paulk FDOT Ex officio, non-voting

II. INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS & PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Fornell welcomed member of the press. In attendance was Mike Griffith, The Bay Beacon.

III. INTRODUCTION AND ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE

- A. Reappointed Members: G. Fornell, J. Neilson**
- B. Newly Appointed Members: K Wintner, J. Wood**

Mr. Fornell welcomed the newly appointed members to the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority. Michelle Anchors, General Counsel for the Authority, administered the ceremonial Oath of Office to all members.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting – March 18, 2021

A motion to approve the March 18, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes was made by Mr. Neilson with a second by Mr. Destin and a 5-0 vote was taken for approval.

V. TREASURER’S REPORT

Mr. Destin presented the Treasurer’s Report for March 2021. Account balances were:

FNBT	\$ 118,867.66
Regions	\$50,021,462.98

Mr. Destin made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report for March 2021 with a second by Mr. Neilson and a 5-0 vote was taken for approval.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Fuller reminded the Authority that the April 2021 Treasurers Report will reflect the semi-annual Debt Service payment, made on April 1 and October 1 of each year in accordance with the Authority's Master Indenture of Trust. He also discussed the timing of the annual transfers of the fiscal year-end Revenue Fund balance to the FDOT and the General Fund. Mr. Fuller noted that FDOT share is generally transferred within 60 days after the end of the fiscal year and the Authority's share remains in the Revenue Fund until after the low revenue winter season ends in the Spring, ensuring sufficient revenue is available to cover the April 1 Debt Service requirement.

- A. Operations.** Mr. Fuller shared that both traffic and revenue on the System are performing well especially when compared year over year.

Mr. Fuller reported that the Okaloosa County portion of the FDOT Hwy. 98 Widening Project is officially complete. After having to be put on hold due to more pressing County roadway issues, the FDOT Asset Maintenance contractor for Okaloosa County (Ferrovial) completed the clean-up of the errant paint on the Mid-Bay Bridge from the restriping effort performed last year. Mr. Fuller also reported that Okaloosa County executed the Gateway Project with a Notice to Proceed at the end of April 2021. The project consists of landscaping, irrigation, and signage at entry points to the County, including the south end of the Mid-Bay Bridge on Danny Wuerffel Way at Kelly Plantation. The County project manager informed Mr. Fuller the Tourist Development Department is in the process of a rebranding effort which will be incorporated in the signage at some point in the future. No work will be performed on the weekends and only a minimal slowdown of traffic is expected in the work area.

Mr. Fuller also communicated Mr. Wood, the Authority's new member, volunteered to replace Judge Maney as a non-voting member of the Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization (OWTPO). Mr. Fornell will send a formal appointment letter to Commissioner Nathan Boyles, Chairman of the OWTPO.

- B. FY2022 Draft Budget.** Mr. Fuller presented the Draft FY2022 Budget which reflects a decrease in projected revenue when compared to pre-pandemic estimates. Revenues from the investment of the Debt Service Reserve Funds and General Fund are expected to earn about the same amount next fiscal year. The cost of Administrative Expenses increased slightly from \$725K to \$732K.

Mr. Fuller reminded the members the 2019 and 2020 Bridge repairs increased the long-term debt with the FDOT from \$0 to approximately \$9.2M. In accordance with the Authority's Master Indenture of Trust, annual toll revenues first fund administrative expenses, then Debt Service costs, and finally current year operations and maintenance costs of the FDOT before the end of year revenue sharing discussed previously.

A Public Hearing will be held at the May 13, 2021 regular monthly meeting of the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority in Niceville to present the Authority's FY2022 Budget to the Board for consideration. In accordance with the Authority's Enacting Legislation, the annual Budget must be presented annually to the Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners prior to June 1. Consideration of the Authority's Budget is on the Board of County Commissioners agenda for their May 18, 2021 meeting. The Draft FY2022 Budget will be shared with each County Commissioner individually prior to their May 18, 2021 Commission meeting.

VII. LEGAL COUNSEL

Ms. Anchors expressed her happiness and gratitude to have both Mr. Wintner and Mr. Wood, whom she knows professionally and personally, as part of the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority team.

VIII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

As is tradition the current Chairman, Gordon Fornell, presented the newest Authority members, Mr. Kim Wintner and Mr. Jim Wood with a framed print from the 1993 Opening of the Mid-Bay Bridge. Mr. Destin and Mr. Neilson both welcomed Mr. Wintner and Mr. Wood and look forward to serving with them. Mr. Paulk reported that the Pensacola 3-mile bridge repairs are moving along smoothly with a May 31 target date for opening to 2-lanes. The date was delayed from March because of the substantial effort required to reset one entire pier due to a shifting pier structure. Crews from the Tom's Bayou project in Valparaiso were moved to assist Skanska with the assembly.

IX. GENERAL DISCUSSION

The next regular meeting of the Authority will be held on **Thursday, May 13, 2021** (a week earlier than normal) at 9:00 a.m. in the Niceville City Hall Council Chambers, Niceville, Florida.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:21 a.m.

Approved this 13th day of May 2021.



Gordon E. Fornell, Chairman