

**MINUTES
MID-BAY BRIDGE AUTHORITY
THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2018**

**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
 Robert Griggs
 Bryant Paulk FDOT Ex officio, non-voting

Member absent was: Parker Destin

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

II. INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Mr. Neilson welcomed visitors and members of the press. In attendance was Mike Griffith, The Bay Beacon.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting – December 14, 2017

A motion to approve the December 14, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes was made by Mr. Fornell with a second by Mr. Griggs and a 3-0 vote was taken for approval.

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Fornell presented the Treasurer's Report for December 2017. Account balances were:

FNBT.com	\$	173,376.72
Regions		\$37,377,935.93

Mr. Fornell made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for December 2017 with a second by Mr. Griggs and a 3-0 vote was taken for approval.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- A. **Traffic Operations.** Mr. Fuller reported the higher revenue on the Mid-Bay Bridge could possibly be attributed to the good weather during the month of November. Once again the Bridge and Parkway traffic and toll revenues continue to perform within the margin of error of the traffic engineer's projections. It was also reported that there were several Bridge closures in both Okaloosa and Walton counties due to the winter weather experienced on January 17, 2018 however the Mid-Bay Bridge remained open in large part due to the forward thinking and early treatment of the roadways by the FDOT.

Mr. Fuller also reported that the Authority was notified by letter from Commissioner Graham Fountain, Chairman, Okaloosa County Commissioners, that Commissioner Kelly Windes was appointed as the County liaison to the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority for 2018.

VI. 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. Fornell with a second by Mr. Griggs 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 2018, 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 3-0 vote was taken for approval.

Ms. Stuntz also updated the Board on the status of the Triumph Gulf Coast pre-application/application process. The first round of applications was submitted in October 2017 with requests totaling \$1B in a 30-day period. The next Triumph Gulf Coast meeting is scheduled for January 29, 2018 in Apalachicola. Pre-applications are still being accepted however semi-annual reports and meeting minutes are not yet available. If the Board would like Ms. Stuntz to attend meetings in the future she would be more than happy to do that unless the Authority would like Mr. Fuller or a Board Member to

attend. Otherwise Ms. Stuntz will continue to monitor their website and present regular updates to the Authority going forward.

Both Ms. Stuntz and Mr. Fornell recommended the Authority submit a pre-application for both a second span to the Mid-Bay Bridge and the Mid-Bay Bridge Connector (MBBC) Phase 4 even though the deadline has passed. She will forward the application materials to Mr. Fuller for completion and submission.

Discussion included the significant impact one or both of the projects would have on economic development in the area in terms of tourism and jobs. Mr. Fuller will work in coordination with the Economic Development Council and the FDOT however he advised against submitting the MBBC Phase 4 project by pointing out that the Authority does not have Eglin concurrence or an Agreement with the Air Force for use of their land. There was general agreement with the recommendation. Mr. Fornell recommended Mr. Neilson reach out to Commissioner Windes for further discussion and guidance.

VII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

None

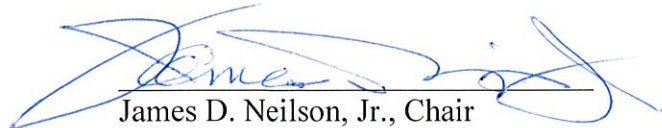
VIII. GENERAL DISCUSSION

The next regular meeting of the Authority will held on Thursday, February 15, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. in the Destin City Hall Board Room, Destin, Florida

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:15 a.m.

Approved this 15th day of February 2018


James D. Neilson, Jr., Chair