

**MINUTES  
MID-BAY BRIDGE AUTHORITY  
THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2022**

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

**I. OPENING**

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

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

**II. PUBLIC HEARING**

**A. Fiscal Year 2023 Budget  
1. Resolution 2022-01**

Mr. Neilson opened the advertised Public Hearing at 9:02 a.m. and presented the proposed Fiscal Year 2023 Budget comprised of operating revenues and operating expenses. If approved today Mr. Neilson and Mr. Fuller will present the FY2023 Budget to the Board of County Commissioners of Okaloosa County on Tuesday, May 17, 2022. There being no discussion and no public present for comment, Mr. Neilson closed the Public Hearing at 9:05 a.m. and recommended approval of the FY2023 Budget.

**A motion was made by Mr. Destin to approve the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget by adopting Resolution 2022-01 and presenting the Budget to the Board of County Commissioners of Okaloosa County on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, with a second by Mr. Fornell and a 5-0 vote taken for approval and adoption.**

**III. INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS & PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no visitors or members of the press present.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. Regular Meeting – March 17, 2022**

**A motion to approve the March 17, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes was made by Mr. Wintner with a second by Mr. Wood and a 5-0 vote was taken for approval.**

## V. TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Destin presented the Treasurer's Report for March 2022. Account balances were:

FNBBank	\$	179,061.64
Regions		\$53,431,014.27

**Mr. Destin made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Reports for March 2022 with a second by Mr. Wintner and a 5-0 vote was taken for approval.**

## VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### A. Operations.

- 1. Florida Transportation Commission 2019 Performance Measure Comparison.** As a follow-up to a discussion at the March 17, 2022 meeting, Mr. Fuller included a Florida Transportation Commission 2019 Performance Measure Comparison report. Discussion included whether any improvements could be made to those areas where the Authority's performance is a bit behind the other Agency's performance. Mr. Fuller explained that due to numerous factors, it's a bit difficult to directly compare the Authority's performance to other agencies and best to continue measuring performance against the standard. In addition, the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority has little influence since its System is operated and maintained by the Florida Department of Transportation. During TEAMFL meetings, discussion includes ways and means to improve transportation systems statewide in areas such as traffic and revenue, toll rates, collections, etc. Finally, a few years ago we were able to incorporate FTC performance measures for our system in the FDOT's asset maintenance contract for Okaloosa County. These performance measures are a bit higher than those for non-tolled State roads.

Brooks Bridge Replacement Project. Mr. Fuller invited Mr. Bryant Paulk, FDOT District 3 Urban Liaison, to brief the Authority on the Brooks Bridge Replacement Project and any effect on the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority System. Mr. Paulk provided a brief update on the Design/Build project. The contract is expected to be let on May 5, 2022 and contains a \$5M incentive bonus for on-time completion. Mr. Paulk provided a handout, to be made part of these minutes, of the FDOT Recommended Alternative which include Bridge Typical Sections and Intersection Improvements. He explained that to have the least possible impact on traffic two lanes of traffic in each direction will be always maintained during this 2-year construction project. Each bridge span will include three 11' traffic lanes with two 10' shoulders and a 12' multi-use path. There will be improvements made to Santa Rosa Blvd. and the northern round-about where the new west-bound lanes will make landfall around the Indian Temple mound. Finally, Mr. Paulk explained that as with any road construction project traffic delays should be expected however there are no planned roadway closures that would require the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority to suspend tolls on their System.

Mr. Fuller reported that after the discussion during the March 17, 2022, meeting regarding the downed palm trees on Danny Wuerffel Way, the Chairman spoke with the Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners Chairman to inform him of the Authority's concern. Mr. Wintner also spoke with the County Administrator on the same subject. Mr. Wintner pointed out that it looks bad for both the City of Destin as well as the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority as it is our roadway. Mr. Neilson mentioned contacting Waste Management to see if they can pick-up the dead trees in the meantime. Ms. Anchors, the Authority's Legal Counsel, pointed out that while separate communication with County officials by Authority members is permitted, she cautioned that it is in violation of Florida's Sunshine Law for there to be any communication regarding any matters that could be brought before the Board for a vote and there should not be any related discussion between members outside of a noticed meeting.

Contractors started last night and will continue working today and tonight at the Mid-Bay Bridge Toll Plaza to renew striping and pavement markings.

With the low traffic season over, Mr. Fuller will instruct our Trustee, Regions Bank, to transfer ~\$2.7M, less a small amount, from the Revenue Fund to the General Fund. This amount represents the Authority's annual portion of the FY2021 revenue split with the FDOT. The General Fund Balance is currently ~\$20M and helps sustain the Authority's Bond and Credit ratings.

The southbound Toll Plaza Advertising contract, currently held by Coke, will expire at the end of May 2022 and the northbound Toll Plaza Advertising contract, currently held by NWFSC will expire in June 2022. We will advertise for Bids in the coming weeks.

Florida Power & Light (FP&L), through a consultant, has requested to install fiber inside of the Mid-Bay Bridge to improve reliability of power monitoring and control. The Authority currently has a no cost Interlocal Agreement with the County for its fiber installation within the Mid-Bay Bridge. Mr. Fuller met with the consultant and a draft agreement which would include cost considerations is planned for presentation to the Authority at the May 19, 2022, meeting. Discussion included confirmation that there are currently three vacant conduits for possible future use by the Authority. FP&L also requests to bore along the west side of Danny Wuerffel Way to U.S. Hwy 98, which should not affect traffic.

**B. FY2021 Traffic Engineers Annual Report.** Mr. Fuller presented the Jacobs FY2021 Annual Report for the Authority's consideration. As stated in the reports Executive Summary it is the opinion of Jacobs that no annual toll analysis to evaluate the FY2023 toll rate structure is recommended and that the current toll rates and projections are sufficient to meet toll revenue collections required by the Authority's Bond Indenture. This recommendation is based on several factors which include overall revenue performance in FY2021; the potential of a rebound/banner year followed by retracting transactions and toll revenue; potential continuing reluctance of people to travel due to COVID-19; and the continuing increase in annual debt service obligations. Mr. Fuller also pointed out that this report is an excellent source of historical information for use when speaking with the public about the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority as it includes previous years benchmarks relating to traffic, revenues, and toll increases. Mr. Fornell noted that ending

the fiscal year at 99% of their forecasts through the ups and downs of the current economic climate is amazing. The accuracy of their month-to-month projections is marvelous.

**A motion was made by Mr. Fornell with a second by Mr. Wood to accept the FY2021 Traffic Engineers Annual Report and their recommendation of no annual toll analysis to evaluate the FY2023 toll rate structure with a 5-0 vote taken for approval.**

## **VII. LEGAL COUNSEL**

None

## **VIII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Fornell reported that there will be a meeting with the Base Commander next week if anyone has an interest in attending. This meeting will be attended by the community partnership group and other intergovernmental organizations.

Mr. Wintner pointed out that the Variable Message Sign on the Spence Parkway indicated that the Parkway would be closed for maintenance. Mr. Fuller explained that it was intermittent lane closures at the toll point on May 20, 2022. He pointed out that we continually work with FDOT asset maintenance on signage for maintenance of traffic.

Mr. Fornell inquired about the FDOT Safety Study on SR293 with emphasis on the Mid-Bay Bridge. Mr. Fuller reported the study should be completed and presented in July.

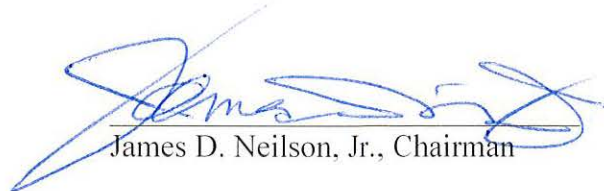
## **IX. GENERAL DISCUSSION**

The next regular meeting of the Authority will be held on **Thursday, May 19, 2022**, at 9:00 a.m. in the Niceville City Hall Council Chambers, Niceville, Florida.

## **X. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:38 a.m.

**Approved this 19th day of May 2022.**



James D. Neilson, Jr., Chairman