

BURLINGTON COUNTY BRIDGE COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

August 12, 2015

Chairman Comegno called the meeting to order. The Compliance Statement was read by the Secretary:

“This meeting is to be conducted in accordance with notice requirements of P.L. 1975, CH. 231. A ‘Notice of Meeting’ was posted in a public place on August 6, 2015 at the entrance to the Administration Building, Headquarters of this Commission, with copies of such notice being delivered to the Camden Courier Post and Burlington County Times for publication and posted on the Burlington County Bridge Commission Website.”

Commissioners Present: Chairman John B. Comegno II
Vice-Chairman James D. Fattorini
Commissioner Troy E. Singleton

Others Present: John D. Jeffers, Executive Director
Christine J. Nociti, Chief Financial Officer
Kathleen M. Wiseman, Secretary
Anthony T. Drollas Jr., Solicitor
Elizabeth Verna, Director of Communications
Constance Borman, Human Resource Director
Patrick Reilly, Director of Public Safety and Security
James Fletcher, Manager, Tacony-Palmyra Bridge
Phillip Adams, Manager, Burlington-Bristol Bridge
Michael McCarron, Asst. to Dir. of Tolls & Tower Operations
Michelle Chiemiego, Procurement Officer
Dave Leh, Accountant
Al Ziegler, Maintenance Supervisor
Thomas J. Hastie, Capehart Scatchard
Frank Harris, Pennoni Engineering
Sascha Harding, Pennoni Engineering
John Zarsky, Pennoni Engineering
Peter D. Nissen, Acacia Financial
Siamac Y. Afshar, Acacia Financial
Edward Colimore, *Philadelphia Inquirer*
David Levinsky, *Burlington County Times*
Tracie Van Auken, *Burlington County Times*

Tom Nestopoulos, IUPAT
Scott Jacobson, CBS3
David Spunt, CBS3
Mike Niklanski, 6ABC
Brad Sattin, Fox29
John Gural
Don Lovelace
Rick Yates
Dorian Noel

Chairman Comegno led the flag salute followed by a moment of silence.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Singleton moved to adopt the minutes of July 24, 2015. Vice-Chairman Fattorini seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

DISBURSEMENTS LIST

Vice-Chairman Fattorini moved to approve disbursements made from July 25, 2015 through August 12, 2015 as included in the list as presented. Commissioner Singleton seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following abstentions:

Chairman Comegno abstained from Voucher Number 15-00125; Vice-Chairman Fattorini abstained from Voucher Numbers 15-00117 and 15-01935; and Commissioner Singleton abstained from Voucher Numbers 15-01035, 15-00121, 15-01485, 15-01486, 15-01949, 15-01942 and 15-01947.

ENGINEERS' PRESENTATION

Frank Harris and John Zarsky of Pennoni Associates Inc. presented the six capital projects required to ensure the continued safety and maintenance of both the Tacony-Palmyra Bridge and the Burlington-Bristol Bridge. The capital projects and their costs are: 1) repainting of both toll bridges with a cost of \$45,300,000.00; 2) deck replacement at the Burlington-Bristol Bridge with a cost of \$45,000,000.00; 3) mechanical upgrades to the Tacony-Palmyra Bridge, Burlington-Bristol Bridge and the Riverside-Delanco Bridge with a cost of \$9,250,000.00; 4) installation of warning gates at the Tacony-Palmyra Bridge and Burlington-Bristol Bridge with a cost of \$1,200,000.00; 5) electrical infrastructure upgrades to the Tacony-Palmyra Bridge with a cost of \$7,100,000.00; and 6) installation of a traveler system for bridge inspections with a cost of \$2,500,000.00. Mr. Harris noted that all six capital projects total approximately \$110,000,000.00. Mr. Harris also that noted that said projects would provide approximately 100 new jobs.

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER'S PRESENTATION

Christine J. Nociti, Chief Financial Officer, reiterated that the Commission is faced with large and expensive capital projects that if not addressed at this point would ultimately cost more. Ms. Nociti indicated that if approved, this increase would only be the second increase in 25 years; noting that this was possible because of the strict financial oversight, budget-saving initiatives and controlled spending. Ms. Nociti also pointed out that all three Commissioners voluntarily gave up their salaries and benefits since 2010. Additionally, Ms. Nociti indicated that the Commission's historically significant bridges have been meticulously maintained and continue to work effectively but that there is \$110,000,000.00 in critical capital projects that can no longer be postponed. Even with the toll increase, the Commission's bridges would still remain the best bargain around.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Comegno called for public comment relating to the proposed toll increase to come before the Commission.

Three people spoke: John Gural, Administrator of Palmyra Borough, commented that the Commission's primary assets are approaching 90 years old and require short and long term improvements. He added that the commuting public needs these critical improvements, which will make these structures inherently safer, so he supports the proposed toll increase.

Rick Yates of Cinnaminson voiced concern about the effect of trucks on the bridges and asked the Commission to consider the effect this increase would have on working people. He did not support the proposed toll increase.

Don Lovelace of Edgewater Park said he knows that the bridges need work and that it takes money to do that work. He suggested that tolls increase gradually over time. He did not support the proposed toll increase.

Chairman Comegno indicated he is extremely proud of the record of the Bridge Commission in not having raised tolls in fifteen years. He commented that during the recession, the Commission kept flat budgets but kept motorists safe. Chairman Comegno noted that during public hearings the word he heard most often from the public was "safety." He said he sees bridge safety as the Bridge Commission's first responsibility and that safety cannot be assured without the completion of the critical capital projects that were presented before the Commission. Chairman Comegno noted it would be irresponsible of the Commission to forego any of those projects which are critical to maintaining the safety of the bridges. For those reasons Chairman Comegno said he supports the toll increase.

Vice-Chairman Fattorini echoed the comments of Chief Financial Officer Christine Nociti and said he was proud to serve with the Burlington County Bridge Commission. He noted that the buzzword in this room is “austerity” and the buzzword outside this building is “safety.” Vice-Chairman Fattorini clarified that the increase is a one dollar increase if paid by E-ZPass, and he cited positive reasons for using E-ZPass. He added that the proposed projects are critical projects that will insure the safety of the motoring public and community. Vice-Chairman Fattorini said he supports the toll increase.

Commissioner Singleton noted that the Commission does not take the proposed toll increase lightly. He spoke about the transparency of the Bridge Commission and that finances go toward bridge maintenance, adding that safety and security is where the buck stops. Commissioner Singleton said that the projects enumerated this evening are priorities and they are in addition to countless other initiatives our engineers are working on. Commissioner Singleton stated that safety is and always will be the Commission’s first priority. He is proud that the Commission is standing together to insure the safety of the motoring public.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Executive Director Jeffers asked the Commission to consider the following resolutions:

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-54

RESOLUTION CONCERNING A TOLL RATE INCREASE FOR THE TACONY-PALMYRA AND BURLINGTON-BRISTOL BRIDGES EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 15, 2015.

WHEREAS, the Burlington County Bridge Commission (“Commission”) is the owner of the Tacony-Palmyra and Burlington-Bristol Bridges spanning the Delaware River; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 27:19-26 the Commission has been provided with the authority to make necessary estimates of probable costs for capital maintenance and improvement projects for its property, and to authorize such capital maintenance and improvement projects for the Tacony-Palmyra and Burlington-Bristol Bridges, as well as the minor bridges and their approaches in its jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 27:19-29 the Commission has been authorized to collect a toll from persons using the Tacony-Palmyra and Burlington-Bristol Bridges, at a rate of toll as may be fixed by the Commission from time to time; and

WHEREAS, Pennoni Associates, Inc. ("Pennoni"), the resident engineer for the Commission, is thoroughly familiar with the history of the Tacony-Palmyra and Burlington-Bristol Bridges, the minor bridges and approaches and the need for ongoing capital improvement and maintenance of said bridges and approaches; and

WHEREAS, Pennoni has advised the Commission that certain major capital maintenance and improvement projects are now required as a priority to reasonably and properly maintain the bridges and bridge property; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has reviewed those capital maintenance and improvement projects, and has reviewed the estimated cost for those major capital projects in the amount of approximately One Hundred Ten Million Dollars (\$110,000,000.00), which costs are in addition to smaller capital maintenance projects that annually cost the Commission between \$10 million and \$15 million dollars; and

WHEREAS, the Commission, upon consultation with its financial advisors Acacia Financial Group ("Acacia"), has further determined that it is necessary to maintain a reasonable sum of money in reserve for emergencies and unexpected projects, and that neither the existing toll structure nor Commission reserves are sufficient to pay for the capital maintenance and improvement projects recommended by Pennoni; and

WHEREAS, the administrative staff of the Commission, upon review of the proposed and necessary capital maintenance and improvement projects and the cost associated with the same, has recommended to the Commission that there be an increase in the tolls of the Tacony-Palmyra and Burlington-Bristol Bridges in order to pay for the capital maintenance and improvement projects planned by Pennoni; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has requested public comment in regard to a proposed toll increase on the Tacony-Palmyra and Burlington-Bristol Bridges at public hearings held on Monday, August 10, 2015 and Tuesday, August 11, 2015, and the Commission has considered the comments of the public at said public hearings; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has, upon consideration of the above, concluded that it is necessary for public safety and welfare, and the protection of the Commission assets, that the capital maintenance and improvement projects recommended by Pennoni be implemented within the time frame suggested, and that the most reasonable and prudent means of funding the required capital maintenance and improvement projects is a toll increase for the users of the Tacony-Palmyra and Burlington-Bristol Bridges.


WHEREAS, the additional revenues projected to be raised under the new toll structure will permit the Commission to access the capital markets to fund a portion of

the costs of capital projects identified by the Commission's engineers as necessary and proper.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Burlington County Bridge Commission that based upon the above considerations, and the recommendations of Pennoni, Acacia, Commission administrative staff and the comments of the public at the public hearings held in this matter, the Commission hereby directs that the capital maintenance and improvement projects proceed in a timely fashion, and that the projects shall be funded by a toll rate increase for use of the Tacony-Palmyra and Burlington-Bristol Bridges as set forth below:

Fare Schedule by Class	PROPOSED		
	Class	Cash	E-Z Pass
Passenger Car, Van, Motorcycle, Light Truck	Class 1	\$4.00	\$3.00
Two Axle Bus/RV/Dual-Wheel Pickup	Class 2	\$6.00	\$5.00
Three Axle Bus/RV	Class 3	\$9.00	\$8.00
Additional Axles being pulled by Class 1,2,3	Class 4	\$3.00	\$2.00
Two Axle Truck	Class 5	\$12.00	\$12.00
Three Axle Truck	Class 6	\$18.00	\$18.00
Four Axle Truck	Class 7	\$24.00	\$24.00
Five Axle Truck	Class 8	\$30.00	\$30.00
Six Axle Truck		\$36.00	\$36.00
Additional Axles being pulled by Class 5,6,7,8	Class 9	\$6.00	\$6.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Burlington County Bridge Commission that the toll rate increase shall be effective on Tuesday, September 15, 2015.


 Kathleen M. Wiseman, Secretary
 8/12/15
 (date)

Recorded Vote

Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
John B. Comegno II	x			
James D. Fattorini	x			
Troy E. Singleton	x			

Commissioner Singleton moved to approve. Vice-Chairman Fattorini seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-55

**RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT TO CDM SMITH
FOR TRAFFIC ENGINEERING SERVICES.**

WHEREAS, the Burlington County Bridge Commission (“Commission”) has determined that it requires the services of an engineering firm capable of performing professional engineering services to conduct a study of traffic economics and toll revenue projection related to a potential future revenue bond offering; and

WHEREAS, upon receipt and review of the proposal submitted by CDM Smith (“CDM”), it was determined that the proposal provided acceptable and appropriate contract terms and conditions for the Commission; and

WHEREAS, this contract is being awarded through a fair and open process, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the maximum amount of this contract shall be Eighty-Thousand Dollars (\$80,000.00), and sufficient funds are available for payment for those services as evidenced by the Certificate of Availability of Funds, attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) requires that the Resolution authorizing the award of contracts for such services and the contract itself must be available for public inspection.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Burlington County Bridge Commission as follows:

1. The Commission hereby awards a contract for engineering services to conduct a study of traffic economics and toll revenue projection related to a potential future revenue bond offering to fund the Commission’s 5-year Capital program as set

forth above to CDM Smith, and the Executive Director and the Secretary of the Commission are hereby authorized to execute an agreement with CDM Smith.

2. This contract is awarded through a fair and open process, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.

3. The amount of this contract shall not exceed Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$80,000.00), and the contract shall extend from August 12, 2015 to and until August 11, 2016.

Vice-Chairman Fattorini moved to approve. Commissioner Singleton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-56

RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT AND SYSTEMS TO CARR & DUFF INC.

WHEREAS, the Burlington County Bridge Commission ("Commission") requires an electrical contractor to provide maintenance and repairs of electrical equipment and systems on all bridges and facilities; and

WHEREAS, bids were solicited by the Purchasing Agent to be submitted on August 4, 2015 for a contract entitled "Maintenance and Repairs of Electrical Equipment and Systems" (BCBC-201502); and

WHEREAS, the Purchasing Agent along with the Resident Engineer have received and reviewed two bids, and have recommended that the Commission award the contract for Year One (October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016) to Carr & Duff Inc. ("Carr & Duff") in the amount of \$1,053,135.00 with the option to award the contract to Carr & Duff for Years Two and Three in the amounts of \$1,069,335.80 and \$1,080,797.60, respectively; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer of the Commission has determined that sufficient funds are available for payment for said services, as evidenced by the Certificate of Availability of Funds attached hereto and made a part hereof:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Burlington County Bridge Commission as follows:

1. The Burlington County Bridge Commission hereby awards a contract for maintenance and repairs of electrical equipment and systems as set forth above to Carr

& Duff, and the Executive Director and the Secretary of the Bridge Commission are hereby authorized to execute a contract with Carr & Duff.

2. The maximum amount of this contract shall not exceed One Million, Fifty-Three Thousand, One Hundred Thirty-Five Dollars (\$1,053,135.00), and the contract shall extend from October 1, 2015 to and until September 30, 2016.

3. The Commission will determine in subsequent years whether to exercise its options for Years Two and Three.

Commissioner Singleton moved to approve. Vice-Chairman Fattorini seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Director Constance Borman reported on the following personnel issues for Commission approval:

<u>NEW HIRES – Requires Commission Approval</u>		<u>Effective</u>
Claire Adair	P/T Cove Receptionist	7/29/15
James Jordan	P/T Tolls	8/10/15
<u>RESIGNATIONS – Requires Commission Approval</u>		<u>Effective</u>
Timothy Howard	P/T Tolls	8/22/15

Chairman Comegno requested to approve by block. Vice-Chairman Fattorini moved to approve. Commissioner Singleton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Comegno called for any old business to come before the Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Comegno called for any new business to come before the Commission.

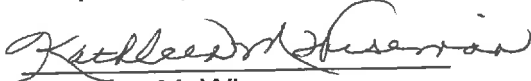
PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Comegno called for additional public comment to come before the Commission; none was received.

Chairman Comegno asked for any further business to come before the Commission.

Chairman Comegno asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Singleton moved to approve. Vice-Chairman Fattorini seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,


Kathleen M. Wiseman
Secretary