

June 21, 2021

To the Board of Directors and Management  
Fort Bend County Toll Road Authority  
Fort Bend County, Texas

You have requested that we audit the financial statements of the business-type activities of Fort Bend County Toll Road Authority (the "Authority"), a component unit of Fort Bend County, Texas, as of September 30, 2021 and for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Authority's basic financial statements.

*Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America* require that the management's discussion and analysis be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by *Governmental Accounting Standards Board*, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. As part of our engagement, we will apply certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information (RSI) in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. These limited procedures will consist primarily of inquiries of management regarding their methods of measurement and presentation, and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries. We will not express an opinion or provide any form of assurance on the RSI. The following RSI is required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America:

1) Management's Discussion and Analysis.

The document we submit to you will include the following other additional information that will not be subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the financial statements:

1) Introductory Section

2) Other Supplementary Information Section

### **Audit of the Financial Statements**

We will conduct our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAS), the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the basic financial statements are free from material misstatement. An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error, fraudulent financial reporting, misappropriation of assets, or violations of laws, governmental regulations, grant agreements, or contractual agreements.

An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. If appropriate, our procedures will therefore include tests of documentary evidence that support the transactions recorded in the accounts, tests of the physical existence of inventories, and direct confirmation of cash, investments, and certain other assets and liabilities by correspondence with creditors and financial institutions. As part of our audit process, we will request written representations from your attorneys, and they may bill you for responding. At the conclusion of our audit, we will also request certain written representations from you about the financial statements and related matters.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, together with the inherent limitations of internal control, an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements or noncompliance (whether caused by errors, fraudulent financial reporting, misappropriation of assets, detected abuse, or violations of laws or governmental regulations) may not be detected exists, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with U.S. GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* of the Comptroller General of the United States of America. Please note that the determination of abuse is subjective and *Government Auditing Standards* does not require auditors to detect abuse.

In making our risk assessments, we consider internal control relevant to the Authority's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control. However, we will communicate to you in writing concerning any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control relevant to the audit of the financial statements that we have identified during the audit. Our responsibility as auditors is, of course, limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to any other periods.

We will issue a written report upon completion of our audit of the Authority's basic financial statements. Our report will be addressed to the governing body of the Authority. We cannot provide assurance that unmodified opinions will be expressed. Circumstances may arise in which it is necessary for us to modify our opinions, add an emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraph(s), or withdraw from the engagement.

In accordance with the requirements of *Government Auditing Standards*, we will also issue a written report describing the scope of our testing over internal control over financial reporting and over compliance with laws, regulations, and provisions of grants and contracts, including the results of that testing. However, providing an opinion on internal control and compliance over financial reporting will not be an objective of the audit and, therefore, no such opinion will be expressed.

### **Management's Responsibilities**

Our audit will be conducted on the basis that management and, when appropriate, those charged with governance acknowledge and understand that they have responsibility:

1. For the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America;
2. For the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to error fraudulent financial reporting, misappropriation of assets, or violations of laws, governmental regulations, grant agreements, or contractual agreements;
3. For safeguarding assets;
4. For the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control over compliance;
5. For identifying and ensuring that the Authority complies with laws, regulations, grants, and contracts applicable to its activities and implementing systems designed to achieve compliance with applicable laws, regulations, grants, and contracts applicable to activities;

6. For identifying and providing report copies of previous audits, attestation engagements, or other studies that directly relate to the objectives of the audit, including whether related recommendations have been implemented;
7. For addressing the findings and recommendations of auditors, for establishing and maintaining a process to track the status of such findings and recommendations and taking corrective action on reported audit findings from prior periods and preparing a summary schedule of prior audit findings;
8. For following up and taking corrective action on current year audit findings and preparing a corrective action plan for such findings;
9. For making the auditor aware of any significant vendor / contractor relationships where the vendor / contractor is responsible for program compliance;
10. To provide us with:
  - a. Access to all information of which management is aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, such as records, documentation, and other matters;
  - b. Additional information that we may request from management for the purpose of the audit; and
  - c. Unrestricted access to persons within the Authority from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
11. For adjusting the financial statements to correct material misstatements and confirming to us in the management representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the current year period(s) under audit are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements as a whole;
12. For maintaining adequate records, selecting and applying accounting principles, and safeguarding assets; and
13. For confirming your understanding of your responsibilities as defined in this letter to us in your management representation letter.

With respect to any nonattest services we perform, Authority's management is responsible for (a) making all management decisions and performing all management functions; (b) assigning a competent individual to oversee the services; (c) evaluating the adequacy of the services performed; (d) evaluating and accepting responsibility for the results of the services performed; and (e) establishing and maintaining internal controls, including monitoring ongoing activities. Nonattest services could include the preparation of the financial statements and full accrual entries.

As part of our audit process, we will request from management and, when appropriate, those charged with governance, written confirmation concerning representations made to us in connection with the audit.

We understand that your employees will prepare all confirmations we request and will locate any documents or invoices selected by us for testing.

If you intend to publish or otherwise reproduce the financial statements and make reference to our firm, you agree to provide us with printers' proofs or masters for our review and approval before printing. You also agree to provide us with a copy of the final reproduced material for our approval before it is distributed.

The Authority may wish to include our report on these financial statements in an exempt offering document. The Authority agrees that the aforementioned auditor's report, or reference to Whitley Penn, LLP, will not be included in such offering document without prior permission or consent. Any agreement to perform work in connection with an exempt offering document, including an agreement to provide permission or consent, will be a separate engagement letter. For exempt offerings for which we are not involved, you will clearly indicate that we were not involved with the contents of such offering document and a disclosure as shown below will be included in the exempt offering:

“Whitley Penn, LLP, our independent auditor, has not been engaged to perform and has not performed, since the date of its report included herein, any procedures on the financial statements addressed in that report. Whitley Penn, LLP also has not performed any procedures relating to this offering document.”

### **Fees and Timing**

The timing of our audit will be scheduled for performance and completion as follows:

Document internal control and preliminary tests	August 2021
Perform year-end audit procedures	December 2021
Issue audit reports	March 2022

We anticipate meeting these deadlines barring any delays.

Christopher Breaux, CPA is the engagement partner for the audit services specified in this letter. His responsibilities include supervising Whitley Penn, LLP's services performed as part of this engagement and signing or authorizing another qualified firm representative to sign the audit report.

Our fee for the audit services will be based on the amount of time required and the difficulty of the work involved which we estimate to be \$19,000. The fee estimate for the audit is based on anticipated cooperation from the Authority's personnel and the assumption that unexpected circumstances will not be encountered during the audit. If significant additional time is necessary, we will keep you informed of any problems we encounter and our fees will be adjusted accordingly.

Our invoices for these fees will be rendered each month as work progresses and are payable on presentation and payment is due in Tarrant County. You agree to pay reasonable attorney fees and collection costs incurred relating to collection of fees for services performed under the terms of this engagement. In accordance with Whitley Penn, LLP policy, work may be suspended if your account becomes 30 days or more past due and will not resume until your account is paid in full. In addition, invoices not paid in full by the last day of the month will be assessed interest at a rate of one percent per month. If we elect to terminate our services for nonpayment, our engagement will be deemed to have been complete even if we have not issued our report. You will be obligated to compensate us for all time expended and to reimburse us for all out-of-pocket expenditures through the date of termination. Our final auditors' report will be released upon final payment of any outstanding invoices.

You may request that we perform additional services not addressed in this engagement letter. If this occurs, we will communicate with you concerning the scope of the additional services and the estimated fees. We also may issue a separate engagement letter covering the additional services. In the absence of any other written communication from us documenting such additional services, our services will continue to be governed by the terms of this engagement letter.

We would like to make the following comments regarding the fee estimates:

1. Our fee estimates have not considered the effects of any changes to auditing standards and accounting principles, which may be promulgated by the AICPA, Congress, or any other regulatory body in the future and are unknown to us at this time. If significant additional time is necessary resulting in increased fees, we will endeavor to notify you of any such circumstances as they are assessed.

2. The Authority's personnel are responsible for the preparation of all items requested in the Prepared by Client ("PBC") listing and received by the date requested. Any delays caused by not preparing the items when requested may result in additional fees, as well as the possibility of postponing our fieldwork. The PBC listing will be provided to you during the planning process of the engagement.
3. Time incurred for audit adjustments identified during our audit and the related additional testing required has not been considered in our fee estimates. Prior to performing any additional testing, we will notify you of the exceptions and obtain approval for any additional fees which may be incurred.
4. Our fee estimates are based on all general ledger sub ledgers being reconciled to the general ledger balance and any adjustment necessary should be recorded to the general ledger prior to our fieldwork start date.

The ethics of our profession prohibit the rendering of professional services where the fee for such services is contingent, or has the appearance of being contingent, upon the results of such services. Accordingly, it is important that our bills be paid promptly when received. If a situation arises in which it may appear that our independence would be questioned because of significant unpaid bills, we may be prohibited from issuing our auditors' report.

In the unlikely event that differences concerning our services or fees should arise that are not resolved by mutual agreement, to facilitate judicial resolution and save time and expense of both parties, the Authority and Whitley Penn, LLP agree not to demand a trial by jury in any action, proceeding or counterclaim arising out of or relating to our services and fees for this engagement. Any controversy, dispute, or questions arising out of or in connection with this agreement or our engagement shall be determined by arbitration conducted in accordance with the rules of the American Arbitration Association, and any decision rendered by the American Arbitration Association shall be binding on both parties to this agreement. The costs of any arbitration shall be borne equally by the parties. Any and all claims in arbitration relating to or arising out of this contract/agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Texas and to the extent any issue regarding the arbitration is submitted to a court, including the appointment of arbitrators or confirmation of an award, the District courts in Harris County shall have exclusive jurisdiction. Any action arising out of this agreement or the services provided shall be initiated within two years of the service provided.

This letter replaces and supersedes any previous proposals, correspondence and understanding, whether written or oral. The agreements contained in this engagement letter shall survive the completion or termination of this engagement.

The audit documentation for this engagement is the property of Whitley Penn, LLP and constitutes confidential information. However, we may be requested to make certain audit documentation available to various regulators pursuant to authority given to it by law or regulation, or to peer reviewers. If requested, access to such audit documentation will be provided under the supervision Whitley Penn, LLP's personnel. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide copies of selected audit documentation to the applicable regulator. The regulator may intend, or decide, to distribute the copies of information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies.

To ensure that Whitley Penn, LLP's independence is not impaired under the AICPA Code of Professional Conduct, you agree to inform the engagement partner before entering into any substantive employment discussions with any of our personnel.

## **Other Matters**

During the course of the engagement, we may communicate with you or your personnel via fax or e-mail, and you should be aware that communication in those mediums contains a risk of misdirected or intercepted communications.

In the course of our services, our firm may transmit confidential information that you provided us to third parties in order to facilitate our services. As applicable, we require confidentiality agreements with all our service providers to maintain the confidentiality of your information and additionally the firm will take reasonable precautions to determine that our service providers have the appropriate procedures in place to prevent the unauthorized release of confidential information to others. We will remain ultimately responsible for the work provided by any third-party service providers used under this agreement. By your signature below, you consent to having confidential information transmitted to entities outside the firm. Please feel free to inquire if you would like additional information regarding the transmission of confidential information to entities outside the firm.

The audit documentation for this engagement is the property of Whitley Penn, LLP and constitutes confidential information. However, we may be requested to make certain audit documentation available to your pass-through regulatory entity and federal agencies and the U.S. Government Accountability Office pursuant to authority given to it by law or regulation, or to peer reviewers. If requested, access to such audit documentation will be provided under the supervision Whitley Penn, LLP's personnel. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide copies of selected audit documentation to these agencies and regulators. The regulators and agencies may intend, or decide, to distribute the copies of information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies. We agree to retain our audit documentation or work papers for a period of at least five years from the date of our report.

Further, we will be available during the year to consult with you on financial management and accounting matters of a routine nature.

During the course of the audit, we may observe opportunities for economy in, or improved controls over, your operations. We will bring such matters to the attention of the appropriate level of management, either orally or in writing.

We agree to retain our audit documentation or work papers for a period of at least five years from the date of our report.

You agree to inform us of facts that may affect the financial statements of which you may become aware during the period from the date of the auditor's report to the date the financial statements are issued.

At the conclusion of our audit engagement, we will communicate to the Board of Directors the following significant findings from the audit:

- Our view about the qualitative aspects of the Authority's significant accounting practices;
- Significant difficulties, if any, encountered during the audit;
- Uncorrected misstatements, other than those we believe are trivial, if any;
- Disagreements with management, if any;
- Other findings or issues, if any, arising from the audit that are, in our professional judgment, significant and relevant to those charged with governance regarding their oversight of the financial reporting process;
- Material, corrected misstatements that were brought to the attention of management as a result of our audit procedures;

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- Representations we requested from management;
- Management's consultations with other accountants, if any; and
- Significant issues, if any, arising from the audit that were discussed, or the subject of correspondence, with management.

Please sign and return the attached copy of this letter to indicate your acknowledgment of, and agreement with, the arrangements for our audit of the financial statements including our respective responsibilities.

We appreciate the opportunity to be your financial statement auditors and look forward to working with you and your staff.

Respectfully,

*Whitley Penn LLP*

Houston, Texas

RESPONSE:

This letter correctly sets forth our understanding.

Acknowledged and agreed on behalf of Fort Bend County Toll Road Authority by:

Name: *Bobbie Tallas*

Title: *Vice Chairman*

Date: *July 21, 2021*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_