

**MINUTES  
MID-BAY BRIDGE AUTHORITY  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2023**

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

**I. OPENING**

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

There were no visitors present.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. Regular Meeting – January 19, 2023**

**A motion to approve the January 19, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes was made by Mr. Neilson with a second by Mr. Wood and a 5-0 vote was taken for approval.**

**IV. TREASURER’S REPORT**

Mr. Wood presented the Treasurer’s Report for January 2023. Account balances were:

FNBT Bank	\$	221,332.81
Regions		\$53,560,388.23

**Mr. Wood made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report for January 2023 with a second by Mr. Destin and a 5-0 vote was taken for approval.**

**V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**A. Operations.** Mr. Fuller reported the Parkway revenue appears just a bit higher than the traffic level because the Florida Turnpike Enterprise (FTE) identified some additional Toll-By-Plate revenue from May, June and July 2022 that had not been accounted for properly.

Mr. Fuller provided the Florida Department of Transportation’s (FDOT) response to the two questions asked by Mr. Vardaman at the January 19, 2023, meeting of the Authority, after Mr. Lewis and Mr. Lyons left, regarding the SR293 Safety Study update presented.

**1. Disagreement with the cost/benefit calculation (partly) due to the calculation NOT including costs of injuries and only fatalities.**

As explained at the January 19, 2023, meeting the FDOT has standard rules for dealing with costs and benefits. Benefits would be expected crash reductions based on making certain improvements with defined costs associated with crash types. A fatal crash has a specific cost associated with it. Procedures define the same number whether there was a single fatality, multiple fatalities (in one crash), or a combination of fatalities and injuries (in one crash). Following the standard rules gives consistency statewide when comparing priorities.

**2. Sideswipe accidents were not counted.**

All crash records were pulled that occurred on the entire length of the project from 2014 to 2018. These are the years that have been fully reviewed by FDOT for accuracy. The crash records show three sideswipe crashes, one each in 2015, 2016 and 2018. Complete FDOT reviewed data for 2019 to present is not yet available.

Mr. Lewis restated that the FDOT understands and agrees with Mr. Vardaman's concern for safety on the Mid-Bay Bridge.

The contract for pier and decking work is expected to be let after the 2023 tourist season. The decking activity, which will include the recommended SR293 Safety Study improvements, will occur at night.

Anderson Columbia was awarded the contract for milling and overlaying on SR85 from SR 20 north to the Mullet Festival site. Due to a critical shortage of dump trucks and drivers they requested storing the material on the Spence Parkway land east of SR85 for No Longer Than (NLT) 30 days. As a community partner and working with legal counsel a document has been drafted to reflect this agreement.

Mr. Fuller reported that he has been working closely with the Stifel, the Authority's Investment Advisor, to update the Authority's investment portfolio by moving more of the General Fund and Debt Service Funds from the current Money Market Accounts with Regions to a higher earning investment product. If all goes well, an agreement will be presented for the Board's review at the March 16, 2023 meeting.

The auditors are working on the FY2022 financial statements and are expected to be ready for presentation to the Authority at the March 16, 2023 meeting.

Representative Maney, with support of the local legislative delegation, has taken the lead on drafting a Bill that would remove Okaloosa County oversight of the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority's administrative budget and make the Authority an Independent Special District in the State of Florida. Ms. Anchors pointed out that unlike other Bills if this one is signed by Governor DeSantis it will become effective immediately.

Discussion included that the original pledge of Okaloosa County Gas Tax money in the early 1990's is what drove the County oversight. The Authority's legislation was updated in 2000 prior to the repayment in 2001 of all pledged funds which is the reason why the oversight is still part of the current legislation.

**B. Traffic and Revenue Study Proposal - Jacobs Task Order #2**

Mr. Fuller explained that a Traffic and Revenue Study was conducted in conjunction with the Series 2015 Bond issue and that projection was updated in 2018 after the implementation of the reduction, from 41 to 32 transaction per account in good standing to qualify for the Frequent Customer discount. The Authority is currently overdue for a Traffic and Revenue Study which are generally conducted every five years especially when there are significant economic events not the least of which was the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Fuller recommended approval of the Proposal submitted by Jacobs, the Authority's Traffic and Revenue Consultant, to perform a new non-investment grade Traffic and Revenue Study. This study was not part of the FY2023 Budget however it can be paid for out of the Authority's General Fund.

**A motion was made by Mr. Destin with a second by Mr. Neilson to approve Jacobs Task Order #2 – Traffic and Revenue Study Proposal with a 5-0 vote taken for approval.**

**VI. LEGAL COUNSEL**

None

**VII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Fornell requested that Mr. Bryant Paulk, FDOT, update the Authority occasionally on the Brooks Bridge Replacement project. He also encouraged continued community education regarding the benefits of the SunPass program. Mr. Fornell reported that Legendary, the marina on the southeast side of the Mid-Bay Bridge us under new ownership and will be relocating to expand their boat sales and marina operations to the east side of LuLu's restaurant instead of their current location parallel to Bridge. Finally, Mr. Fornell reminded the Board that June 26, 2023, marks the 30th Anniversary of the opening of the Mid-Bay Bridge.

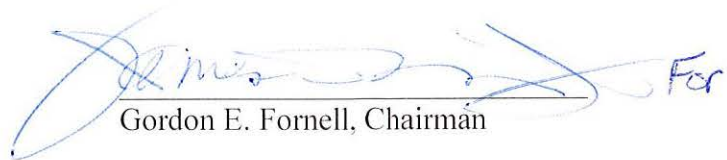
**VIII. GENERAL DISCUSSION**

The next regular meeting of the Authority will be held on **Thursday, March 16, 2023**, at 9:00 a.m. in the Niceville City Hall Council Chambers, Niceville, Florida.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:25 a.m.

Approved this 16th day of March 2023.

 For  
Gordon E. Fornell, Chairman