

RESOLUTION 25-06 – AUTHORIZES ACCEPTANCE OF FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION NO/LOW-EMITTING PASSENGER FERRY GRANT FUNDS

WHEREAS, The Delaware River and Bay Authority (the “Authority”) is a bi-state Authority of the State of Delaware and the State of New Jersey, created by compact, that operates and maintains the Delaware Memorial Bridge, the Cape-May Lewes Ferry, Forts Ferry operation and five regional airports; and

WHEREAS, the Authority desires to enhance the quality of life for the residents and visitors to the Cape May and Lewes areas by reducing diesel emissions; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Transit Administration (the “FTA”) has been delegated authority to award federal financial assistance for public transportation projects; and

WHEREAS, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law) included a No/Low-Emitting Ferry Grant Program through the FTA; and

WHEREAS, the FTA has granted the Authority a \$20M (\$20,000,000) Grant to provide the hybrid diesel-electric engine for a new ferry to be added to the Cape May-Lewes Ferry fleet in 2027; and

WHEREAS, the grant for federal financial assistance will impose certain obligations upon the Authority and may require the Authority to provide the local share of the project cost; and

WHEREAS, the Authority has or will provide annual certifications and assurances to the FTA required for the project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Director is hereby authorized to accept the disbursement of the funds from the FTA, provide the local cost share and with the advice and consent of counsel, execute any grant agreements or other documents necessary for same.

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Executive Summary

Resolution: Authorizing the acceptance of the funds disbursed from the No/Low Emitting Passenger Ferry Grant Program via the Federal Transit Administration.

Committee: Projects Committee

Committee Date: January 22, 2025

Board Date: January 22, 2025

Purpose of Resolution:

To permit the Executive Director to accept the funds from the Federal Transit Administration to provide the Diesel-Electric Engine for the New Ferry.

Background for Resolution:

The Delaware River and Bay Authority operates the Cape May-Lewes Ferry. The three vessels in the fleet are currently over 40 years old. A new vessel is being designed to replace one of the existing fleet. To enhance the environment in the area around the Cape May and Lewes ferry terminals, this new vessel will have a diesel-electric hybrid motor. The \$20M in federal assistance will allow the Delaware River and Bay Authority to complete this new vessel, improve sustainability of the fleet, increase efficiency, reduce maintenance and repair cost, and reduce emissions. This ferry service is essential to the transportation infrastructure of the Mid-Atlantic region, transporting over 700,000 passengers and more than 250,000 vehicles a year.