

**MINUTES  
MID-BAY BRIDGE AUTHORITY  
THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 2021**

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

**I. OPENING**

Members present:                   Gordon E. Fornell  
  James D. Neilson, Jr.  
  Parker Destin  
  Kim Wintner  
  James T. Wood, Jr.

Also present:                       Van Fuller                   Executive Director  
  Michelle Anchors        Legal Counsel  
  Cathy Demoreski        Administrative Assistant  
  Bryant Paulk            FDOT Ex officio, non-voting

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

Mr. Fornell welcomed all visitors and members of the press. In attendance were Thomas Owen, Resident of Niceville; Richard Navarro, No Affiliation; Michael Panarisi, Resident of Niceville; Ralph Yoder, Sonya Morris and Bill Cobb, Florida Transportation Commission; and Mike Griffith, The Bay Beacon.

Mr. Thomas Owen of Niceville addressed the Board by requesting a near term path to State ownership and the elimination of tolls on SR293. He explained it was his understanding that the bonds for the construction of the Mid-Bay Bridge were paid for in the early 2000's. Mr. Owen inquired as to what toll revenues were paying for in the way of maintenance since he has noticed deterioration of Pylon 104 and what is done with excess revenue. He noted that it is very expensive for residents on either side of the Mid-Bay Bridge to go to work, the doctor, visit friends and family in the hospital or go to the hardware store. Mr. Owen further noted that Walton County does not charge a toll on the 331 Bridge, and they have seen a tremendous boom in their economy since navigation systems can be set to avoid toll roads. Traffic flow will improve significantly without tolls the Mid-Bay Bridge and there will be less traffic. Mr. Fornell thanked Mr. Owen for his interest in the Mid-Bay Bridge and for his comments.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. Regular Meeting – May 13, 2021**

**A motion to approve the May 13, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes was made by Mr. Neilson with a second by Mr. Wood and a 5-0 vote was taken for approval.**

#### IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Destin presented the Treasurer's Report for May 2021. Account balances were:

FNBT	\$ 173,407.89
Regions	\$47,618,741.84

**Mr. Destin made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for May 2021 with a second by Mr. Neilson and a 5-0 vote was taken for approval.**

#### V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**A. Operations.** Mr. Fuller reported that traffic last month clearly indicates that the area and our System have recovered from the Pandemic. We are at a great pace for this year, which will be needed it to cover the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) costs associated with the recent Bridge repairs.

Mr. Fuller explained that he is working with Ms. Anchors, the Authority's Legal Counsel, to prepare a Request for Qualification (RFQ) for Traffic and Revenue Consulting Services. The current agreement with Jacobs will expire on July 31, 2021. Mr. Wintner and Mr. Fornell volunteered to evaluate and score the RFQ's received, and based on the scores, Mr. Fuller will make a recommendation for approval of the highest ranked firm to the Board at the regular monthly meeting of the Authority on August 19, 2021.

Representatives of the Florida Transportation Commission (FTC) were present at the meeting today. Mr. Fuller introduced Mr. Ralph Yoder, Ms. Sonya Morris, and Mr. Bill Cobb to the Board and explained that the FTC has statutory oversight through the FDOT for performance measures monitoring of the State's transportation system.

**B. Election of Officers – Resolution 2021-02.** Mr. Wintner nominated a new slate of Officers for the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority effective June 17, 2021, and voting resulted in the election of:

- **James D. Neilson, Jr., Chair**
- **Gordon E. Fornell, Vice-Chair**
- **Dewey Parker Destin, Secretary/Treasurer**

**A motion was made by Mr. Wintner with a second by Mr. Wood and a 5-0 vote taken for approval and adoption of Resolution 2021-02.**

**C. Signature Authorization – Resolution 2021-03.** Mr. Fuller explained that as a result of the new slate of officers adopted today, the Authority is required to provide Signature Authorization for Authority Members and the Executive Director who are authorized to sign for expenses from the checking and savings accounts with FNBT Bank which are administered by the office. All checks require two (2) signatures.

**Mr. Neilson made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-03 FNBT Bank Signature Authorization, with a second by Mr. Destin and a 5-0 vote was taken for adoption.**

**VI. LEGAL COUNSEL**

None

**VII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Paulk reported that all four lanes of the Pensacola Bridge will be opened today with the second span on track for completion in February 2022. Mr. Fornell requested that Mr. Paulk provide a progress schedule and update on the Toms Bayou Bridge project in Valparaiso at the regular meeting of the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority scheduled for July 15, 2021. Mr. Neilson asked Mr. Paulk if the underground utilities had been addressed prior to completion of the Destin portion of the Hwy. 98 improvement project. Mr. Paulk explained that right-of-way underground utility work is generally completed in advance by the Department however if not then the contractor includes that in their bid. In the case of the Hwy. 98 improvement project there will be no additional impacts related to right-of-way underground utilities. Mr. Fuller explained that the Mid-Bay Bridge is on an enhanced inspection scheduled and the pillar mentioned earlier by Mr. Owen had been previously identified. It was not an unknown and is on the FDOT work program for repair in the order of importance. Mr. Neilson thanked Mr. Fornell for service as Chairman the past two years.

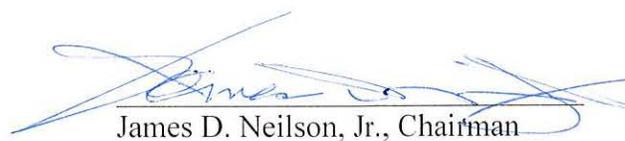
**VIII. GENERAL DISCUSSION**

The next regular meeting of the Authority will be held on **Thursday, July 15, 2021**, at 9:00 a.m. in the Niceville City Hall Council Chambers, Niceville, Florida.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:17 a.m.

**Approved this 15th day of July 2021.**



James D. Neilson, Jr., Chairman