

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority (“Authority”) was held at the Authority’s offices in Jamestown on March 16, 2022.

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 A.M. by Vice Chair, Darrell Waldron.

Members Present

Darrell Waldron, Vice Chair
Peter Alviti, Jr., P.E., Ex Officio
Peter M. Janaros, P.E.
James K. Salome

Members Absent:

Judith M. Morse, Chair

Invited Guests:

Lori Caron Silveira, Executive Director
Eric Seabury, P.E., Director of Engineering
Kathryn Coleman, Director of Tolling Operations
Jeffrey Goulart, Chief Financial Officer
Stephen Cahill, Manager of Safety and Security
Marianne Durgin, Executive Assistant to the Director
Remmy Villacis, Network Technician
William O’Gara, Legal Counsel

Item No. 2

Public Comment – There were no public comments.

Item No. 3

A motion made by Peter M. Janaros, seconded by Peter Alviti, Jr., passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2022 Board meeting.

Item No. 4

Motion by Peter Alviti, Jr., seconded by Peter M. Janaros, passed unanimously to award Contract 22-01 – Insurance Brokerage Services to Starkweather and Shepley Insurance for insurance brokerage services related to RITBA’s property, casualty, and executive risk policies for a period not to exceed five (5) years at an annual fixed fee of \$75,000. Five (5) proposals were received and reviewed by the selection committee. Starkweather and Shepley received the highest score of 95.5 points out of one hundred possible points. The previous contract had a commissions-based compensation plan. The new contract will operate under a fixed fee compensation plan which will have an estimated savings over the five (5) years of approximately \$200,000. Director Salome asked about RITBA’s D&O coverage. Director Alviti requested a legal finding on liability exposure for a quasi-public Board member.

Item No. 5

Motion by Peter Alviti, Jr., seconded by James K. Salome, passed unanimously to exercise the first of two one-year extensions for the six tolling consultants (Stantec Consulting Services Inc., Milligan Partners LLC, WSP USA Inc., HNTB Corporation, CDM Smith Inc., and Gannett Fleming, Inc.) under Contract 19-6, On-Call Toll Consulting Services. All six consultants requested extensions. This will enable RITBA to call upon the consultants as needed and request quotes for task orders that will come before the Board for approval.

Item No. 6

Motion by Peter M. Janaros, seconded by James K. Salome, passed unanimously to pre-authorize expending up to \$170,000 on a construction contract for estimated beam shoring, beam jacking, and bearing replacement of two rocker bearings on the Newport Pell Bridge. Bridge inspection results by WSP noted that at Pier 5W, the two rocker bearings supporting the expansion end of the adjacent plate girder span were measured and exhibiting excessive tilt movement. The Board will be updated when formal bids are received for the work to be performed.

Director of Engineering Eric Seabury - Capital Projects Status Report: This month Mr. Seabury highlighted the following:

- Phase I - AET Conversion of Existing Toll Plaza: The long-term temporary set-up for the AET conversion is complete.
- Phase II – AET Conceptual Design: The conceptual design phase is underway and the task order for this phase will take the project through to submission of 30% of the design documents.
- Misc. Steel Repairs – Mt. Hope and Sakonnet: Piasecki Steel has completed the composite stairway and access to the north anchorage of the Mt. Hope Bridge. The Mt. Hope Interim Inspection has been completed and there are some items identified that need repair that Piasecki will complete with remaining funds in the project's budget.
- Jamestown Verrazzano Bridge Guardrail and Railing Painting Project: (In-House): The project is now complete.
- Bridge Inspections: The Newport Pell Bridge Underwater Inspection and the minor bridge inspections of the 138 Bridges will begin soon. The load rating on the Jamestown Bridge is complete and a meeting is planned to discuss the results with Atane, the consultant.
- Capital Improvement Plan: The plan is complete from a project and timing perspective and being augmented with a plan of finance. The major projects to be addressed are the Mt. Hope Bridge dehumidification of the cables and anchorages and the rehabilitation of the deck on the suspended spans of the Newport Pell Bridge.

CFO Jeff Goulart – Financial Summary Report

With respect to year-to-date financials, actual vs. budget, total operating revenue is up 13%, toll revenue is up 18% and gas tax is up 5%. Year-to-date operating expenses are lower than budget by 14%. Positions are being filled where needed. In the last two weeks, some of the E-ZPass part-time customer service positions have been converted into full-time positions. Director Alвити noted that approximately 40% of RITBA's revenue is currently coming from the gas tax. He noted that as more electric vehicles get on the road, that revenue stream will be greatly reduced. RIDOT is beginning to look at a replacement source of revenue and would like to include RITBA in the discussion of road use charges and other options. Legislation will likely need to occur to begin a transition to another form of revenue collection to replace the gas tax.

Executive Director's Report:

- **Traffic Update** – RITBA ended 2021 in line with the traffic numbers of 2019. Director Silveira believes traffic will continue to track in a positive direction, meeting 2019's numbers and possibly exceeding them. Two snowstorms have contributed to a slow start, and it is likely the recent Omicron variant of COVID-19 may have had an impact on traffic.
- **Federal Funding Requests** –
 - **2021 RAISE Grant – Debriefing** - RITBA had its debriefing with USDOT on its RAISE grant application for the Mt. Hope Bridge dehumidification project. The next round of RAISE grant applications is due April 14th. RITBA received positive feedback from USDOT. The three categories reviewed were: 1) Merit: RITBA received the top score, 2) Magnitude

of the Project/Local and Regional Impact: RITBA received a score just shy of the top score and 3) Information Content Credibility: RITBA received the top score.

- **2022 RAISE Grant** - RITBA is preparing for a second submission of the RAISE grant proposal in April and will highlight the role climate change has played in the need for the project. RITBA will also highlight its collaboration with a non-profit corporation that focuses on the workforce of tomorrow, introducing the youth of RI to jobs and careers related to infrastructure. The team is continuing to work with all the entities who will support RITBA by writing letters of support.
- **Other Funding Sources** - Four American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) proposals are pending through the State Office of Management and Budget: 1) The feasibility study of suicide deterrent concepts for the bridges, 2) Conversion of the plaza to all-electronic tolling, 3) Bicycle and pedestrian access to three of the four bridges, and 4) The Mt. Hope Bridge dehumidification project. There are several other federal funding programs RITBA will pursue, including the MEGA Program, which would allow RITBA to do three or four major capital projects, and the Bridge Investment Program. The team will be keeping an eye on guidelines and deadlines for submission to these programs.
- **Suicide Deterrent Concepts – Legislative Bills** – RITBA continues to remain in regular communication with the sponsors of the bills. Senator DiPalma and Representative Solomon are advocating for RITBA to receive the funding for the study.

A motion by Peter M. Janaros, seconded by Peter Alвити, Jr., passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 A.M.

Lori Caron Silveira
Secretary