

**MINUTES  
MID-BAY BRIDGE AUTHORITY  
THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2017**

**DESTIN CITY HALL BOARD ROOM  
4200 INDIAN BAYOU TRAIL  
DESTIN, 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  
  Bryant Paulk                    FDOT Ex officio, non-voting

Members absent were:           Parker Destin  
  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. In attendance were Bob Kellner, HDR; and Allen French, Trees on the Coast

Mr. French, the Executive Director of Trees on the Coast provided an article which appeared recently in Beaches Magazine which describes the mission of his organization and will be made a part of these minutes. Trees on the Coast is a 501(c)3 nonprofit environmental organization which was founded in 2015 and whose purpose is to enhance the beauty of Okaloosa and Walton Counties by planting trees in public locations. They are currently interested in planting, lighting and irrigation in the medians on Danny Wuerffel Way in Destin. Since it belongs to the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority with Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) operating and maintaining it on behalf of the Authority, he is requesting assistance from the Authority and the FDOT. Since they currently have no funding available they would also like to partner with the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority in this effort. They are in the process of applying for a grant through Impact 100 and are working on plans in order to initiate permit approval through the FDOT.

Discussion included that this is something that falls within the parameters of the Authority's legislative statues and is has also been part of the Authority's planning. However, before the Authority could make any commitment more detailed information would be required (e.g., conceptual plan, permits, costs, visibility requirements, maintenance requirements, etc.). It was also suggested that Mr. French coordinate his efforts with Mr. Paulk, the Authority's Ex-Officio FDOT representative.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. Regular Meeting – May 11, 2017**

**A motion to approve the May 11, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes was made by Mr. Fornell with a second by Ms. Asthana and a 3-0 vote was taken for approval.**

#### IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

Ms. Asthana presented the Treasurer's Report for May 2017. Account balances were:

FNBT.com	\$ 349,800.29
Regions	\$38,059,259.47

**Ms. Asthana made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Reports for May 2017 with a second by Mr. Fornell and a 3-0 vote was taken for approval.**

#### V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

**A. Consent Agenda-Resolution 2017-10.** Request payment by Regions Bank to:

1. HDR Engineering, Inc. in accordance with the contract for Engineering Svcs associated with:
  - A. CEI Miscellaneous Enhancements (Task 26), payment #4  
Invoice 1200055412 for services through 05/27/17, in the amount of: **\$1,560.00**  
(From 2015 A, B, C Construction Fund-Regions Account #1080026699)

**A motion was made by Mr. Fornell to adopt Resolution 2017-10 requesting payment of the Consent Agenda item by the Trustee with a second by Ms. Asthana and a 3-0 vote was taken for adoption.**

**B. Traffic Operations.** Mr. Fuller reported that the Traffic and Revenue for the month of April 2017 continue to be favorable, with revenue a bit below projections on the Bridge and traffic above projections on the Parkway. The System revenue is currently 3% above debt service requirements. If this trend continues there will be no action at fiscal year-end regarding revenues or frequent customer transaction threshold adjustment.

**C. General Engineering Contract Request for Qualifications.** Mr. Fuller reported that he is behind schedule on the preparation for the new General Engineering Consultant Request for Qualification. He is in coordination with counsel to render an opinion on how to continue the current contract until such time as the new contract is awarded. Mr. Griggs has already agreed to rank the packages received. Mr. Fornell also volunteered.

Mr. Fuller updated the Board on the status of the sale of the Construction Office. The closing has been delayed due to a problem with some of the wording on the deed which Ms. Stuntz, the Authority's Legal Counsel is working to expedite in order to close as soon as possible. Mr. Fuller also reported that he has been requested to meet with the Chardonnay Estates Homeowners Association regarding questions concerning sound attenuation.

In response to the presentation made earlier by Mr. French with Trees on the Coast, Mr. Fuller communicated that he is excited about the prospect of landscaping improvements on Danny Wuerffel Way and reminded the Authority that it has already spent some money for conceptual plans as part of toll plaza enhancements planning. Mr. Fuller explained that he recently met with representatives from Jackson Guard, with a similar request for SR293 and SR85, which is owned by the Air Force, leased by the Authority and maintained by the Department on behalf of the Authority. Also in attendance at that meeting were representatives from the FDOT to discuss the initiative. Maintenance is a primary concern for any beautification efforts on a state road. The FDOT process is to help facilitate planning and permitting, but does not normally issue a permit until funds are available for execution. Mr. Fuller also explained that the Authority has no mechanism to provide maintenance apart from the FDOT.

**VI. LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT**

None

**VII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Fornell noted that there were recent articles in the local newspapers with some interesting dialog as we approach tourist season. One article indicated that on a Saturday afternoon it took 1 hour and 37 minutes to travel from I-10 in Crestview to Racetrack Road in Fort Walton Beach via SR85, SR293, Hwy. 98 and SR85 again. It is important to mention that that same route on a normal day takes at least one hour. So, an additional forty or so minutes on a Saturday during summer tourist season in a vacation destination area is not unreasonable. He also emphasized that no similar test was done taking SR87 from I-10 and travelling east on US98 to Destin and then back to FWB or taking US331 from I-10 to US98 through Destin to FWB. For the record it was also noted that it took the Chairman forty-five minutes to travel from Winn-Dixie in Destin east on US98 to Sacred Heart on the Emerald Coast in Miramar Beach which is twelve miles. A few questions were raised, one being what route would be taken without the Mid-Bay Bridge and how long would those delays be and another is which wait is longer to cross the Mid-Bay Bridge or to wait for dinner at a restaurant during the season.

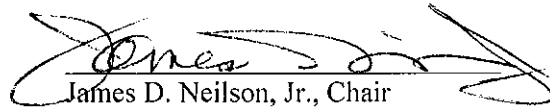
**VIII. GENERAL DISCUSSION**

The next regular meeting of the Authority will on Thursday, July 20, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the Niceville City Hall Council Chambers, Niceville, Florida

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:40 a.m.

**Approved this 20th day of July 2017**

  
James D. Neilson, Jr., Chair

**Ever see a streetscape devoid of trees??** Kinda ugly, right? Well, the dream of Trees on the Coast, Inc. is to enhance the beauty of Okaloosa and Walton Counties through the planting of trees in public locations. How does this work? This nonprofit allows individuals and businesses to make tax deductible donations that are used to purchase, plant and donate trees. This saves local governments and taxpayers money while creating beauty and helping the environment. Trees on the Coast is a 501(c)3 nonprofit environmental organization founded in 2015. Planting, conservation and education are the cornerstones of this nonprofit organization.

Approximately 200 trees have been planted through the generous donations of local residents and businesses. Projects include the Mattie Kelly Cultural Arts Village, Main St. median in Destin, Mathew Blvd. streetscape in partnership with The Henderson Beach Resort, The Destin Dog Park ("Plant a Tree to Honor a Loved Canine Project"), Food for Thought Outreach locations in Okaloosa and Walton Counties, The Holiday Isle "Plant a Tree to Honor a Loved One Project". A partnership has been formed with both the Walton County and Okaloosa Habitat for Humanity organizations. A tree is donated to each new home and family when the Habitat homes are dedicated.

How 'bout the beauty of a 200 year old Live Oak tree towering over a neighborhood? Trees on the Coast is supporting a new Tree Protection Ordinance for the City of Destin that will in part, protect these specimen trees. The hope is that this ordinance will be passed and that other local governments in Okaloosa and Walton Counties will adopt similar ordinances to protect trees that are true "treasures" of our Coastal home. These trees cannot be replaced, at least in our lifetimes!!

Trees on the Coast speaks to local Rotary Clubs, Women's Clubs, Garden Clubs, schools (and anyone else who will listen!) to educate our neighbors and children as to the importance of trees. Educational programs and tree plantings have taken place at local schools. The children love learning about trees and really love helping plant the trees!!

We even have fun raising donations!! Our signature fundraising event, SPAMMA PAJAMMA, is an annual pajama party to help ward off hurricanes and benefit Trees on the Coast. Best Pajamas contest, Best Spam Sculpture contest and toilet paper races helped us raise funds to plant more trees!

Future projects, dreams and goals include the planting of Danny Weurrrful Way, 30A, Harbor Blvd., Hwy. 98, parks and schools.

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Email: [info@treesonthecoast.com](mailto:info@treesonthecoast.com) Executive Director: Allen French