Mackinac Bridge Authority
Official Meeting
Microsoft Teams Meeting broadcast live on Livestream and YouTube
July 10, 2020

Minutes

(Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, notification of this meeting was posted on the entrance to the Mackinac Bridge Authority Administration Building, St. Ignace, Michigan, the Michigan Department of Transportation Van Wagoner Building, Lansing, Michigan, on the Mackinac Bridge Authority website, shared on the Mackinac Bridge Authority Twitter page, and a press release was sent statewide more than eighteen hours prior to the meeting.)

Members present: Mr. Patrick F. Gleason, Chair
Ms. Amy L. Trahey, Vice Chair
Mr. Kirk T. Steudle
Ms. Tricia Kinley
Mr. William G. Milliken, Jr.
Ms. Caroline Cheeseman
Mr. Paul C. Ajegba, Director – Michigan Department of Transportation
Ms. Rachael Eubanks, State Treasurer – Mackinac Bridge Authority

Also present: Ms. Kim Nowack, Executive Secretary – Mackinac Bridge Authority
Ms. Kathleen Gleeson, Attorney General in Charge – MDOT
Mrs. Camille Hansen, Chief Financial Officer – Mackinac Bridge
Mrs. Julie Neph, Chief Engineer – Mackinac Bridge
Mr. Cole Cavalieri, Assistant Engineer – Mackinac Bridge
Mr. Kipp Vaughn, Office Manager – Mackinac Bridge
Mrs. Melissa DeKeyser, Secretary – Mackinac Bridge
Sgt. Ryan Werner – Michigan State Police St. Ignace Post
Mr. James Lake, Communications Representative – MDOT
Ms. Monica Monsma, Public Involvement Specialist – MDOT

Mr. Gleason called the meeting to order at 10:36 a.m. and welcomed new members Mrs. Caroline Cheeseman and Mr. William G. Milliken, Jr. to the Mackinac Bridge Authority.

Approval of Agenda
A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Mr. Steudle with support from Mr. Ajegba. Ms. Nowack called the roll and Chairman Gleason, Director Ajegba, Member Steudle, Member Kinley, Member Trahey, Member Milliken and Member Cheeseman all voted in favor of the motion.

There was no public comment on agenda items, however, public comment was accepted during the Livestream and YouTube broadcast, and by special email address prior to the meeting.

Approval of Meeting Minutes
Mr. Gleason called for any additions or corrections to the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting of March 4, 2020, the Official Meeting of March 5, 2020, and the Special Meeting of May 13, 2020. A motion to approve the three meeting minutes as presented was made by Mr. Steudle with support from Ms. Kinley. Ms. Nowack called the roll and Chairman Gleason, Director Ajegba, Member Steudle,
Member Kinley, Member Trahey, Member Milliken and Member Cheeseman all voted in favor of the motion.

Election of Officers
Mr. Gleason turned the meeting over to Ms. Nowack who called for a nomination for Chairman of the board. Mr. Steudle made a motion to nominate Mr. Gleason for Chairman with support from Ms. Kinley. Hearing no other nominations, Ms. Nowack called the roll and Chairman Gleason, Director Ajegba, Member Steudle, Member Kinley, Member Trahey, Member Milliken and Member Cheeseman all voted in favor of the motion. Ms. Nowack turned the meeting back over to Chairman Gleason who called for a nomination for Vice Chair. Mr. Steudle made a motion to nominate Mrs. Trahey for Vice Chair with support from Ms. Kinley. Hearing no other nominations, Ms. Nowack called the roll and Chairman Gleason, Director Ajegba, Member Steudle, Member Kinley, Member Trahey, Member Milliken and Member Cheeseman all voted in favor of the motion.

Committee Assignments
Chairman Gleason announced the following committee appointments:

Finance Committee
Amy Trahey – Chair
Kirk Steudle
William Milliken, Jr.

Insurance Committee
Tricia Kinley
Paul Ajegba

Fares, Fees and Classifications Committee
Tricia Kinley – Chair
Patrick Gleason
Caroline Cheeseman

By-Laws Committee
Caroline Cheeseman – Chair
Patrick Gleason

Infrastructure and Deck Replacement Committee
Kirk Steudle – Chair
Amy Trahey
William Milliken, Jr.

Toll Software Committee
Patrick Gleason – Chair
Paul Ajegba

Social Media Committee
Tricia Kinley – Chair
Caroline Cheeseman
Mr. Steudle made a motion to approve the committee assignments with support from Ms. Kinley. Ms. Nowack called the roll and Chairman Gleason, Vice Chair Trahey, Director Ajegba, Member Steudle, Member Kinley, Member Milliken and Member Cheeseman all voted in favor of the motion.

Traffic Report
Ms. Nowack reported that through the end of June, revenue is down 11% and traffic is down 14% and that staff will fine-tune revenue projections and provide that update at the fall meeting.

Michigan State Police Commercial Enforcement Division Activity
Sgt. Ryan Werner reported that 542.5 hours plus 52 overtime hours were spent patrolling the bridge in the past year. The Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division screened 1,101 vehicles and made 345 stops resulting in 80 weight citations totaling $38,727 in fines.

Annual Bridge Walk
A special meeting was called to discuss the 2020 Annual Bridge Walk event and took place on May 13, 2020. Mr. Lake discussed the need to meet virtually, the Governor’s Executive Order which made that possible, and the requirements to do so. The Mackinac Bridge Authority met via Microsoft Teams and the meeting was broadcast on YouTube and Livestream with closed captioning. Comments were accepted on the chat/comment feature via the YouTube and Livestream broadcast and via the temporary email address provided to collect comments prior to and during the meeting. Mr. Lake discussed the ways in which the public was notified of the meeting and some of the comments that were posted prior to and after the decision was made to cancel the 2020 Annual Bridge Walk event.

Toll Bridge Software Status Update
Mrs. Hansen reported that Mackinac Bridge staff, IBI Group and Fagan Consulting are still having routine conference calls to finalize the System Acceptance Testing and that staff are currently working on extending the Fagan Consulting contract into Phase 3. Ms. Hansen discussed MacPass tags distributed and MacPass usage by type from September 2019 through June 2020.

South Tower Painting Project
Ms. Nowack reported that Seaway Painting has finished the sections above the roadway and will work on the lower parts yet this summer both inside and out. The project is approximately 60% complete with a completion date of December 31, 2020.

Maintenance Projects
Mrs. Neph reported that maintenance staff had a late start to the season with full crews not returning until June 1st. They are currently working on washing the bridge and developing a new method to wash the points. Other projects include repairing multiple relief joints on the approach spans and sealing the concrete relief joints in the plaza. Staff is working on a more complicated cross beam repair project as well.

Changeable Decorative Lighting
Mr. Cavalieri showed examples of other bridges that have programmable color changing lights and an overview of those projects. He also discussed some considerations, including, the safety of the traveling public, that the Mackinac Bridge is a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark, the amount of light pollution that would occur, the need to develop a lighting request program and other initial and yearly costs. Mr. Cavalieri discussed the existing system, the current special lighting request policy, and the benefits to only upgrading the current system. Mr. Ajegba made a motion that staff continue to the next step and present cost options for a basic system upgrade and the next step beyond the basic cost option at the fall meeting for the board to consider with support from Mr.
Milliken. Mr. Steudle would like to exclude options that would be offensive to the surrounding communities and be mindful of the light pollution. Mrs. Cheeseman supported Mr. Steudle’s comments. Mr. Milliken added his support for the dark sky philosophy and echoed the concerns about the light pollution. Ms. Nowack called the roll and Chairman Gleason, Vice Chair Trahey, Director Ajegba, Member Steudle, Member Kinley, Member Milliken and Member Cheeseman all voted in favor of the motion.

Social Media Report
Ms. Kinley reported that Mr. Vaughn would be providing an update on the Mackinac Bridge Twitter page that was started in March 2019. Mr. Vaughn discussed page visits, number of tweets, the impression and engagement rate for January 1, 2020 through March 31, 2020. The Mackinac Bridge Twitter page tops all the other twelve (12) MDOT Twitter profiles and has over 5,000 followers. He noted popular organization and news station followers, examples of weather and traffic related tweets and a few of the more popular tweets.

Pandemic – New Normal at the MBA
Mr. Vaughn discussed how the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the daily activities at the Mackinac Bridge. The administration staff is working from home when possible, extra cleaning is being performed, hand sanitizer pumps were installed, toll staff are wearing masks and cash collection was suspended during the months of March, April, and May. Maintenance staff are working a unique schedule of 12, 10 and 6 hour days to accommodate social distancing and furlough days, the drivers assistance and passenger transport programs were eliminated until further notice and a one truck per person policy was implemented for maintenance staff as well.

Committee Reports
Ms. Trahey reported that the Finance Committee had met earlier and asked for full board approval on the following action items; the repayment of advances in the amount of $250,000, budget amendments resulting in a net reduction in the amount of $3,344,000 for fiscal year 2020, and the fiscal year 2021 budget. Ms. Trahey reported that the Finance Committee requested that Ms. Hansen evaluate less optimistic budget revenues, show a prioritization of quarterly capital outlay expenditures, and provide a report on these items at the fall meeting. Mr. Steudle supported the motion to accept the Finance Committee report. Ms. Nowack called the roll and Chairman Gleason, Vice Chair Trahey, Director Ajegba, Member Steudle, Member Kinley, Member Milliken and Member Cheeseman all voted in favor of the motion.

Fall 2020 and 2021 Meeting Schedules
The fall meeting is scheduled for October 1-2, 2020 in Houghton, Michigan. The 2021 meetings will be scheduled at the fall meeting.

There were no public comments. Public comment was accepted during the Livestream and YouTube broadcast, and by special email address prior to and during the meeting. Mr. Ajegba made a motion to adjourn at 12:16 p.m. with support from Ms. Kinley. All voted in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Nowack,
P.E.
Executive Secretary