

**MINUTES  
MID-BAY BRIDGE AUTHORITY  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2022**

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

**I. OPENING**

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

Member absent: Gordon E. Fornell (listened in on speaker phone)

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

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

Mr. Neilson welcomed David Vardaman, Bluewater Bay Resident.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. Regular Meeting – August 18, 2022**

**A motion to approve the August 18, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes was made by Mr. Wood with a second by Mr. Destin and a 4-0 vote was taken for approval.**

**IV. TREASURER’S REPORT**

Mr. Destin presented the Treasurer’s Report for August 2022. Account balances were:

FNB Bank	\$ 273,577.48
Regions	\$59,128,886.49

**Mr. Destin made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Reports for August 2022 with a second by Mr. Wood and a 4-0 vote was taken for approval.**

**V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**A. Operations.** Mr. Fuller reported that both traffic and revenue are down as compared to 2021 on both the Bridge and the Parkway. There is no real explanation for the significant revenue decrease in July on the Parkway other than 2021 was a banner year and the delay in Toll-By-Plate (TBP) collections. Mr. Wood requested clarification regarding the no toll holiday being implemented by the Governor’s office. Mr. Fuller explained that the Governor’s SunPass rebate program is a temporary SunPass frequent use rebate program that went into effect on September 1, 2022, on all Florida’s Turnpike

Enterprise (FTE) toll roads and will continue for six months. Although the Governor's new/temporary SunPass frequent use rebate program is like the Authority's, which was implemented in 2016, the State program does not provide as deep a discount and is per transponder versus the Authority's program which is per SunPass account. Mr. Fuller noted that all motorists in Florida will however enjoy a no gas tax holiday during the month of October 2022. Mr. Fuller further explained that Governor DeSantis announced a 2023 Legislative Proposal for toll relief at all Florida toll facilities which will require Legislative action. We'll learn more when the program specifics are shared.

## **VI. LEGAL COUNSEL**

None

## **VII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Neilson invited Mr. Vardaman to address the Board. Mr. Vardaman provided visual aids of possible solutions to distracted driving in the form of 36" attenuators at a cost of approximately \$45.00-\$50.00 each or 6" ceramic raised pavement markers at an approximate cost of \$6.00 each and the epoxy pads required for installation at a cost of approximately \$1.00 each. He reported that these products have been installed at various locations in Bluewater Bay and on Eglin AFB affectively reducing distracted driving related accidents.

Discussion included complaints from motorist leaving Destin Middle School and Kelly Plantation being unable to see due to the overgrowth on the median on Danny Wuerffel Way. Mr. Fuller reported that the area has recently been cleaned-up and that according to County Public Works, a contract has been let through the Okaloosa County Tourist Development Department effective October 1, 2022, for continued maintenance.

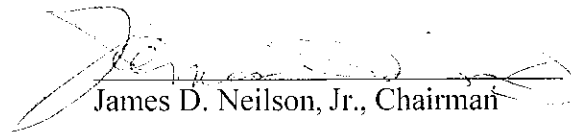
## **VIII. GENERAL DISCUSSION**

The next regular meeting of the Authority will be held on **Thursday, October 20, 2022,** at 9:00 a.m. in the Destin City Hall Board Room, Destin, Florida.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:26 a.m.

**Approved this 20th day of October 2022.**



James D. Neilson, Jr., Chairman