

**MINUTES  
MID-BAY BRIDGE AUTHORITY  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2019**

**DESTIN CITY HALL BOARD ROOM  
4200 INDIAN BAYOU TRAIL  
DESTIN, FLORIDA**

**I. OPENING**

Members present:                   Gordon E. Fornell  
  James D. Neilson, Jr.  
  Victoria S. Harker  
  Parker Destin  
  T. Patterson Maney  
  Bryant Paulk                   FDOT Ex officio, non-voting

Also present:                       Van Fuller                   Executive Director  
  Michelle Anchors        Legal Counsel  
  Cathy Demoreski        Administrative Assistant

**II. INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS & PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Fornell welcomed all visitors and members of the press. In attendance were Sherri Cox, Republican Party of Okaloosa County, and Mike Griffith, The Bay Beacon.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. Regular Meeting – September 19, 2019**

**A motion to approve the September 19, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes was made by Mr. Neilson with a second by Mr. Destin and a 5-0 vote was taken for approval.**

**IV. TREASURER’S REPORT**

Ms. Harker presented the Treasurer’s Report for September 2019. Account balances were:

FNBT	\$ 77,339.38
Regions	\$51,703,491.90

**Ms. Harker made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report for September 2019 with a second by Mr. Neilson and a 5-0 vote was taken for approval.**

## V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**A. Operations.** Mr. Fuller reported that data from the Florida Turnpike Enterprise (FTE) for FY2019 traffic and revenue has been steadily arriving. Included in the meeting package today are the FY2019 Unaudited Traffic and Revenue reports through May 2019. Since the reports are cumulative, Mr. Fuller briefed the Authority using the May 2019 report. He explained the October and November 2018 Bridge revenue was down primarily as a result of the toll suspension for Hurricane Michael. The December 2018 revenue increase was likely due to traffic related to the recovery efforts in support of Bay County following the hurricane. In January 2019, the Mid-Bay Bridge was closed for eight days after discovery of 8 degraded tendons within the bridge. This resulted in lost revenue with affects downwardly impacting revenue until final repairs were completed, most likely due to the 2-axle vehicle restriction, loss of commercial 3+ axle traffic, as well as loss of customer confidence in the Bridge availability due to intermittent nighttime closures. The Parkway Toll-By-Plate (TBP) invoices, which were delayed as a result of the FTE Centralized Customer Support System (CCSS) implementation in June 2018, started going out in January 2019 resulting the increase in revenue for February through March 2019. In order not to impact its frequent customers (commuters), the Authority approved reducing the frequent customer transaction threshold from 31 to 22 transactions for the month of January 2019 due to the closure of the Bridge. Mr. Fuller reported that even with these impacts, the financial position of the Authority is still sound and rating agencies and bond holders consider the events as “one-offs” versus recurring.

**B. 2020 The Southern Group Retainer Agreement.** Mr. Fuller presented The Southern Group Annual Retainer Agreement for the firm’s services representing the Authority’s interests at the State capital regarding transportation and recommended approval.

**A motion was made by Mr. Neilson to approve the 2020 The Southern Group Retainer Agreement with a second by Ms. Harker and a 5-0 vote taken for approval.**

**C. Memberships Review/Approval (TEAMFL, EDC, NVCC, DCC, CBA).** Mr. Fuller requested Board approval for the continuation of membership in the Transportation Expressway Authority Membership of Florida (TEAMFL), Okaloosa County Economic Development Council (EDC), Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce (NVCC) and its Military Affairs Committee (MAC), Destin Chamber of Commerce (DCC), and the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance (CBA) all of which are included in the FY2020 Budget. Mr. Fornell asked that the minutes reflect all member’s concurrence with the budgeted community membership renewals and encouraged attendance at their respective meetings.

## VI. LEGAL COUNSEL

- A. Ms. Anchors reported that she has reviewed the existing and current policies and procedures of the Authority. There were no statutory or required changes to the current policies and therefore recommended renewal.

**A motion was made by Mr. Neilson with a second by Mr. Maney to renew the Authority's Capitalization, Code of Ethics, Procurement, Public Participation, Recognition and Hospitality and Revenue Recognitions Policies for FY2020 and a 5-0 vote was taken for approval.**

- B. **Annual Ethics Training.** In support of the annual ethics awareness, board members are requested to complete refresher training. Ms. Anchors will send links to videos, which are available on the Ethics website, to serve this purpose. The primary item recommended for review is on Sunshine Law, which prohibits communication between Board Members outside of a meeting. The two ethics codes that are of importance are Conflict of Interest and Financial Disclosure forms. The Authority will reimburse its members for any fee upon receipt of the paid invoice. In support of oversight by the the Florida Transportation Commission (FTC), a Certification of Completion Form will be circulated for completion by each member and should be returned to the Authority office.

## VII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Maney reported that he has attended orientation and will begin representing the Authority at the Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization (OWTPO) meeting this afternoon. He will keep the Authority updated. Mr. Fornell asked if the Authority had been notified by the County about the waterline installation along North Lakeshore Drive. Mr. Fuller explained that we had been contacted by the County and Eglin AFB regarding the work.

## VIII. GENERAL DISCUSSION

The next regular meeting of the Authority will be held on **Thursday, November 21, 2019** at 9:00 a.m. in the Niceville City Council Chambers, Niceville, Florida.

## IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:18 a.m.

**Approved this 21st day of November 2019**



Gordon E. Fornell, Chair