Mr. Gnodtke called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

Approval of Agenda
A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Mr. Musser with support from Mr. McLogan. All voted in favor of the motion.

Public Comment on Action Items
None.

Approval of Meeting Minutes
Mr. Gnodtke called for any additions or corrections to the minutes of the Toll Software Committee Meeting of January 24, 2018, the Finance Committee Meeting of February 15, 2018, and the Official
Meeting of February 16, 2018. A motion to approve the three meeting minutes as presented was made by Mr. McLogan with support from Mrs. Arens. All voted in favor of the motion.

Traffic Report
Mr. Steiner reported that January 1, 2018 through May 31, 2018 traffic was up 0.5% and revenue was up 0.7% from the previous year. June 1, 2018 through June 21, 2018 traffic was up 1.4% compared to the first twenty-one days in June of 2017.

Michigan State Policy Activity
Motor Carrier Lt. Darrell Archambault reported that the 8th District spent 667 patrol hours on the Mackinac Bridge between July 1, 2017 and June 18, 2018. The 7th District spent 118.5 hours on the Mackinac Bridge from June 1, 2017 through June 1, 2018. A total of 394 vehicles were inspected, 142 were weighed and 71 weight violations were cited.

Annual Bridge Walk
Mr. Rintamaki presented the Annual Bridge Walk video that explains the changes to the route, the elimination of busing and the bridge being closed to public traffic during the event.
Mr. Lake highlighted the public information communication plan that includes past and future statewide news releases, the bridge walk options video, the Mackinac County 911 text messages, media interviews, website notifications, social media and the updated flyer. A poster is being developed to advertise the bridge walk and to notify the public of the closure to traffic during the event and the elimination of busing. The Michigan State Police, Department of Natural Resources, Secretary of State and Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) are assisting in spreading annual bridge walk information online and in offices, welcome centers, rest areas, field offices and in state parks statewide. Messages will be posted on MDOT’s statewide dynamic message signs as the event nears.

Toll Bridge Software Status Update
Mr. Litzner reported that the digital video auditing system is not fully functional, reporting remains cumbersome and accounting is not accurate. PCI requirements have not been met, the maintenance program has not been approved and lane hardware is mostly functional other than the upper prox readers not always working and operational issues in the reverse lanes. The Department of Technology, Management and Budget will be extending the contract for three years with an expiration date of September 29, 2022.
The Mackinac Bridge Authority has hired Fagan Consulting to assist staff in acquiring a new toll software system. Mr. Redding provided a review of the previous status from the February 2018 meeting, and discussed that the RFP was completed and released on May 28, 2018, a mandatory pre-bid meeting and site visit took place on June 13-14, 2018 with fifteen firms in attendance. Four or five firms have expressed interest in submitting proposals. Mr. Redding also discussed the new toll software system benefits for the Mackinac Bridge Authority and customers and highlighted the tasks moving forward. Mr. Gnodtke thanked Mr. Redding for the great working relationship with Fagan Consulting and Mr. Redding reciprocated the sentiments pertaining to the Mackinac Bridge staff.

U.S. Flag on Tower
Mr. McLennan reported that the flag was raised on the south tower on Memorial Day and Flag Day thus far in 2018. Mr. McLennan discussed the motorized flag deploying device that is being designed and fabricated in house to assist in maintaining respect for the flag and increasing employee safety. The deploying device in 95% complete and the housing unit will be constructed next. Mr. McLennan reported that they are expecting to install the device in the spring of 2019.
Contractual Projects

North Tower Painting Project
Ms. Nowack reported that the two-year north tower painting project that was awarded to Seaway Painting is 80% complete and ahead of schedule. The contractor removed the strut platform on June 27, 2018 and will erect the leg platform in mid-July.

South Tower Painting Project
The south tower painting project will be advertised for bids in the fall of 2018.

North Side Span Lawsuit
Ms. Nowack discussed that the appeal was heard on June 9, 2017 in the case against Abhe & Svoboda. Abhe & Svoboda filed with the Michigan Supreme Court and in March 2018 the Michigan Supreme Court denied hearing the case.

60th Annual Inspection
Ms. Nowack reported that the annual inspection was a partnership between Modjeski and Masters and COWI. The format is similar to previous inspections and Ms. Nowack highlighted some useful items from the inspection report. There were no high priority items. The next inspection will be performed by Parsons who are scheduled to start the week of July 9, 2018.

Maintenance Projects
Mrs. Neph highlighted the 2018 maintenance projects including beam repairs and twelve sections of grating replacement. One more section of grating will be replaced after the Independence Day holiday. Once more grating is purchased, grating replacement will continue after Labor Day. The paint crews have been working on painting the curb rail and hand rope.

Straits of Mackinac Enhancement Corporation
Mr. Sweeney discussed the letter received from the Mackinaw Planning Commission asking for participation in the creation of The Straits of Mackinac Enhancement Corporation. The goal of the commission is to improve health, recreation, transportation, education, economic development and environmental management for the citizens of the Straits of Mackinac. Twelve entities have been invited to participate in the group including the Mackinac Bridge Authority. Mr. Musser made a motion to appoint Mr. Sweeney to the Enhancement Corporation as a representative for the Mackinac Bridge Authority with support from Mr. Gleason. All voted in favor of the motion.

Committee Reports
Mr. Musser reported that the Finance Committee had met the previous day with five action items. The Finance Committee approved that staff and members may renegotiate the Charter Communications fiber lease contract with the understanding that Charter will not be allowed to sublease fiber without prior consent of the Mackinac Bridge Authority, the repayment of advances in the amount of $1,000,000, budget amendments not exceeding $900,000 for fiscal year 2018, the strategic plan as presented and the fiscal year 2019 budget. Mr. Musser recommended that the board accept the Finance Committee report with support from Mr. Gleason. All voted in favor of the motion.

Fall 2018 Meeting Schedule
Mr. Musser made a motion to allow Mr. Sweeney to schedule a special meeting in September 2018 to approve the Toll Software Committee’s recommendation of a new toll software vendor with support from Mr. McLogan. All voted in favor of the motion. Mr. McLogan made a motion to schedule the fall meeting for November 7-8, 2018 in St. Ignace, Michigan with support from Ms. Brown. All voted in favor of the motion.
Other
Mr. LaPalme presented his request to include the Mackinac Bridge in the Purple Heart Trail. The request includes the installation of a sign at each end of the bridge stating, “Welcome to the Mackinac Bridge, A Purple Heart Bridge”. The costs associated with the installation of the signs would be covered by The Military Order of the Purple Heart. A resolution would need to be drafted proclaiming the Mackinac Bridge a Purple Heart Bridge. Mr. Gnodtke discussed his concern with putting additional signage on the bridge that may be a distraction to motorists. Mr. Gnodtke suggested Mr. LaPalme work with Mackinaw City and St. Ignace to ask that they be recognized as a Purple Heart City. Ms. Brown supported Mr. Gnodtke’s position and added that even though the underlying causes are things that individual members may support, once one request is approved many more requests are made and it leads the board down an uncomfortable path to decide which requests to approve or disapprove. Mr. Gleason also suggested Mr. LaPalme work with Mackinaw City and St. Ignace to seek their approval. Ms. Brown made a motion to reject the request to install signs on the Mackinac Bridge designating it a Purple Heart bridge with support from Mr. Musser. All voted in favor of the motion to reject the request.

Public Comment
Mr. Allen discussed the DALMAC event and his support for the Annual Bridge Walk event. Mr. Allen hopes the Annual Bridge Walk succeeds and makes money with the hopes that the DALMAC event will be allowed to cross the Mackinac Bridge again in the future. Mr. Gnodtke noted that the recommendation to close the bridge to traffic during the Annual Bridge Walk was made by the Department of Homeland Security, and while he likes the concept of the event the escalating costs are what impacts his decision. He added that a misconception is that the busing is most of the cost and that in fact, labor and other aspects are the majority. Mr. Gnodtke stated that he supports the DALMAC event taking place across the bridge if it can be done without going against the recommendations of Homeland Security. He thanked Mr. Allen for his comments.

Mr. Steudle made a motion to formally recognize Chairman Bill Gnodtke for his twenty-one years of dedication to the Mackinac Bridge. Ms. Brown supported the motion. Ms. Brown, Mr. Musser, Mr. Gleason, Mr. Steudle, Mrs. Arens and Mr. McLogan all voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Gnodtke abstained. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert J. Sweeney, P.E.
Executive Secretary