

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 September 23, 2022.

The meeting was called to order at 8:31 A.M. by Vice Chair, Darrell Waldron.

Members Present

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

Members Absent:

James K. Salome, Chair
Peter Alвити, 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
Patrick McBurney, Legal Counsel
Erica Olobri, CPA, Partner, Marcum

Item No. 2

Public Comment – There were no public comments.

Item No. 3

A motion made by Peter M. Janaros, seconded by Karen D. Pinch, passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2022 Board meeting.

Item No. 4

Motion by Peter M. Janaros, seconded by Karen D. Pinch, passed unanimously to approve two \$5,000 task orders, one with Hilltop Securities Inc. and one with Taft & McSally, LLP for services on an “as needed” basis. Hilltop Securities Inc. provides financial consulting services, and Taft & McSally, LLP provides bond consulting services. The FY 2023 budget includes \$16K for miscellaneous services anticipated from these firms.

Item No. 5

Motion by Karen D. Pinch, seconded by Peter M. Janaros, passed unanimously to approve the FY 2022 Draft Audited Financial Statements prepared by Marcum and presented by Erica Olobri, CPA, Partner. Erica indicated the audit went very smoothly with the support of management. The Authority’s Performance in 2022: Total Net Position increased by \$5,885,504, and the Authority has a Total Net Position of \$143,316,633. Mr. Goulart stated the entire audit was conducted on a remote basis, and RITBA continues to have a good working relationship with Marcum. Overall RITBA’s revenue compared to FY 2021 is up 17% and operating expenses are up less than 1%. The operating profit is up 65%. In summary, compared to 2019, the Authority’s revenue is higher, operating expenses are lower, and operating profit

is higher. Director Janaros received clarification that any reference to the Capital Improvement Plan in the Marcum presentation refers to the previously approved CIP. A new Capital Improvement Plan is being formulated but is not yet finalized.

Item No. 6

Motion by Karen D. Pinch, seconded by Peter M. Janaros, passed unanimously to approve a purchase order for a 20-foot-long Thomas Moveable Steel Safety barrier in the amount of \$13,350.00. Thomas Barrier, LLC is the sole source provider of this barrier, which will provide safety to RITBA employees as they continue to perform several maintenance tasks, removal and replacement of curb and sidewalk sealants, and maintenance spot painting of steel bridge elements on the Mount Hope Bridge. The barrier's unique design will allow RITBA workers to easily move the barrier as work progresses along the safety walk area. There will no longer be a need to take a lane out of service to perform these tasks, which is disruptive to traffic flow. Mr. Seabury noted that Director Caron Silveira preauthorized the purchase, pursuant to the authority granted her by the Board, so needed work could begin. Director Caron Silveira stated that worker safety is a topic at every conference attended by RITBA staff, and the Authority continues to seek ways to improve in this area. Director Janaros expressed his admiration for the effort the Authority is taking to perform several maintenance tasks in-house and perform them safely.

Item No. 7

Motion by Peter M. Janaros, seconded by Karen D. Pinch, passed unanimously to approve a task order from WSP in the not-to-exceed amount of \$1,385,902.20 to perform the final design and bid phase services for the permanent roadway improvements and new All-Electronic Tolling (AET) system. Mr. Seabury noted this is an extensive task order which involves working alongside the toll lane integrator. The task order includes providing all the conduits and all the structures for the tolling equipment to be installed by the lane integrator. There is environmental work to be done, including storm water mitigation and work on Structure E. Director Janaros confirmed that this is a not-to-exceed amount. He believes this is a good approach in that as much as the task order is specific, it allows Mr. Seabury and staff to make final decisions in each phase of the work as it progresses. Director Janaros noted that WSP needs to update the task order under Article 4 – Structural Engineering, page 15, and under the last page of the plan to reflect the desired approach of rehabilitation of Structure E, not deck replacement. Director Caron Silveira noted that Jamestown Town officials were invited to RITBA to be briefed about design plans and to offer input to be shared with the engineering design team. The Authority's vision for the design of the new gantry will reflect the character and beauty of the bridge.

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. Waiting on delivery of bearings.
- Phase II – AET Conceptual Design- Newport Pell Bridge: Conceptual design is complete and final design will be completed with the approval of today's task order with WSP.
- Misc. Steel Repairs – Mt. Hope and Sakonnet: Piasecki Steel will begin the steel repairs 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 for Mt. Hope. There are supply chain issues that are delaying delivery.
- Underwater Bridge Inspection – Pell: Mr. Seabury shared a few underwater images taken by Collins Engineers during their inspection of the Pell Bridge which show the incredible detail that can be seen.

- Load Rating – Jamestown: ATANE has prepared a proposal for a crack monitoring program to be presented to Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to satisfy requirements set by FHWA for the load rating to be sufficient.
- Capital Improvement Plan Update: The plan was almost complete, however, RITBA has now received federal grant funding in the amount of \$82.5 million, so adjustments will need to be made before it can go to the Board for approval.

CFO Jeff Goulart – Financial Summary Report

June financials were not prepared separately this month because this information was included in the draft audit. Mr. Goulart indicated that July and August revenue is ahead of budget.

Executive Director’s Report:

- **Traffic Update** – Director Caron Silveira reported traffic is just short of being back to 2019 numbers and that the shortfall appears to be due to the lack of return of commuter traffic during the week. The Navy base has not returned to 100% in-person work, and several of the businesses that are ancillary to the defense industry have also not fully returned to on-site work. Many businesses across all sectors continue to work in a hybrid work schedule. The dip in traffic has not affected RITBA’s revenue. All-Electronic Tolling (AET) has continued to be successful. RITBA has free flowing traffic now through the old toll plaza area, which helps reduce the chance of traffic accidents. Additionally, Director Caron Silveira noted she believes the Rhode Island State Police post has been helpful in keeping speeders in check.
- **Tolling Operations** - With AET, the Authority has experienced a higher level of bill-by-mail transactions. RITBA is ramping up its past campaign of “Got E-ZPass?” to encourage motorists to get E-ZPass accounts, which will reduce the number of bill-by-mail transactions. Director Caron Silveira highlighted that RITBA was chosen by Providence Business News (PBN) as the winner in the government category for the 2022 Innovative Companies Award for its success in transitioning to All-Electronic Tolling during the pandemic. RITBA’s achievement will be honored at a dinner this month.
 - **Back Office and Lane Integration**– Katie Coleman has been working hard to get the new back-office system running. She is working with Emovis as the back-office provider, and Emovis will also provide the lane integration system for the new gantry.
- **Federal Funding Requests** –
 - **INFRA Grant** – The Authority received word of its award of \$82.5 million in federal funding to rehabilitate the Newport Pell Bridge which includes a bundle of projects. Director Caron Silveira noted that historically, departments of transportation have fared better than tolling agencies in being awarded this level of funding in infrastructure funding programs. In the next six months, RITBA will submit all the required paperwork and then a year of design work will follow before projects begin. The grant funding will allow important projects to commence sooner than had been budgeted for in the capital improvement plan.
 - **Other Grant Programs - 2022 RAISE Grant, Mega, and Bridge Investment Program** – RITBA very narrowly missed being awarded a 2021 RAISE Grant and again fell short of receiving a 2022 RAISE Grant for the Dehumidification of the Cables and Anchorages of the Mt. Hope Bridge. RITBA is currently waiting on decisions on the Mega and Bridge Investment Programs. Director Caron Silveira is optimistic the Authority will eventually succeed in obtaining funding for the Mt. Hope Bridge Dehumidification project.

- **Next Board Meeting** – Scheduled for Wednesday, October 19th.

A motion by Karen D. Pinch, seconded by Peter M. Janaros, passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 A.M.

Lori Caron Silveira
Secretary