

**MINUTES
MID-BAY BRIDGE AUTHORITY
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 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. INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS & PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Neilson welcomed visitor Bobbie Fornell, Bluewater Bay Resident.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting – November 17, 2022

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

IV. TREASURER’S REPORT

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

FNBT Bank	\$ 238,231.93
Regions	\$49,381,799.91

Mr. Destin made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Reports for November 2022 with a second by Mr. Wood and a 5-0 vote was taken for approval.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A. Operations. Mr. Fuller reported that traffic has dropped a bit below forecast. A new traffic and revenue projection is expected to be completed by the Authority’s Traffic and Revenue Consultants in the Spring of 2023. Discussion included the positive meeting in November regarding citizen safety concerns and mitigation options on the Mid-Bay Bridge. The confirmation that although rumble strips are a good deterrent for lane crossover they can only be applied on asphalt and not on concrete as cutting into the pavement can degrade the integrity of the bridge deck.

Raised Pavement Markers (RPMs) applied onto the surface of the concrete roadway are the preferred FDOT option. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and their consultant will return to the Authority at the January 19, 2023, meeting to present mitigation recommendations and cost estimates. Mr. Fuller explained that there are three future projects on the FDOT work program for SR293, one of which includes repair of the piers, including Pier 104, spall repairs on deck surface, and sealing the deck surface. Incorporating the installation of RPMs during the deck surface projects would be an efficient use of the Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) procedures for intermittent nighttime lane closures. Also, it would be prior to the start of the Brooks Bridge Replacement Project and the resurfacing and signalization timing projects scheduled for Dany Wuerffel Way in 2024. The 2025 FDOT work program includes the resurfacing of Phase 1, from the Toll Plaza to Range Road on the Spence Parkway. Mr. Wood noted that the same projects are on the 2024 Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization (OWTPO) Long Range Plan.

Mr. Fuller further reported that the Authority's accountants have completed their field work on the FY2022 financial statements and are in coordination with the auditors. Stifel, the Authority's Municipal Advisor, is in the process of updating our investment strategy as interest rates have gone up. The strategy could increase the Authority's return from \$1M to \$3M annually.

VI. LEGAL COUNSEL

None

VII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Fornell complimented the staff of the MBBA and the work they have performed, and he expressed his gratitude to them for their exceptional effort. He recommended the same year-end financial benefit as was approved in 2021.

Mr. Fornell made a motion to approve the same year-end financial benefit for Mr. Fuller and Mrs. Demoreski that they received in 2021 with a second by Mr. Wintner and a 5-0 vote was taken for approval.

Mr. Fornell recommended that the Authority keep an eye on the afternoon backup on SR85 north from Niceville to Crestview and push the OWTPO for improvements. Mr. Destin reported that at a recent Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners meeting their 2023 priority list included converting the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority from dependent to independent of the County and it was supported by all but one commissioner. Representative Maney will work with the Okaloosa County legislative delegation for presentation/consideration by the Legislature in its 2023 legislation session. Mr. Fuller reminded the Board that Okaloosa Board of County Commissioners has discretion on the Authority's administrative and FDOT O&M budgets.

Also discussed was the recent Special Legislative Session held for the sole purpose of passing Toll Relief Legislation. This legislation, which is expected to pass, will provide toll relief to all State toll agencies and will be funded by the State. Toll agency revenues should not be affected.

VIII. GENERAL DISCUSSION

The next regular meeting of the Authority will be held on **Thursday, January 19, 2023**, at 9:00 a.m. in the Niceville City Hall Council Chambers, Niceville, Florida.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:19 a.m.

Approved this 19th day of January 2023.


Chairman