

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 October 18, 2023.

The meeting was called to order at 8:33 A.M. by Chair, James K. Salome.

Members Present

James K. Salome, Chair
Darrell Waldron, Vice Chair
Peter Alviti, Jr., P.E., Ex Officio
Karen D. Pinch

Members Absent:

Peter M. Janaros, P.E.

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
David Schultz, Legislative Fiscal Analyst

Item No. 2

Public Comment – There were no public comments.

Item No. 3

A motion made by Karen D. Pinch, seconded by Darrell Waldron, passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2023 Board meeting. Director Waldron noted he was not present at the September 20, 2023 Board meeting. Director Alviti did not vote on this item as he had not arrived yet.

Item No. 4

Motion by Darrell Waldron, seconded by Karen D. Pinch, passed unanimously to approve a task order in an amount not to exceed \$364,879.08 for WSP to perform construction administration services for the Automated Electronic Tolling System Conversion & Roadway Improvements for the Claiborne Pell / Newport Bridge Toll Plaza project. At the September Board meeting the initial amount of \$50K was authorized. This task order includes the \$50K previously authorized.

Item No. 5

Motion by Peter Alviti, Jr., seconded by Darrell Waldron, passed unanimously to approve a task order in an amount not to exceed \$725,000.00 for Keville Enterprises, Inc. (Keville) to perform resident engineering and construction inspection services for the Automated Electronic Tolling System Conversion & Roadway Improvements for the Claiborne Pell / Newport Bridge Toll Plaza project. Mr. Seabury noted two pre-qualified, local firms were interviewed to avoid additional expenses related to travel and lodging. One of the firms did not have the staffing to cover the full time period. Keville was able to commit the staff

needed for the duration of the project. Director Caron Silveira noted Keville is a woman owned business whom the Authority has engaged for resident engineering services for multiple projects and the staff have always performed well. Chair Salome asked if Mr. David Deveau will be Keville's resident engineer assigned to the project. Mr. Seabury replied yes, Mr. Deveau will be the resident engineer on duty unless someone fills in for him from time to time. The proposal was based on Mr. Deveau's rate. If another engineer fills in for him at a lesser rate, RITBA will be billed the lower rate.

Item No. 6

Motion by Karen D. Pinch, seconded by Darrell Waldron, passed unanimously to approve a task order amendment in an amount not to exceed \$13,500.00 for Keville Enterprises, Inc. to perform construction inspection services related to the Newport Pell Compression Link Evaluation and Jacking Installation project. Modifications to the scope of work and to the method of jacking installation and evaluation increased the initial estimate of 2 ½ weeks of oversight. Mr. Seabury stated Director Caron Silveira already pre-approved this task order amendment as the amount was within her authority. Mr. Seabury is bringing the item before the Board for full transparency and approval.

Item No. 7

Discussion: Speeding and Other Safety Issues – Director Caron Silveira indicated Director Janaros had asked at the last Board meeting that the topics of speeding and other safety issues be put on the agenda for discussion. As Director Janaros was unable to attend this month's meeting, this item will be deferred to another Board meeting. Speed studies that have been conducted in the past will be reviewed. Speeding on the bridges is still occurring. RITBA has partnered with the RI State Police and with local police in addressing the issue. A more robust discussion will take place when the item is addressed with the full Board present.

Director of Engineering Eric Seabury - Capital Projects Status Report:

- Phase II – AET Construction - Newport Pell Bridge: The contractor, Lynch, has been given the notice to proceed. The lane shift was put in place on Monday, October 16th. Steel barriers will be put in place for the duration of the project.
- Mt. Hope Bridge Suspension Cables & Anchorages Investigation and Dehumidification: The cable air flow test will be going out to bid in the coming weeks. Once performed, it will give the consultant the information needed to finish the design work for the project.
- Compression Link Phase I Work – Newport Pell: In the coming week, Aetna will be installing the jacking which will help support the compression link so the nut can be removed from the pin.
- Safety Barrier Feasibility Study: Atkins is now performing an in-depth analysis of the two different barrier options identified for further study for the Mount Hope Bridge and Jamestown Verrazzano Bridge. The task order for the feasibility study of safety barriers on the Newport Pell and the Sakonnet River Bridges will begin with Atkins performing a detailed site visit of the outside and inside of the two bridges.
- Load Ratings and Inspections: Jacobs Engineering will begin the inspection of the approach spans of the Newport Pell Bridge. Structure E has been inspected and the report is being prepared.
- Pier in Tiverton with Sinkhole Work: D'Ambra Construction has performed the work, and the project is complete.
- Roof at Mt. Hope Administration Building: Flat portion of the roof was replaced, gutters were replaced, and asbestos abatement work is complete.

Director Alviti commended Director Caron Silveira and Mr. Seabury for the excellent job the Authority is doing in monitoring and reporting on capital projects. He noted the performance of projects has improved over the last several years with projects being completed on-time and on-budget. He commended Mr.

Seabury for the excellent reporting he is doing for all the projects. He noted the detailed reports are valuable and appreciated.

CFO Jeff Goulart – Financial Summary Report: August YTD Financial Statement Notes – Actual vs. Budget material variance analysis: Total revenue exceeded budget by \$1.1M. Toll revenue was higher by \$1.1M primarily due to increased vehicles and a higher revenue per vehicle metric. Gas tax revenue was higher by \$20K. Operating expenses were higher by \$30K. Personnel expenses were lower by \$200K primarily due to open positions. Utilities were lower by \$14K primarily due to the credits for net metering. Contractual services were lower by \$7K primarily due to the timing of booking the audit fees. Other supplies and expenses were lower by \$25K. Insurance was lower by \$40K primarily due to lower costs for the August 1st insurance renewals and timing of payments. Repairs and maintenance were higher by \$178K primarily due to the costs for the conceptual study of the safety barriers (\$163K) which will be reclassified to non-operating expenses in September. Bridge inspections were higher by \$98K primarily due to the assumption that the crack monitoring task on the Jamestown Verrazzano Bridge would have been completed by 6/30/23, but this inspection was delayed into July and August of the current fiscal year.

Executive Director’s Report:

- **Plaza Road Design Work** – After the first day of the new road design work, with new lane closures in place, it was noted the morning commuters seemed to do a better job with zipper merging than the afternoon commuters. The Jamestown side of the bridge had clear VMS signage about using the zipper merge technique. Director Alviti will have his staff assist by improving the signage as commuters approach from the Newport side of the bridge. Some motorists are also straddling both lanes. Improved signage will instruct motorists to use two lanes up until the merge point.
- **Tolling – E-ZPass Hub** – Testing for the Hub took place recently. The go-live date will be early November at which time all E-ZPass agencies will be sharing data through the Hub rather than the agencies exchanging toll files individually.
- **Federal Funding**- Director Caron Silveira noted a debriefing took place recently for one of the Authority’s unsuccessful submissions for federal funding. The PROTECT grant submission is pending. One challenging aspect of the grant submissions is how to approach the federal government’s definition of the safety component. They are looking for evidence that the Authority is reducing the number of vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian accidents. The Mount Hope Bridge dehumidification project is focused on extending the life of the bridge and its ability to carry vehicles over it. The Authority will have to address the safety component in a different way.
- **Next Board Meeting** – November 15, 2023

Chair Salome asked Mr. Seabury what will happen with the old toll booths. Mr. Seabury indicated the old toll plaza will be completely removed. He noted the booths are not the original ones. Mr. Wiggin stated the Authority could put them on public auction. Chair Salome wondered if the old toll booths might be of interest to either a club or fairground entity for use as security guard booths. Mr. Seabury noted the signage above the old toll plaza may be repurposed by relocating it on RITBA property to acknowledge its historical significance.

A motion by Peter Alviti, Jr., seconded by Karen D. Pinch, passed unanimously to adjourn the public meeting at 8:55 a.m.

**Lori Caron Silveira
Secretary**