

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 August 17, 2022.

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 A.M. by Chair, James K. Salome.

Members Present

James K. Salome, Chair
Darrell Waldron, Vice Chair
Peter M. Janaros, P.E.
Karen D. Pinch

Members Absent:

Peter Alviti, Jr., P.E., Ex Officio

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
Jeffrey Wiggin, Assistant Project Manager
Marianne Durgin, Executive Assistant to the Director
Remmy Villacis, Network Technician
Frank Flowers, Manager of Maintenance
William O’Gara, Legal Counsel

Item No. 2

Public Comment - Mr. John McDaid, resident of Portsmouth, RI, addressed the Board expressing his opposition to the Bristol Police Department’s proposal to have (Flock) cameras on the Mt. Hope Bridge. Chair Salome indicated to Mr. McDaid that he is welcome to speak again when the item is addressed on the agenda.

Item No. 3

A motion made by Karen Pinch, seconded by Peter M. Janaros, passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2022, Board meeting.

Item No. 4

Discussion: Bristol Police Department – Cameras – Mount Hope Bridge – This item deferred to later in the meeting as Bristol Chief of Police Kevin Lynch had not yet arrived.

Item No. 5

Motion by Darrell Waldron, seconded by Peter M. Janaros, passed unanimously to approve an official restatement of the 401k plan documents to incorporate updates approved via amendments over the past few years. The amendments were primarily a result of IRS changes over the years and do not impact employees in any material way.

Item No. 6

Motion by Peter M. Janaros, seconded by Darrell Waldron, passed unanimously to approve a task order from Modjeski & Masters under Contract 19-10 (On-Call Professional Engineering Inspection Services) to perform the routine inspection of the Sakonnet River Bridge and Evans Avenue Bridge at a cost not to exceed \$47,692 and a second task order to perform the load rating of the Sakonnet River Bridge and Evans

Avenue Bridge at a cost not to exceed \$87,777. The total cost of both proposals constitutes a savings to budget of approximately \$54,000 due to the competitive price proposal process. Director Janaros asked for clarification about the work Steere Engineering would be performing as a DBE sub. Mr. Seabury responded that Modjeski and Masters will use a team member from Steere to be part of the inspection process.

Item No. 7

Motion by Peter M. Janaros, seconded by Karen Pinch, passed unanimously to approve a task order from Modjeski & Masters under Contract 19-10 (On-Call Professional Engineering Inspection Services) to perform the routine inspection and load rating of the Mt. Hope Bridge at a total cost not to exceed \$358,937. The total savings to budget is approximately \$142,000 due to the competitive quote proposal process.

Item No. 8

Motion by Darrell Waldron, seconded by Karen D. Pinch, passed unanimously to approve a task order from WSP under Contract 19-10 (On-Call Professional Engineering Inspection Services) to perform the routine inspection of the Newport Pell Bridge Main Spans at a cost not to exceed \$259,200. The savings to budget is approximately \$91,000 due to the competitive quote proposal process.

Item No. 9

Motion by Karen Pinch, seconded by Peter M. Janaros, passed unanimously to approve a task order from AECOM under Contract 19-9 (On-Call Professional Engineering Services) to provide federal grant support services for RITBA's pursuit of grants under the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) and the Bridge Investment Program (BIP) in an amount not to exceed \$20,262.65 and a second task order to prepare Categorical Exclusion documentation for two projects that will be submitted under the BIP in an amount not to exceed \$36,909.12. Director Janaros noted that AECOM's proposed submittal schedule for the first task order was for May 2022. Mr. Goulart responded that this is correct, part of this request is retroactive. RITBA had less than 30 days' notice to submit for the MPDG opportunity, and the expertise of the grant writer from AECOM was needed as the grant submission process is extremely complex.

Item No. 10

Motion by Peter M. Janaros, seconded by Darrell Waldron, passed unanimously to approve a task order from WSP under Contract 19-9 (On-Call Professional Engineering Services) to provide contract documents for the design and bid phase of deck repairs for the Newport Pell Bridge and the Mt. Hope Bridge in an amount not to exceed \$43,726. For the Newport Pell Bridge, the contract will be for repairs on the eastbound lanes only from the westbound abutment to the eastern end of the suspension spans. RITBA maintenance will continue to perform the needed repairs on the westbound lanes within the same limits. For economy of scale, the Mt. Hope Bridge deck repairs will be included in this contract. Director Janaros confirmed with Mr. Seabury that the contract would allow for work to begin this fall.

Item No. 11

Motion by Karen D. Pinch, seconded by Peter M. Janaros, passed unanimously to approve a purchase order for J.C. Madigan, Inc. to provide the necessary parts to restore the vacuuming and sweeping mechanisms of RITBA's 2015 Tymco Sweeper (International Chassis) at a cost not to exceed \$25,302.50. J.C. Madigan, Inc. is the only authorized dealer in the region for Tmyco sweeper parts. Chair Salome asked what a new sweeper would cost. Mr. Wiggin, Assistant Project Manager, RITBA, stated that the 2015 sweeper is worth roughly \$100K and a new one costs roughly \$500K. Mr. Seabury indicated that outside of the replacement of the parts and components the sweeper is in great shape. Director Janaros confirmed with Mr. Seabury that this request covers the parts and that RITBA staff will perform all labor.

Item No. 12

Discussion: Selection of Consultants for On-Call Infrastructure Professional Services – Mr. Seabury shared with the Board that RITBA has selected all twenty-three of the consultants who submitted proposals to provide On-Call Infrastructure Professional Services. RITBA solicited proposals for qualified on-call professional services, and firms could submit proposals that included up to six disciplines to be considered: Bridge/Structural Engineering, Civil/Site Engineering, Construction Support & Resident Inspection Services, Mechanical, Electrical & Plumbing (MEP) Engineering, Architectural Services, and Environmental Services. Mr. Seabury stated that qualifying all the consultants increases the consultant pool, and Director Janaros noted he believes this is good planning. Mr. Seabury stated this will also provide more opportunity for local talent to submit proposals for services.

Item No. 4

Discussion: Bristol Police Department – Cameras – Mount Hope Bridge - Director Caron Silveira introduced Bristol Police Chief Kevin Lynch and Lieutenant Steven St. Pierre. Chief Lynch addressed the Board in support of (Flock) cameras on the Mt. Hope Bridge. Mr. John McDaid, resident of Portsmouth, RI then offered comments in opposition to (Flock) cameras on the Mt. Hope Bridge. There was follow up discussion. Chair Salome thanked both Chief Lynch and Mr. McDaid for addressing the Board on this matter.

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

- Newport Pell Bridge Pier 5W Girder Temporary Shoring and Bearing Removal and Replacement: This work is ongoing. Shop drawings are being prepared. Staff is working on securing the paint for the new bearings. There is a supply chain issue that has affected the entire country.
- Phase II – AET Conceptual Design- Newport Pell Bridge: Final revisions to the conceptual design are being completed. At the same time the final design is being scoped.
- Misc. Steel Repairs – Mt. Hope and Sakonnet: Shop drawings are being finalized for the work and Piasecki Steel will begin the steel repairs this fall for items identified in the Interim Inspection report.
- ATMS Bridge Safety and Video Analytics – Pell and Mt. Hope: In the process of purchasing two more cameras. Will be adjusting the views of the existing cameras on the Mt. Hope Bridge.
- Underwater Bridge Inspection – Pell: The Newport Pell Bridge Underwater Inspection has been completed and the report is being reviewed before it is finalized. Director Janaros asked if images of the underwater inspection could be shared with the Board at a future meeting as he indicated they are remarkable to see. Collins Engineers will be presenting their report in person to RITBA staff. Mr. Seabury will select underwater images to be shared with the Board at a future Board meeting.
- Load Rating – Jamestown: Working with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to monitor cracks identified in the load rating report prepared by ATANE. ATANE will prepare a proposal for a crack monitoring program to be presented to FHWA to satisfy requirements set by FHWA for the load rating to be sufficient. Director Caron Silveira noted that the Jamestown Verrazzano Bridge will turn thirty years old this October.
- Capital Improvement Plan Update: Will be briefing the Board on the capital improvement plan at a future Board meeting. Mr. Seabury will meet with Director Janaros who served as Director of Engineering for RITBA, to review the plan in advance of the meeting.

CFO Jeff Goulart – Financial Summary Report

Total revenue was higher than budget by \$4.6M and toll revenue was higher than budget by \$4.0M. The gas tax revenue was higher by \$570K. With respect to operating expenses, consistent with prior months, personnel expenses, contractual services, insurance, repairs and maintenance, and bridge inspections were all lower than budget. Utilities and other supplies and expenses were higher than budget. Bill by mail and the costs associated with it increased the “other supplies and expenses” category, but toll revenue is up. RITBA recently underwent insurance renewals. There will be a savings of approximately \$50K to budget due to the negotiations for the renewals. RITBA is also receiving a \$39K shared earnings credit from Beacon Mutual due to an exceptionally low loss ratio. Mr. Goulart stated that this is in large part due to the work Mr. Seabury and Mr. Cahill are doing with the maintenance team to reduce injuries in that department. In total there is roughly \$90K in savings on RITBA’s insurance expense.

Executive Director’s Report:

- **Traffic Update** – Director Caron Silveira reported traffic is not quite back to 2019’s numbers. RITBA has an 85% saturation rate for E-ZPass during the week. On the weekend this rate drops as there is an increase of visitors from out of state who do not have E-ZPass. Statistics point to the lack of return of commuter traffic to 100% as the likely reason for the gap between the 2019 and 2022 traffic numbers. Tourism is back and the summer weather has been good, for beaches and events. As an aside, Director Caron Silveira noted the transition to All-Electronic Tolling continues to be successful. In fact, RITBA submitted an application to the Providence Business News (PBN) for consideration for its 2022 Innovative Companies Award and was selected to receive the award in the government category for its success in transitioning to All-Electronic Tolling during the pandemic. Due to a shortage of toll collectors at the outset of the pandemic, RITBA responded by condensing three toll collector shifts into two and created All-Electronic Tolling with its two outer lanes from 11 pm to 7 am. What made RITBA’s project unique was that it was accomplished at the Authority by RITBA staff working in collaboration with consultants in multiple states, working remotely, to make it happen. RITBA will be recognized in September in a PBN article and at an awards event.
- **Federal Funding Requests – 2022 RAISE Grant, Mega, INFRA, and Bridge Investment Program** – USDOT indicated to RITBA that it very narrowly missed being awarded a 2021 RAISE Grant. The staff fortified the parts of the submission that needed modifications and submitted to the 2022 RAISE Grant. The Authority has not been officially notified, but it appears that RITBA will not be selected as a recipient for the 2022 RAISE Grant for the Dehumidification of the Cables and Anchorages of the Mt. Hope Bridge. RITBA has submitted a proposal to the Mega and INFRA Programs. Under the Mega, a bundled request for funding of projects for the Pell Bridge, including the dehumidification of the bridge, completion of the rehabilitation of its deck, painting of the towers, elevators, and work on the suspender ropes, was submitted. Under the INFRA, RITBA submitted for the Mt. Hope Bridge dehumidification project again. The Authority should hear word on these submissions in the coming weeks. Lastly, the Authority recently submitted to the Bridge Investment Program (BIP) which appears to be tailor-made for RITBA. The encouraging news is that RITBA has received and responded to questions clarifying specific sections of the proposal, which the Authority sees as a good sign that it is being seriously considered. Director Caron Silveira also noted that RITBA is a new applicant, while other entities in RI have submitted to these programs regularly in the past decade. She said she is optimistic the Authority will eventually succeed in obtaining funding.
- **RISP - RITBA Post** – The Rhode Island State Police post approved by the Board began on July 1. There is now a regular Rhode Island State Police presence in the area. Lieutenant LeValley from

- the Wickford barracks stays in contact regularly with RITBA. The state police have also been very helpful in trying to track down RITBA's most frequent violators. Katie Coleman noted that these high-volume violators have already been summoned to court and have had DMV holds and non-renewals. This is a further attempt to curtail further violations.
- **Next Board Meeting** – Currently scheduled for Wednesday, September 21st but will be rescheduled to Friday, September 23rd. Director Caron Silveira and Katie Coleman will be attending the Annual Meeting of the International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association in Austin, and their return conflicts with the scheduled September 21st date.

A motion by Darrell Waldron, seconded by Peter M. Janaros, passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:43 A.M.

Lori Caron Silveira
Secretary