

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 20, 2023.

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The meeting was called to order at 8:34 A.M. by Chair, James K. Salome.

**Members Present**

James K. Salome, Chair  
Peter Alviti, Jr., P.E., Ex Officio  
Peter M. Janaros, P.E.  
Karen D. Pinch

**Members Absent:**

Darrell Waldron, Vice Chair

**Invited Guests:**

Lori Caron Silveira, Executive Director  
Eric Seabury, Director of Engineering  
Kathryn Coleman, Director of Tolling Operations  
Jeffrey Goulart, Chief Financial Officer  
Stephen Cahill, Manager of Safety and Security  
Frank Flowers, Maintenance Manager  
Remmy Villacis, Network Technician  
William O’Gara, Pannone Lopes Devereaux & O’Gara, Legal Counsel  
Marianne Durgin, Executive Assistant to the Director  
Jeffrey Wiggin, Assistant Project Manager  
Jamie Swanberg, Manager of Tolling Operations  
Erica Olobri, CPA, MPAC, 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 23, 2023 Board meeting.

**Item No. 4**

Motion by Karen D. Pinch, seconded by Peter Alviti, Jr., passed unanimously to acknowledge receipt of the FY 2023 Draft Audited Financial Statements prepared by Marcum and presented by Erica Olobri, CPA, MPAC, Partner. Jeff Goulart took the opportunity to share the following: 1) There was record revenue for the past fiscal year of \$46.5 million, 2) RITBA has a strong and solid balance sheet, 3) The audit was conducted not only on time, but early and on budget and 4) The audit was again conducted 100% remotely. Director Caron Silveira noted Ms. Olobri and her team know the Authority well as they have prepared RITBA’s audit for the past several years. As in years past, Ms. Olobri indicated the audit went very smoothly with the support of management. Ms. Olobri then presented the Board an overview of the financial statistics.

**Item No. 5**

Motion by Peter M. Janaros, seconded by Karen D. Pinch, passed unanimously to approve an agreement with the City of Providence for a one-time purchase of excess virtual net metering credits in the amount of \$125,000. RITBA will receive this credit on its National Grid invoices and in return, will pay the City of

Providence \$93,750. This will reduce the Authority's utility cost by \$31,250. Mr. Goulart noted this is the same type of agreement the Authority entered into last year with the City of Providence.

**Item No. 6**

Motion by Peter Alviti, Jr., seconded by Karen D. Pinch, passed unanimously to approve a task order for Crossman Engineering, one of RITBA's prequalified On-Call Infrastructure Professional Services consultants to perform a professional land survey of RITBA/State of RI property adjacent to Bay View Drive, Jamestown in the amount of \$9,450.00, and an allowance of \$3,000.00 for property marker installations. RITBA staff plans to install additional fencing at the maintenance "annex" site, which is located adjacent to and underneath the west approach of the Newport Pell Bridge and contains a maintenance/indoor garage building. The intention is to fully secure the site by adding/replacing fencing and installing an automated controlled-access gate. Locating and verifying property boundaries is the first step, which requires that a professional land survey be conducted. Across the street is another fenced-in area utilized for storage of RITBA equipment and materials and also used as a staging area and laydown yard. With several projects scheduled in the coming years, RITBA would like to identify the property boundaries at this site for future consideration of expanding the fenced-in area as necessary.

**Item No. 7**

Motion by Peter Alviti, Jr., seconded by Karen D. Pinch, passed unanimously to approve a purchase order with Eaton Corp. in the amount of \$10,805.34 to replace two Uninterruptible Power Supplies (UPS) batteries and upgrade discontinued battery trays and harnesses. The server room maintained and operated on site at RITBA contains two Eaton model PW9355 (30 kVA) UPS units. Eaton Corp. provides scheduled service to both units. At the last maintenance cycle Eaton identified one UPS approaching six years in service. They recommend replacement of all internal sealed VRLA batteries every five years to maintain the health and longevity of the unit. Eaton provided the lowest bid of three received from an IFB for UPS battery replacement and required tray and harness upgrades. Director Janaros asked if there is any salvage value in the old equipment. Mr. Seabury responded that there is salvage value and that any value would have been considered and included in each bid.

**Item No. 8**

Motion by Peter M. Janaros, seconded by Peter Alviti, Jr., passed unanimously to approve an amendment to Aetna Bridge Company's (AETNA) construction contract for Evaluation and Jacking Installation of a Newport Pell Bridge Compression Link in the additional amount not to exceed \$100,000.00 on a time and materials basis for a total revised contract amount not to exceed \$200,000.00. On May 17, 2023, the Board approved an initial contract amount not to exceed \$100,000.00 on a time and materials basis with AETNA for this project. This was an initial estimate to get the project underway. Director Janaros inquired of the schedule for the project. There will be an eastbound lane closure for the remainder of the work which should be completed by the end of the first week of October. This will conclude the evaluation period. Director Pinch asked if this is all daytime work. Mr. Seabury replied that it is.

**Item No. 9**

Motion by Peter M. Janaros, seconded by Peter Alviti, Jr., passed unanimously to approve a construction contract with J.H. Lynch & Sons, Inc. (Lynch) in the amount not to exceed \$10,759,842.60 for the Automated Electronic Tolling System Conversion & Roadway Improvements for the Claiborne Pell / Newport Bridge Toll Plaza and pre-authorization to expend an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00 toward a Construction Administration Services Task Order with WSP. Director Alviti asked about the schedule. Mr. Seabury indicated the gantry will be installed in April 2024. Emovis will then install the tolling equipment and test it. The go-live date for the gantry will be June 2024. The last phase will be the demolition of the toll plaza. Director Alviti asked if the construction administration contract with WSP is

part of its original contract. Mr. Seabury replied it is not. WSP's original contract went through design and bid phase services only. The construction administration services will be part of a new task order. WSP was initially selected through RFQ for the design and bid phase services, and for the ability to do the construction administration services. Director Alвити asked if the Authority has examined what the cost might be to take construction administration and resident engineering services in-house, especially with several projects coming up. Mr. Seabury indicated this may be investigated, especially because of the volume of grant work that will occur in the coming years. Director Janaros asked about milestone work for this project. Mr. Seabury indicated J. H. Lynch's concern was about meeting the milestone of getting the gantry installed by April 2024. RITBA has mitigated Lynch's concern by ensuring a fabricator will be available to deliver materials on time. Director Janaros also inquired about unsuitable soil, and asked who would make the call as to what is undesirable and how it will be disposed of. Mr. Seabury indicated soil will be tested. The Authority does not expect there to be a sizable quantity and testing will be included in the process.

#### **Item No. 10**

Motion by Peter M. Janaros, seconded by Karen D. Pinch, passed unanimously to approve a budget supplement in the amount not to exceed \$75,000.00 to Gannett Fleming's Task Order (under Contract 19-6) for consulting services for the Back Office replacement project. The supplement will allow Gannett Fleming to continue to assist RITBA with the implementation and migration to the new Back Office system. New business rules and workflows of All-Electronic Tolling that were not anticipated during the initial estimate were added. Additionally, Gannett Fleming had to evaluate four vendor bids during the procurement process, not the anticipated three vendor bids. There were also several reviews of the design document deliverables resulting in over 400 comments to be addressed. The go-live date was also postponed to December 2023 from June 2023. Director Janaros asked if the additional work is being conducted by all high-level staff. Ms. Coleman replied the project requires high level review and she is confident the staff engaged are needed.

#### **Director of Engineering Eric Seabury - Capital Projects Status Report:**

- Phase II – AET Final Design Newport Pell Bridge: The architectural design of the new gantry is the last remaining open design piece.
- Mt. Hope Bridge Suspension Cables & Anchorages Investigation and Dehumidification: The project is in design, working towards a 30% progress submission. Documents are being reviewed for the air flow test on the cables.
- Compression Link Phase I Work – Newport Pell: As discussed earlier, Aetna Bridge Company has begun the work.
- ATMS Bridge Safety & Video Analytics – Newport Pell & Mt. Hope Bridges: Additional testing of the system is being conducted.
- Safety Barrier Feasibility Study: The study is for the Mount Hope and Jamestown Verrazzano Bridges. Atkins is on schedule. The task order for the feasibility study of safety barriers on the Newport Pell and the Sakonnet River Bridges was approved last month and Atkins will begin work on this study as well.

Director Alвити asked if the cost of the architectural treatment of the new gantry will be separate from the construction contract awarded to J.H. Lynch & Sons, Inc. He also inquired about the projected cost of the architectural treatment. Mr. Seabury indicated the architectural piece will be bid separately from the civil and structural work. The construction cost for the architectural treatment has not yet been determined. Director Caron Silveira noted the Authority is stressing functionality and safety of the gantry over aesthetics.

Director Janaros asked about the plan for addressing the rideability of the Mt. Hope Bridge. Mr. Seabury replied that a contract for deck repairs is currently out to bid. The work on Mt. Hope will require lane

closures. The original contract documents had the work taking place during the day. There will be an addendum to the contract documents requiring nighttime work as it was noted that the production level was significantly higher the last time this work was done when it occurred at night versus daytime hours.

**Executive Director's Report:**

- **Federal Funding-** Director Caron Silveira noted a Bridge Investment Program debriefing is scheduled to take place. The Authority had a RAISE 2022 debriefing. The RAISE 2023 submission is seeking the balance of funding for the Mount Hope Bridge Dehumidification project. The Authority won the 2023 Providence Business News award for innovative projects in the government sector for its Mount Hope Dehumidification project and key staff will be attending the award presentation in Providence this evening. The agreement for the ten million the Authority is receiving in ARPA funds to conduct the feasibility study of barriers on two of RITBA's bridges has been executed.
- **Customer Service** – The Authority offered extended hours to customers at the E-ZPass Walk-In Center on the last two Thursday evenings in August with service from 3:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. The data from those evenings is being analyzed to determine how E-ZPass hours will operate on a go-forward basis. Director Caron Silveira and Ms. Coleman have recently attended E-ZPass operational meetings. The Windsor Detroit Bridge Authority will be added to the E-ZPass system.
- **Transportation Funding Alternatives** – RITBA is participating in initiatives considering alternatives to motor fuel tax revenue.
- **Plaza Demolition and New Gantry** – As mentioned by Mr. Seabury, the new gantry will be installed by April 2024 and the go-live date is June 2024. Director Caron Silveira and Mr. Seabury will be attending a "Transportation for Life" summit in Poughkeepsie, NY hosted by the NY State Bridge Authority. The conference will be examining all aspects of the concept of suicide from high places, including bridges.
- **Next Board Meeting – October 18, 2023**

Director Janaros asked if at next month's Board meeting the topic of speeding on the bridges be addressed and combine this discussion with a review of the effectiveness of the State Police agreement at the Authority.

A motion by Peter Alviti, Jr., seconded by Karen D. Pinch, passed unanimously to adjourn the public meeting at 9:25 a.m.

**Lori Caron Silveira**  
**Secretary**