

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

**CITY OF NICEVILLE COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
208 NORTH PARTIN DRIVE  
NICEVILLE, FLORIDA**

**I. OPENING**

Members present:           Gordon E. Fornell  
                                  Parker Destin  
                                  James T. Wood, Jr.

Members absent:           James D. Neilson, Jr.  
                                  Kim Wintner

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

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

Mr. Fornell welcomed David Vardaman, BWB Resident

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. Regular Meeting – June 16, 2022**

**A motion to approve the June 16, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes was made by Mr. Wood with a second by Mr. Destin and a 3-0 vote was taken for approval.**

**IV. TREASURER’S REPORT**

Mr. Destin presented the Treasurer’s Report for June 2022. Account balances were:

FNB Bank	\$ 254,357.61
Regions	\$54,470,551.41

**Mr. Destin made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Reports for June 2022 with a second by Mr. Wood and a 3-0 vote was taken for approval.**

**V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**A. Operations.** Mr. Fuller reported that year-over-year traffic and revenue appear to be trending down. This is likely due to the impacts associated with increased travel following the Pandemic restrictions which are now leveling off as well as increased post Pandemic Toll-By-Plate billing collections returning to normal levels. Mr. Destin pointed out that increases experienced in 2021 were a fluke being seen across the board even in the restaurant industry and that recovery from COVID-19 restrictions was in full force after the losses incurred in 2019. Further discussion included whether the Authority could

expect to see an increase in traffic due to upcoming Brooks Bridge replacement project. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) representative Bryant Paulk explained that the Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) plan should be fine for daily users however freight traffic may opt for going around.

**1. Florida Power & Light Easement Agreement-Update.**

Mr. Fuller provided an update on the current status of a pending easement request.

**2. SR293 FDOT Operation, Maintenance and Repair**

Mr. Fuller reported gantry maintenance on the Spence Parkway will take place on Wednesday, July 27, 2022, and has confirmed the language on the message boards will clearly indicate, Spence Parkway, lane closures. There are two lanes of traffic at the gantry therefore no impact to traffic is expected.

Included in the meeting package is the FDOT pricing of approximately \$20K signage revisions along SR293. Mr. Fuller requested execution approval and authority to pay for the signage replacement, as recommended by the FDOT, out of the Authority's General Fund versus year-end excess revenues.

**A motion was made by Mr. Destin to approve Executive Director execution authority to move forward with SR293 signage replacement to be paid for out of the Authority's General Fund with a second by Mr. Wood and a 3-0 vote take for approval.**

Mr. Fuller provided additional updates on pier repairs, deck repairs/sealing, and the FDOT consultant's safety study requested by the Authority in the fall of 2021.

Mr. Paulk reported that there has been an update to the strategic intermodal plan. Funding for Hwy 98 & 85 projects has been moved up and other projects expected to be added to the 20-year plan to fill in those gaps by year-end. Mr. Wood pointed out that the Danny Wuerffel Way and Hwy. 98 intersection is considered a Cobra Zone and elevated roadway expansion plans have been stopped because Right-of-Way at grade cannot be purchased without a PD&E and getting creative. It was suggested by Mr. Fornell that the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority and TPO in coordination with the West Side Development Program look at what is necessary at 98 & Wuerffel Way as well as possibly Phase 4 of the Mid-Bay Bridge Connector Project (Spence Parkway).

**B. FY2023 Budget Reconciliation.** Mr. Fuller reported that on June 2, 2022, the Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners voted to reduce the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority's FY2023 Budget by \$72K and recommended the Authority approve the change by adjusting the budget in accordance with the County Commission's intent to reduce \$42K from outdoor advertising and \$30K from the Authority's representation at the State Capital.

**A motion was made by Mr. Destin with a second by Mr. Wood to approve the Okaloosa County Board of County Commission reduction to Mid-Bay Bridge Authority FY2023 Budget by \$72K and a 2-1 vote was taken for approval.**

**VI. LEGAL COUNSEL**

None

**VII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Wood noted that he returned from vacation and approached the Mid-Bay Bridge Toll Plaza around 6:15 p.m. on Saturday afternoon. The North Lakeshore Drive ramp closure MOT worked very well, and he only waited 20 minutes to cross the Bridge.

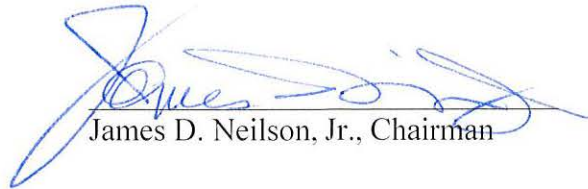
**VIII. GENERAL DISCUSSION**

The next regular meeting of the Authority will be held on **Thursday, August 18, 2022**, at 9:00 a.m. in the Destin City Hall Board Room, Destin, Florida.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:31 a.m.

**Approved this 18th day of August 2022.**



James D. Neilson, Jr., Chairman