

**MINUTES
MID-BAY BRIDGE AUTHORITY
THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2017**

**NICEVILLE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
208 NORTH PARTIN DRIVE
NICEVILLE, FLORIDA**

I. OPENING

Mr. Neilson opened the regular meeting of the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority at approximately 9:00 a.m. with the Invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present were: James D. Neilson, Jr.
 Gordon E. Fornell
 Virginia A. Asthana
 Parker Destin
 Bryant Paulk FDOT Ex officio, non-voting

Members absent were: Robert Griggs

Also present: Van Fuller Executive Director
 Dawn Stuntz Legal Counsel
 Cathy Demoreski Administrative Assistant

II. INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Mr. Neilson welcomed all visitors and members of the press. In attendance were Bill Timpner and Erica Jernigan, FDOT; Bridget McCune and Stacey Wallace, ABC Group LLC, FDOT; Douglass Bacon, Resident and Mike Griffith, The Bay Beacon.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting – December 8, 2016

A motion to approve the December 8, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes was made by Mr. Fornell with a second by Mr. Destin and a 4-0 vote was taken for approval.

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

Ms. Asthana presented the Treasurer's Report for December 2016. Account balances were:

FNBT.com	\$ 351,852.64
Regions	\$35,678,558.42

Ms. Asthana made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Reports for December 2016 with a second by Mr. Fornell and a 4-0 vote was taken for approval.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

A. Consent Agenda-Resolution 2017-02. Request payment by Regions Bank to:

1. HDR Engineering, Inc. in accordance with the contract for Engineering Services associated with:

- A. CEI Miscellaneous Enhancements (Task 26), payment #2

Invoice 1200029598 for services through 12/31/16, in the amount of: **\$2,195.00**

(From 2015 A, B, C Construction Fund-Regions Account #1080026699)

- B. Transportation Asset Management Plan (Task 27), payment #1
Invoice 1200028034 for services through 11/26/2016, in the amt. of: **\$15,721.58**
(From USAF Supervisory & Admin Fund-Regions Acct #1080019199)
- 2. Jacobs Engineering in accordance with the contract for Traffic and Revenue Services associated with:
 - A. Annual Traffic and Revenue Services (Task Order #1), payment 1
Invoice WTXT9601-01 in the amount of: **\$8,875.04**
(From USAF Supervisory & Admin Fund-Regions Acct #1080019199)
 - B. Toll Rate Study Services (Task Order #2), Payment 1
Invoice WTXT9602-01 in the amount of: **\$36,594.62**
(From 2015 A, B, C Construction Fund-Regions Account #1080026699)

A motion was made by Mr. Fornell to adopt Resolution 2017-02 requesting payment of the Consent Agenda items by the Trustee with a second by Mr. Destin and a 4-0 vote was taken for adoption.

- B. Traffic Operations.** Mr. Fuller reported that the October 2016 reports were revised and included in the package after receipt of the Traffic Engineers annual proration for FY2017 were received as well as to adjust the FY2016 year-end monthly revenue as a result of the annual audit adjustments. The traffic and revenue reported to date is through November 2016 and is performing as expected in line with the Traffic Engineers estimates.
- C. Signature Authorization-Resolution 2017-03.** Mr. Fuller explained that the Authority is required to provide a Signature Authorization annually for all Authority Members and the Executive Director for the checking and savings accounts with FNBT.com which are administered by the office. All members and the Executive Director are authorized to sign checks. All checks require two (2) signatures.

Mr. Destin made a motion to adopt Resolution 2017-03 FNBT.com Bank Signature Authorization, with a second by Ms. Asthana and a 4-0 vote was taken for adoption.

- VI. US 98 CONSTRUCTION UPDATE – FDOT.** Ms. Stacey Wallace with ABC Group LLC communications representative for the FDOT explained that there are two projects planned for the Widening of 3.37 miles of US98 in Walton and Okaloosa Counties. The improvements to this vital east-west corridor will deliver transportation and economic development benefits that include increased capacity, reduced congestion, improved safety, better access to tourism destinations and support for regional economic development initiatives. The project is expected to be completed in the summer of 2020 at an estimated construction cost of \$42M. The improvement, currently underway begins in Okaloosa County at Emerald Bay Drive and continues east to Tang-O-Mar Drive in Walton County, will include widening from four to six travel lanes with new eight-foot sidewalks and seven-foot buffered bicycle lanes on each side, new drainage system, four new storm water detention ponds and signalized upgrades at Holiday Road, Seascape Drive, Geronimo Street, South Shore Drive, Poinciana Blvd. and Scenic US 98 (Scenic Gulf Drive) and landscaping. The second project which is to be let in May 2017 will be in Okaloosa County from Airport Road east to Emerald Bay Drive and will include widening, sidewalks, bicycle lanes, drainage and signalization upgrades and consistent landscaping which are still in design. Information updates will be available on [Twitter.com/MyFDOT_NWFL](https://twitter.com/MyFDOT_NWFL); [@MYUS98](https://facebook.com/MyUS98Walton). For SMS alerts, text MyUS98 to 313131.

Ms. Erica Jernigan and Mr. Bill Timpner project supervisors with the FDOT overseeing the Walton County portion of the project explained that the plan is to ensure two lanes of traffic flow in each direction at all times by moving all traffic to the north side (four current westbound lanes)

while working on the south side (four current eastbound lanes) then shift traffic to the south side when the eastbound four to six lane expansion has been completed. During construction, which will take place 24/7, motorists can expect temporary nighttime lane restrictions between the hours of 8:30 p.m. and 5:30 a.m. Sunday through Friday while taking in to consideration special events and holidays. It was explained that signalization and traffic will be monitored regularly and necessary daily adjustments will be made in an effort to ensure the flow of traffic as well as maintain safety as the number one goal during construction. Businesses have been notified and temporary signage will placed to ensure the least interruption to business as possible.

It was reported that Kelly Rice will be the project manager for the Okaloosa County portion of the project and will be called upon to provide project updates to the Authority once construction begins. It was explained that there will be no drainage work required but some sidewalk reconfiguration and lane width reduction to eleven feet to accommodate the bike path and sidewalk at the intersection of Hwy 98 and Danny Wuerffel Way. The speed limit for the entire project in both counties will be reduced to 45 during construction and will remain that way when complete.

Discussion included that during the month of March 2017 the Destin Water Users will be closing the westbound traffic at Airport Road and US98 for forty-eight hours. It was suggested that this and all US98 construction activities be coordinated with the Okaloosa County Commissioners and they are advertised in the newspaper on a regular basis.

VII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A. Resolution 2017-04

Mr. Destin recommended retaining the current slate of Officers for the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority for FY2017. Voting resulted in the re-election of:

- **James D. Neilson, Jr., Chair**
- **Gordon E. Fornell, Vice-Chair**
- **Virginia A. Asthana, Secretary/Treasurer**

A motion was made by Mr. Destin with a second by Mr. Fornell and a 4-0 vote taken for approval and adoption of Resolution 2017-04

VIII. LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT

- A. Executive Director Authorization for Mid-Bay Bridge Authority Projects.** Ms. Stuntz recommended the Board continue this authorization, in order to avoid delays awaiting review and approval by the Board or the need for special meetings at short notice, and allow the Executive Director specific authority to act in order to approve actions to keep the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority projects moving forward. The Sunshine Law requires that the Board members not discuss issues among themselves that could at any time require a vote, so use of e-mail to approve proposed actions is not appropriate. Acknowledging such authority formally would permit the Executive Director the latitude to address matters immediately, although such action would be subject to review and ratification at the next meeting of the Authority. This would allow the projects to advance in a timely manner. Both Mr. Fuller and Ms. Stuntz confer regularly about the projects, and this suggestion is made only to continue to meet the objective of the Authority in moving the projects forward.

A motion was made by Mr. Destin with a second by Mr. Fornell to grant the Executive Director, in consult with Legal Counsel, the authority to take specific actions prior to the next duly Noticed meeting to move the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority Projects forward during 2017, in lieu of a special meeting while continuing to keep the members informed appropriately, as may be necessary in order to advance the forward progress of the projects. A 4-0 vote was taken for approval.

Ms. Stuntz reminded the Board Members that their 2016 Ethics Training must be completed and the Certificate of Completion on file at the Authority office ASAP.

IX. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

None

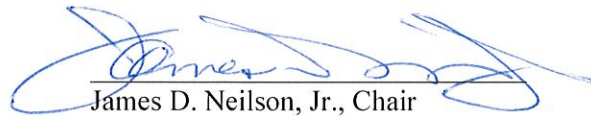
X. GENERAL DISCUSSION

The next regular meeting of the Authority will be held on Thursday, January 19, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the Niceville City Hall Council Chambers, Niceville, Florida.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:25 a.m.

Approved this 16th day of February 2017



James D. Neilson, Jr., Chair