

**MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY (MART)  
MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 19, 2020  
DONE REMOTELY**

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 10:33 a.m.

**ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: (constituting a quorum)**

Mayor Dean Mazzarella	Leominster
Mayor Stephen DiNatale	Fitchburg
Trevor Beauregard (representing Mayor)	Gardner
Dick Maki (representing Selectmen)	Sterling
Robert Pontbriand (representing Selectman)	Ayer
Kenneth F. Troup (representing Selectmen)	Bolton
Selectperson Heather Billings	Westminster
Jan Robbins (representing Selectman)	Ashburnham
Shaun Suhoski (representing Selectmen)	Athol

**ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Selectperson Phyllis Luck	Lunenburg
Alexandra Turner (representing Selectmen)	Lancaster
Corey Harju (representing Selectman)	Ashby
Selectperson Barbara Anderson	Winchendon
Anthony Ansaldi (representing Selectmen)	Littleton
Ryan Ferrara (representing Selectmen)	Boxborough
Tim Bragan (representing Selectman)	Harvard
Ryan McLane (representing Selectmen)	Hubbardston
Roland Hamel (representing Selectmen)	Royalston
Alyson Toole (representing Selectmen)	Stow
Carter Terenzini (representing Selectman)	Templeton
No Representative	Shirley
No Representative	Hardwick

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Mohammed Khan, Bruno Fisher, James Sluss, Bonnie Mahoney, Jessica Lashua, and Keary Connors

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

George Kahale	MRPC
Phil Rocca	Management of Transportation Service

**II. General Comments**

Bruno Fisher informed the Board that during this pandemic we have kept most of services up and running and ridership in down about 50%.

**III. Approval of Minutes from January 14, 2020 Meeting**

**RESOLUTION- Mayor Stephen DiNatale of Fitchburg moved that the Advisory Board of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority approves the January 14, 2020 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

**IV. Financial Matters**

**A. Status of State Funding**

Bruno Fisher stated that MART has received \$5.9 million in State funding. For FY2021 there is no State budget as of right now but there will probably not be an increase for next year. The RTA's will probably stay level funded.

**B. Status of Federal Funding**

Bruno Fisher stated MART has received \$3.65 million in Federal funding from 5307. We also received \$10.3 million from the CARES Act due to Covid 19 Pandemic. This money is on top of the \$3.65 million we have already received. MART will use the CARES funding to help offset the loss of revenue since MART has not been able to charge fares since the pandemic started.

James Sluss informed the Board that FY2020 will be balanced with no deficit. The numbers on the budget look different than any year because the Brokerage has lost almost \$50 million. This loss is because of the pandemic. We do not know when programs will come back.

C. Finance Committee Update

1. Presentation/Discussion/ Recommendation of FY21 Budget

**RESOLUTION- Robert Pontbriand of Ayer moved that the Advisory Board of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority approve the FY2021 budget as presented by the Administrator. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

V. Operational Services

A. Transit Operation System-wide Status

1. Fixed Route Services Changes and Modifications
2. General Ridership Data and Trend

System-wide Trends				Current Reporting including First COVID-19 Month			
8 Month Data (July thru February)				9 Month Data (July thru March)			
	FY20	FY19	% Difference		FY20	FY19	% Difference
<b>Fixed Route</b>				<b>Fixed Route</b>			
Ridership	373,363	368,587	1.30%	Ridership	404,711	414,287	-2.31%
Revenue	431,159	408,926	5.44%	Revenue	454,603	463,995	-2.02%
Miles	664,769	708,464	-6.17%	Miles	740,320	795,796	-6.97%
Hours	39,834	41,663	-4.39%	Hours	44,347	46,970	-5.58%
<b>Demand Response</b>				<b>Demand Response</b>			
Ridership	64,266	68,788	-6.57%	Ridership	70,120	77,680	-9.73%
Revenue	193,853	201,401	-3.75%	Revenue	202,985	230,705	-12.02%
Miles	608,671	582,586	4.48%	Miles	655,998	656,442	-0.07%
Hours	28,278	28,423	-0.51%	Hours	30,522	32,014	-4.66%
<b>Agency Service</b>				<b>Agency Service</b>			
Ridership	86,774	92,681	-6.37%	Ridership	92,195	103,812	-11.19%
Revenue	2,036,713	2,121,818	-4.01%	Revenue	2,174,351	2,375,616	-8.47%
Miles	638,982	672,650	-5.01%	Miles	682,135	755,241	-9.68%
Hours	33,928	36,309	-6.56%	Hours	36,211	40,628	-10.87%
<b>Council-on-Aging</b>				<b>Council-on-Aging</b>			
Ridership	78,868	75,878	3.94%	Ridership	84,987	85,184	-0.23%
Revenue	53,261	53,595	-0.62%	Revenue	57,126	59,842	-4.54%
Miles	431,413	423,762	1.81%	Miles	463,936	475,011	-2.33%
Hours	36,356	33,466	8.64%	Hours	39,355	37,420	5.17%
<b>COVID-19 Impacts (February thru April)</b>							
	FY20	FY19	% Difference				
<b>Fixed Route</b>							
Ridership	93,697	143,122	-34.53%				
Revenue	85,188	180,308	-52.75%				
Miles	216,982	255,338	-15.02%				
Hours	13,143	15,445	-14.91%				

**Service Changes & Modifications**

**Pre COVID-19 Service Changes (for better efficiency and cost savings):**

Boston & Worcester Shuttle Loop times have been adjusted to more accurately reflect their duration and times.

Boston Shuttle – 3 loops per day have been reduced to 2 loops due to low ridership. There is single run in the morning and afternoon.

Wachusett Shuttle – 3 loops were eliminated from this route due to low ridership.

Devens Regional Shuttle – the evening loop and weekend service is On-Demand and performed by taxi.

**COVID-19 Service Changes (due to reduced demand and ridership):**

**Effective 3/17:**

Route 4 running summer service hours

Route 6 does not go to Fitchburg High School  
FSU Supplemental Shuttle has been suspended for the rest of semester  
Supplemental Service has been suspended for the rest of semester

**Effective 3/18:**

Littleton-Westford Commuter Shuttle suspended until further notice

**Effective 3/19:**

Route #11, Intercity Bus, Boston & Worcester Shuttles suspended until further notice

Devens Regional Shuttle service on-demand only

Wachusett Shuttle reduced to 4 loops daily

**B. Brokerage Operation System-wide Status**

1. General Ridership Data and Trend

Bruno Fisher stated the Brokerage service has dropped about 45%-50%. The only service still consistency running in PT1 Mass Health services all other services have been canceled.

**VI. Other Business**

**RESOLUTION-Shaun Suhoski of Athol moved that the Advisory Board of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority approves to continue to not charge fare due to the Covid 19 Pandemic. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

Bruno Fisher informed the Board the first phase of construction in Ayer, Depot Square, is underway. This phase is sidewalks, handicap parking and a turnaround.

Ken Troup of Bolton asked about the centralized dispatching grant and if there are any changes in the current budget to Council on Aging funding. Bruno Fisher informed him the Council on Aging funding has not changed and the centralized dispatching grant has been put on hold because of the pandemic. Once the Councils on Aging are up a running again we will start working on this centralized dispatch grant.

**VII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.