

**RESOLUTION 24-23 AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE AUTHORITY AND THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION FOR THE ENHANCEMENT, MANAGEMENT, OPERATION, MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF THE DELAWARE MEMORIAL BRIDGE AIR GAP MEASUREMENT SYSTEM**

WHEREAS, the Delaware River and Bay Authority is the owner and operator of the Delaware Memorial Bridge crossing facility which provides crossings of the Delaware River for the purpose of enhancing transportation and commerce between the State of Delaware and the State of New Jersey, and the region; and

WHEREAS, since 1998 the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has operated a Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS) for the Delaware River and Bay for the purpose of promoting navigation safety, improving the efficiency of US ports and harbors and ensuring the protection of coastal marine resources; and

WHEREAS, the safe navigation and operation of vessels in the regional port system is vital to the economic growth and stability of the region; and

WHEREAS, the Authority has seen an increase in large vessel traffic and anticipates that this type of large vessel traffic will continue to increase; and

WHEREAS, in April 2019 an Air Gap system was installed on the Delaware Memorial Bridge to provide real-time air gap information required for safe transit of large vessels under the Delaware Memorial Bridge; and

WHEREAS, by adoption of Resolution 19-18, the Authority entered into an agreement with NOAA, and the National Ocean Services (NOS) through the Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS) to allow CO-OPS to enhance, manage, operate, maintain and repair a microwave air gap measurement system on the Delaware Memorial Bridge for a period of five years; and

WHEREAS, that Agreement expired on May 31, 2024 and

WHEREAS, the Authority wishes to enter into a successor agreement with NOAA, and the National Ocean Services (NOS) through the Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS) to allow CO-OPS to enhance, manage, operate, maintain and repair a microwave air gap measurement system on the Delaware Memorial Bridge for an additional five year period; and

WHEREAS, the Authority's cost for CO-OPS services will be approximately \$20,000.00 per year.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Director is hereby authorized, with the advice and consent of counsel, to finalize and execute a Reimbursable Agreement for the enhancement, management, operation, maintenance, and repair of the Delaware Memorial Bridge air gap measurement system with the US Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and National Ocean Service for a period of no more than five years beginning on or after June 1, 2024 at a maximum cost of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00) per year, subject to the annual review and consent of the Budget and Finance Committee.

### **Resolution 24-23 Executive Summary Sheet**

**Resolution:** Authorizes the Execution of An Agreement between the Authority and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for the enhancement, management, operation, maintenance, and repair of the Delaware Memorial Bridge air-gap measurement system

**Committee:** Budget and Finance

**Committee Date:** June 18, 2024

**Board Date:** June 18, 2024

**Purpose and Background for Resolution:** Since 1998, PORTS has been operating on the Delaware River and Bay for the purpose of promoting navigation safety, improving the efficiency of ports and harbors and ensuring the protection of coastal marine resources.

In April 2019, an AirGap system was installed on the Delaware Memorial Bridge to provide real-time air gap information required for safe transit of large vessels under the Delaware Memorial Bridge.

The safe navigation and operation of vessels in the regional port system is vital to the economic growth and stability of the region.

DRBA and NOAA entered into a five-year Agreement pursuant to Resolution 19-18.

This successor Agreement which continues that relationship is in the best interest of the DRBA..