

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 25, 2024.

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The meeting was called to order at 8:32 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, Director of Engineering  
Jeffrey Goulart, Chief Financial Officer  
Kathryn Coleman, Director of Tolling Operations  
Remmy Villacis, Manager – IT Services  
Joseph Rodio, Rodio & Ursillo, Legal Counsel  
Marianne Durgin, Executive Assistant to the Director  
Jeffrey Wiggin, Project Manager  
Jamie Swanberg, Manager of Tolling Operations and Customer Service  
Frank Flowers, Chief of Maintenance Operations  
Stephen Cahill, Manager of Safety and Security  
Erica Olobri, Partner, Marcum

**Item No. 2**

**Public Comment** – There were no public comments.

**Item No. 3**

A motion made by Karen D. Pinch, seconded by Peter M. Janaros, passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2024 Board meeting and the sealed Executive Session minutes of the August 21, 2024 Board meeting.

**Item No. 4**

Motion by Peter M. Janaros, seconded by Darrell Waldron, passed unanimously to approve a task order for Parsons to provide continued support for RITBA’s ATMS system, including maintenance and repairs for continued proper operation at a cost not to exceed \$30,000. The ATMS platform runs all of RITBA’s automated traffic systems.

**Item No. 5**

Motion by Peter M. Janaros, seconded by Darrell Waldron, passed unanimously to approve a preauthorization amount of \$150,000 for HDR, the Program Manager for the Newport Pell INFRA Grant projects, to continue program management tasks during the development and negotiation of Task Order 2. The final version of Task Order 2 will be brought before the Board of Directors for approval and will include the pre-authorized work. HDR will continue to coordinate design scoping meetings, review/negotiate task orders with the design consultants, develop an overall program schedule and perform general administration and coordination tasks. Director Janaros noted he feels approval of this item makes good sense, as it keeps the consultant and the grant work moving forward without any pause in the work.

### Item No. 6

Motion by Karen D. Pinch, seconded by Darrell Waldron, passed unanimously to approve a purchase order in the amount of \$32,140, which includes trade-in value and rebates, with Colonial South Chevrolet for purchase of a 2024 Chevrolet 1500 Crew Cab WT (Work Truck). RITBA will trade in its 2018 Ford F-150 and receive a value of approximately \$11,500. Colonial South Chevrolet responded to RITBA's Invitation for Bid for a 2024 or 2025 new White Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Crew Cab Four Wheel Drive WT with a spray-in bed liner with a bid of \$45,940.

### Item No. 7

Motion by Karen D. Pinch, seconded by Darrell Waldron, passed unanimously to authorize finalization of the FY 2024 Audited Financial Statements in substantially similar condition as prepared by Marcum and presented by Erica Olobri, Partner, Marcum. Ms. Olobri presented an overview of the financial statistics and indicated the audit went smoothly with the support of management. Director Janaros asked Mr. Goulart if the Authority has the capability to oversee all its grant awards and the associated work that needs to be completed. Mr. Goulart replied that the Authority has that capability.

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

- Phase II – AET Construction - Newport Pell Bridge: The contractor is working on realigning the remainder of the roadway. The old gantry has been taken down.
- Mt. Hope Bridge Suspension Cables & Anchorages Investigation and Dehumidification: Final design for this project is proceeding. The PROTECT grant agreement is being finalized. Construction work cannot commence until the federal grant is finalized. Staff may ask Federal Highway for approval to go out to bid and not authorize any work to begin until the grant is finalized. Director Janaros confirmed with Mr. Seabury that Federal Highway will not reimburse any funding if monies have been spent up front before the agreement is finalized. The PROTECT grant funding will go towards the construction part of the contract. RITBA has funded the design phase.
- Rubberized Asphalt Chip Seal Design – Mount Hope Bridge: The project is currently out to bid and should be brought to the Board at the next meeting.
- Compression Link Phase II Work – Newport Pell: The purchase and rental agreements with Aetna, approved by the Board last month, have been executed for the scaffolding, jacks, and platform transfer to RITBA. Phase II design and construction support services with WSP are ongoing. A preconstruction meeting with Mohawk just took place. They will be securing all the materials for the project. There will be a 62-hour around-the-clock window where a lane will be shut down so the work can be completed. Director Janaros inquired when the project will take place. Mr. Seabury indicated RITBA is planning on a late December completion date, but this is hinging on all materials arriving timely and weather conditions.
- INFRA Projects – Newport Pell Bridge: The Phase 1 task order work under Program Manager HDR is complete. RITBA will now proceed with Task Order 2 work. Design and scoping meetings will be scheduled with the design consultants. The Newport Pell Bridge deck project will be the first of the INFRA projects to commence.
- Steel Repairs & Joint Replacement Design – Fishing Pier Access Road Bridge & JVB: A scoping meeting with GM2 has taken place and the design work will begin.
- New Roof, Solar, and HVAC Design – Admin Building: AI Engineers recently surveyed the administration building to begin planning for the HVAC work.
- Safety Measures Feasibility Study for NPB & SRB: The consultant is on schedule.
- Mount Hope Bridge Routine Inspection: This inspection will commence soon.

### Executive Director's Report:

- **Customer Service Initiatives** – With increased traffic and revenue, the Authority is looking at ways to improve its availability and responsiveness to customers. The tolling department has made plans to add hours to the walk-in center. It will be open Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to

4:00 pm for the weeks of September 30<sup>th</sup> and October 7<sup>th</sup>. Director Caron Silveira noted staff is also looking at ways to improve the customer service experience with the phone system. She noted customers can also be serviced at AAA and online. Chair Salome asked if the additional hours for the two-week period have been communicated to the public. Director Caron Silveira indicated the hours are posted on the RITBA website and on the RITBA doors. Chair Salome suggested getting the word out through additional advertising. The Director also noted that pop-ups have been scheduled to take place at schools and at Naval Station Newport locations to assist with account matters. Staff will also be looking to schedule pop-ups in Providence locations as those zip codes have a lower saturation level for E-ZPass accounts. The new back-office system will be going live soon, and it will have enhanced customer service features.

- **Bridge Security and Safety including Hurricane Preparedness – Update of Ongoing Meetings and Resources** – The Director recently attended a Board of Inquiry meeting concerning this topic, convened by the Federal Government, and held at the Coast Guard offices in East Providence. The meeting focused on critical infrastructure and what impact a crisis would have on ports. Additional efforts by RITBA, the Coast Guard, RIEMA, the Marine Pilots Association, the Army Corps of Engineers, and partners from area law enforcement were discussed so that all entities will continue to be able to execute an immediate response. Director Caron Silveira noted RITBA conducted its own safety and security preparedness meeting following the vessel strike at the Francis Scott Key Bridge with many of the response teams who attended the federal government’s meeting at the Coast Guard offices. It helped to reinforce the plans already in place for a response to an incident.
- **Next Board Meeting** – October 16, 2024.

Legal Counsel, Mr. Joseph Rodio asked the Board to make a motion to convene an Executive Session for a session pertaining to a personnel matter, the Executive Director’s job performance review, pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(1). Mr. Rodio stated Director Caron Silveira had been notified of her right to have this session conducted in an Open Session and had not so elected.

At approximately 9:06 a.m., a motion was made by Director Janaros and seconded by Director Waldron. By roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

At approximately 9:23 a.m. a motion was made by Director Waldron and seconded by Director Pinch to return to open session. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Director Pinch, seconded by Director Waldron, to seal the minutes of the foregoing executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

Item No. 8

Motion by Director Waldon, seconded by Director Janaros, passed unanimously to approve the annual review of Executive Director Caron Silveira, noting her exemplary performance, and authorizing the Chairman to execute an amended employment agreement with Executive Director Caron Silveira, incorporating the term sheet as presented. Director Janaros noted that the Executive Compensation Committee, in addition to the full Board of Directors vetting the matter in its own executive session, took a vote in open session of the Committee meeting recommending this action. The Board members thanked the Executive Director for her work and commitment to the organization.

A motion was made by Director Pinch and seconded by Director Waldron to adjourn at 9:26 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

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