

**MINUTES  
MID-BAY BRIDGE AUTHORITY  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2025**

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

**I. OPENING**

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

Also present:                   Van Fuller                   Executive Director  
   Michelle Anchors         Legal Counsel  
   Cathy Demoreski         Administrative Assistant

Absent:                            Bryant Paulk                FDOT Ex officio, non-voting

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

Mr. Fornell welcomed Mr. Rob VandenBroeck, Okaloosa County Road Division Chief and County liaison to the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority; Mr. Derek Chadwell, Mr. Ryan Adams, Mr. Spencer Prescott and Ms. April Williams, FDOT. There were no members of the press present.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. Regular Meeting – December 12, 2024**

**A motion to approve the December 12, 2024 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 December 2024. Account balances were:

FNBT Bank	\$	308,923.52
Regions		\$56,312,393.83

**Mr. Wood made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Reports for December 2024 with a second by Mr. Neilson and a 5-0 vote was taken for approval.**

**V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Mr. Fuller introduced the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) team to brief the Authority on their upcoming SR293 Resurfacing Projects.

**A. FDOT Update on Danny Wuerffel Way and Spence Parkway Resurfacing Projects.** Mr. Ryan Adams explained that the Danny Wuerffel Resurfacing Project would include milling and resurfacing of the roadway from Hwy. 98 to the south end of the Mid-Bay Bridge. In addition, there would be various Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements to existing pedestrian features such as upgrades to curb ramps, sidewalks and pedestrian push buttons. Intersection lighting and signal improvements at Commons Drive would include school zone advanced crossing signage with flashing beacon and removal and replacement of the current 5-head traffic signal with a 3-4 head signal.

This Project is scheduled to be Let May 2025 as part of a Joint Project Agreement (JPA) for an improvements project from west of Paraiso Blvd to east of Regions Way, to reduce costs. Construction time is projected to be 250 calendar days with a 120-day flexible start time at a cost of \$2.8M and is expected to begin in late 2025 and be completed by June 2026. All work is to be performed at night between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. Monday-Friday with intermittent lane closure restrictions.

Mr. Spencer Prescott explained that the SR293 Resurfacing Project would include milling and resurfacing of the roadway from the Mid-Bay Bridge to Range Road including all existing travel lanes, auxiliary land, median crossovers, entrance/exit ramps and paved shoulders. The Bridge over Maxwell Gunter Road will be resurfaced and the expansion joints will be replaced. Minor drainage improvements will also be made along the roadway. In addition, Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) infrastructure improvements will be made by installing CCTV cameras to enhance safety and mobility along the corridor at the Mid-Bay Bridge Toll Plaza, North Lakeshore Drive, SR20 and Range Road. The FDOT District 3 Traffic Systems Management & Operations recommended using a Cellular Modem Network Device Connection versus a Direct Fiber Network Device Connection to populate the FL511 System affording the Authority a cost savings of approximately \$9K. Signing and pavement marking upgrades, including rumble strips and wrong way signalization, will also be made to enhance corridor safety at the Toll Plaza approaches.

This Project is scheduled to be Let in August 2025 at a cost of \$7.5M. Construction time, which is projected to be 160 calendar days with a 120-day flexible start time, is subject to change based on Utility Certification and ITS equipment procurement time. It is scheduled to begin in the Spring of 2026 and completed by the Fall of 2026. All work is to be performed at night between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. Monday-Friday with intermittent land closure restrictions.

Discussion included: Incentives/disincentives are not typically offered on a resurfacing project, however there are penalties for going over the specified contract time. The staging area's locations and security features have yet to be determined. A request was made for regular milestone reports to the Authority.

**B. Operations.** Mr. Fuller reported that the November 2024 traffic was up, but revenue was down from projections, likely due to delays in Toll-By-Plate collections. He also explained that the FY2024 Audited Financial Statements should be ready for Authority acceptance at its March 2025 meeting.

Mr. Fuller reported that we continue to monitor the bond market and the team is still optimistic we will be able to refinance the debt at significant savings. More information will be provided as the initiative matures, and if viable than issuance will require Authority approval.

### **C. Election of Officers**

#### **1. Resolution 2025-01**

Mr. Marinan nominated a new slate of Officers for the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority effective January 16, 2025, and voting resulted in the election of:

- **James D. Neilson, Jr., Chair**
- **James T. Wood, Jr., Vice Chair**
- **Gordon E. Fornell, Secretary/Treasurer**

### **D. Signature Authorization**

#### **1. Resolution 2025-02**

Upon election of new officers, the Authority is required to provide Signature Authorization for Authority Members and the Executive Director to sign for expenses, from the checking and savings accounts with FNBTBank, which are administered by the office. All checks require two (2) signatures.

**A motion was made by Mr. Wintner with a second by Mr. Marinan and a 5-0 vote taken for approval and adoption of the new slate of Officers listed on Resolution 2025-01 and to adopt Resolution 2025-02 FNBTBank Signature Authorization.**

## **VI. LEGAL COUNSEL**

**Executive Director Authorization for Mid-Bay Bridge Authority Projects.** Ms. Anchors expressed her thanks to both the new and previous officers. She further recommended the Authority renew the Executive Director Authorization to avoid delays awaiting review and approval by the Authority or the need for special meetings at short notice, with specific authority within the already approved Budget to act to approve actions to keep the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority projects moving forward. The Sunshine Law requires that the Board members not discuss issues among themselves that could at any time require a vote, so use of e-mail to approve proposed actions is not appropriate. Acknowledging such Authority formally would permit the Executive Director to address matters immediately, although such action would be subject to review and ratification at the next meeting of the Authority. This would allow the projects to advance in a timely manner. Both Mr. Fuller and Ms. Anchors confer regularly, and this suggestion is made only to continue to meet the objective of the Authority in moving the projects forward.

**A motion was made by Mr. Neilson with a second by Mr. Wintner to grant the Executive Director, within the approved Budget and in consult with Legal Counsel, the Authority to take specific actions prior to the next duly Noticed Meeting, where any action will be ratified, to move the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority projects forward during 2025, in lieu of a Special Meeting while continuing to keep the members informed appropriately, as may be necessary to advance the forward progress of the projects. A 5-0 vote was taken for approval.**

#### **VII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Thanks were expressed by everyone for Mr. Fornell's leadership as Chairman of the Authority and wishes for much success to the new officers.

Discussion included a request for the FDOT to investigate the Okaloosa County Tourist Development Department's request, submitted four years ago, for a "Welcome to Destin" sign on Danny Wuerffel Way.

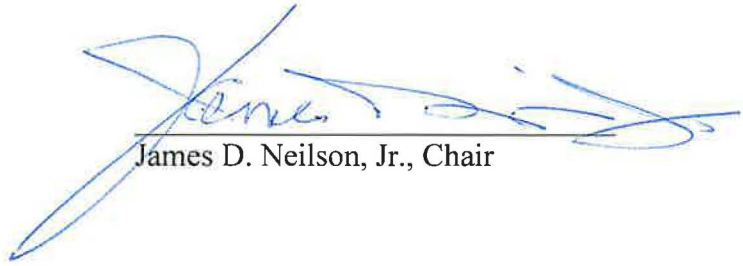
#### **VIII. GENERAL DISCUSSION**

The next regular meeting of the Authority will be held on **Thursday, February 20, 2025**, at 9:00 a.m. in the Destin City Hall Board Room, Destin, Florida.

#### **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:59 a.m.

**Approved this 20<sup>th</sup> day of February 2025.**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James D. Neilson, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

James D. Neilson, Jr., Chair