



SAULT STE. MARIE BRIDGE AUTHORITY

SAULT STE. MARIE, ONTARIO

NATALIE KINLOCH, CHAIR
THYE LEE, MEMBER
RÉMI PAQUETTE, MEMBER
KAREN RICHARDS, MEMBER

SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN

LINDA HOATH, VICE CHAIR
THOMAS BUCKINGHAM SR., MEMBER
SCOTT SHACKLETON, MEMBER
NICHOLAS WHITE, MEMBER

**Sault Ste. Marie Bridge Authority
Minutes
May 22, 2025
James McIntyre Board Room
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan**

Present:

Natalie Kinloch, Chair
Rémi Paquette, Member (via MS Teams)
Karen Richards, Member
Linda Hoath, Vice Chair
Thomas Buckingham, Sr., Member
Scott Shackleton, Member

Absent:

Thye Lee, Member
Nicholas White, Member

Also Present:

Peter Petäinen, Bridge Director, IBA
Laura Mester, Chief Administrative Officer, MDOT (via MS Teams)
Michael Dittenber, Attorney General's Office, MDOT
Karl Hansen, IBA Bridge Engineer
Emily Jacques, Chief Financial Officer, IBA
Fiore Cappelli, Operations Manager
Cheryn Sanford, Departmental Analyst, IBA
Marcus Eidenier, Bridge Facilities and Asset Manager, IBA
Dan Weingarten, MDOT Communications Representative
Ken Talsma, Principal, Anderson Tackman & Company
Mike Grentz, Partner, Anderson Tackman & Company

Chair Kinloch called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

I. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Vice Chair Hoath to approve the February 20, 2025, Sault Ste. Marie Bridge Authority regular meeting minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Member Richards. Motion carried unanimously.

REPLY TO: PETER M. PETAINEN, BRIDGE DIRECTOR

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II. **Bridge Director's Comments**

- Peter stated the maintenance crew has gotten the bulk of the winter sand cleared from the bridge and that they will move on to the paint project next week.
- Peter stated he attended the Eastern Border Transportation Coalition conference in Quebec City on May 6-7, 2025; all presentations showed consistent and dramatic traffic declines across the entire Canada-U.S. border for all modes of travel.
- Preparations for the annual bridge walk are underway; it is anticipated participation will be down this year. Positive support has been received by all law enforcement agencies involved.
- Peter expressed appreciation to MDOT for technical training funds which have allowed our maintenance staff to attend several recent training sessions including Reachall training, attendance at the MDOT Highway Maintenance Conference in Mt. Pleasant, GPI Coatings for Steel Structures, and annual at heights training.
- The underwater inspection for the remaining Canadian piers is currently scheduled for May 28th or 29th; however, Evolgen has not received final approval to shut down for the time period needed and is looking at possibly rescheduling for June 9th. The IBA will allow the date to be moved to early June; however, will inform Evolgen that it cannot be delayed any further.
- After the meeting is adjourned, Peter invited the board members out to the main parking lot to see the new IBA vehicle and equipment acquisitions. The IBA is very appreciative of MDOT and FBCL for providing the finances necessary to make these much needed acquisitions.
- The peregrine falcons have returned and currently have three hatchlings in their nest.

III. **Finance and Operations**

A. December 31, 2024 Audit Report

CFO Emily Jacques introduced Ken Talsma and Mike Grentz of Anderson, Tackman & Company and expressed her appreciation for another smooth audit process. Mr. Grentz stated the IBA received the best possible independent audit result, an "Unmodified Opinion" which means everything was within all generally accepted auditing principles.

A motion was made by Member Buckingham to approve the December 31, 2024 Sault Ste. Marie Bridge Authority Basic Financial Statements and Independent Audit Report. The motion was seconded by Member Paquette. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Traffic and Revenue

CFO Emily Jacques reported first quarter traffic ended down 13.8% with declines continuing in April (35.9% decline) and May traffic is currently showing a 30% decline. Commercial traffic is staying consistent with the biggest decline being in full-fare passenger traffic.

C. First Quarter Financial Report

Emily reported total balance sheet assets were at \$9.9M as of March 31, 2025, and total liabilities were at \$1.3M. Total fund balances were \$6.1M, total revenue was \$1.8M, and total expenditures was \$1.9M.

D. Independent Auditor RFP and Renewal

Emily reported we are at the end of our contract with Anderson, Tackman, and Company. The IBA is currently working with the Auditor General's office and will be issuing a request for proposal in the near future for auditor services. The goal to bring a recommendation for the 2025 Auditor to the board at the August meeting.

IV. **Bridge Engineering and Maintenance**

A. Coordinated Inspection Contract

Four consultants submitted proposals for our 4-year Coordinated Inspection services contract. All proposals underwent an intensive review and the IBA is currently in price negotiations with the top scoring consultant. Karl will provide an update at the August meeting at which time we hope to have a contract in place and be underway with our 2025 routine detailed inspection.

A motion was made by Member Buckingham to approve the IBA to enter into a four-year Indefinite Delivery of Services (IDS) contract for shared engineering services subject to final successful price negotiations, with the final best-qualified engineering consultant as selected and recommended by the IBA, FBCL, and MDOT joint review panel, upon the recommendation of the SSMBA audit committee. The motion was seconded by Member Richards. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Maintenance and Activity and Project Tracking

Karl Hansen reported winter plowing activities was up 130% as of March 31, 2025; this is due to the harsh winter and the fact that we had one additional fulltime maintenance employee on staff.

Karl stated emergency response expenses saw a decrease of 44% which can be attributed to less transport trucks getting stuck out on the bridge due to the friction surface coating that the MDOT Bridge Field Services assisted the IBA with last year. More of the friction coating is scheduled to be applied in late July. The IBA has been able to push back the planned deck resurfacing by 10 years in the capital plan due to the excellent performance this friction coating.

C. Maintenance Projects

The IBA maintenance crew will primarily be focusing on paint projects on the U.S. Arch and green pedestrian rail in 2025. In addition to these paint projects, the crew will be performing gusset plate repairs on pier 50 and will continue to work on completing routine maintenance items generated from the 2023 routine detailed inspection report.

D. Equipment Update

A motion was made by Member Hoath to approval disposal of the 2009 GMC Savana Van, VIN 1GTJGG25K691183162 and the 2011 Chevy Silverado Pickup truck with plow, VIN 1GC1KVCG0BF187387. The motion was seconded by member Paquette. Motion carried unanimously.

V. **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

VI. **Adjournment**

Member Shackleton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 a.m. The motion was seconded by Member Richards. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
International Bridge Administration



Peter M. Petäinen
Bridge Director

PP:cs