

**MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY (MART)  
MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 14, 2020  
MART MAINTENANCE FACILITY  
1427R WATER STREET  
FITCHBURG, MA 01420**

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 10:37 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
Selectperson Heather Billings	Westminster
Selectperson Phyllis Luck	Lunenburg
Jan Robbins (representing Selectman)	Ashburnham
Alexandra Turner (representing Selectmen)	Lancaster

**ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Kenneth F. Troup (representing Selectmen)	Bolton
Corey Harju (representing Selectman)	Ashby
Shaun Suhoski (representing Selectmen)	Athol
Selectperson Barbara Anderson	Winchendon
Anthony Ansaldi (representing Selectmen)	Littleton
Ryan Ferrara (representing Selectmen)	Boxborough
Tim Bragan (representing Selectman)	Harvard
Shaun Suhoski (representing Selectmen)	Athol
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, Sherry Corcoran, Benilda Martinez, Jessica Lashua, Adam Gromelski and Keary Connors

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Dan Monahan	Sentinel & Enterprise
George Kahale	MRPC
Phil Rocca	Management of Transportation Service

**II. General Comments**

**III. Approval of Minutes from September 18, 2019**

**RESOLUTION-** Robert Pontbriand of Ayer moved that the Advisory Board of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority approves the April 23, 2019 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**IV. Financial Matters**

**A. Status of State Funding**

Mohammed informed the Board that there has been no change in State Funding.

**B. Status of Federal Funding**

Mohammed informed the Board MART received a \$4.5 million Federal Grant to purchase buses. MART will be purchasing 10-14 buses and mini buses over the next 18 months.

**C. Finance Committee Update**

James informed the Board that MART has a deficit of \$84,000 as of the end of October 2019. MART is working on getting the deficit to zero. Last year at this time MART had a deficit of \$300,000.

**1.FY2020 COLA Status**

James informed the Board that the money for the COLA is already included in the budget.

**RESOLUTION-Mayor DiNatale of Fitchburg moved that the Advisory Board of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority approve a cost of living increase of 2% for all MART staff effective January 3, 2020 as recommended by the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

**2.FY2020 Brokerage RFR Released to Potential Bidders Including Private Sector**

Bruno informed the Board that an RFR for Brokerage services for the State has been released. MART will be submitting a bid. If MART does not get the contract MART's operation will be reduced from \$185 million to \$15 million and staff will be reduced by 75%. The response is due by February 21, 2020, it will be awarded on May 22, 2020 and go into effect on July 1, 2021.

**RESOLUTION- Robert Pontbriand of Ayer moved that the Advisory Board of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority Authorizes the Chairman to send a letter to the Inspector General Office about their concerns in regards to the RFR bid document. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

**V. Administrative Matters**

**A. Election of Officers (Nominations)**

Chairman, Mayor Stephen DiNatale

Vice Chairman, Mayor Mark Hawke\*

*\*Since Mayor Hawke is no longer the Mayor in Gardner, Mayor Mazzarella of Leominster will need to be nominated as Vice Chairman.*

**RESOLUTION-Robert Pontbriand of Ayer moved that the Advisory Board of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority approves to elect Mayor Stephen DiNatale as Chairperson and Mayor Dean Mazzarella as Vice Chairperson. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

**B. Ayer Commuter Rail Parking Facility Opening and Depot Square Improvements**

Robert Pontbriand updated the Board. The parking facility will be opened on January 20, 2020 and will begin charging parking fees on February 3, 2020. There are 17 rail trail parking spots. The second phase will be Depot Square. This second phase will include drop off and bathroom facilities.

**C. Fixed Route Services Changes and Modifications**

Mohammed informed the Board the Wachusett Shuttle will be reduced by 3 trips starting February 3, 2020. The Boston Shuttle will be reduced to 2 trips, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. MART will also be opening an office in Devens to service the Devens area including the Littleton Shuttle and Council on Aging vans for the area.

**D. Joint Fully Funded Application to State DOT for an Inter RTA Transit Operation Serving Clinton and Neighboring Municipalities within MART & WRTA Service Area Has Been Submitted**

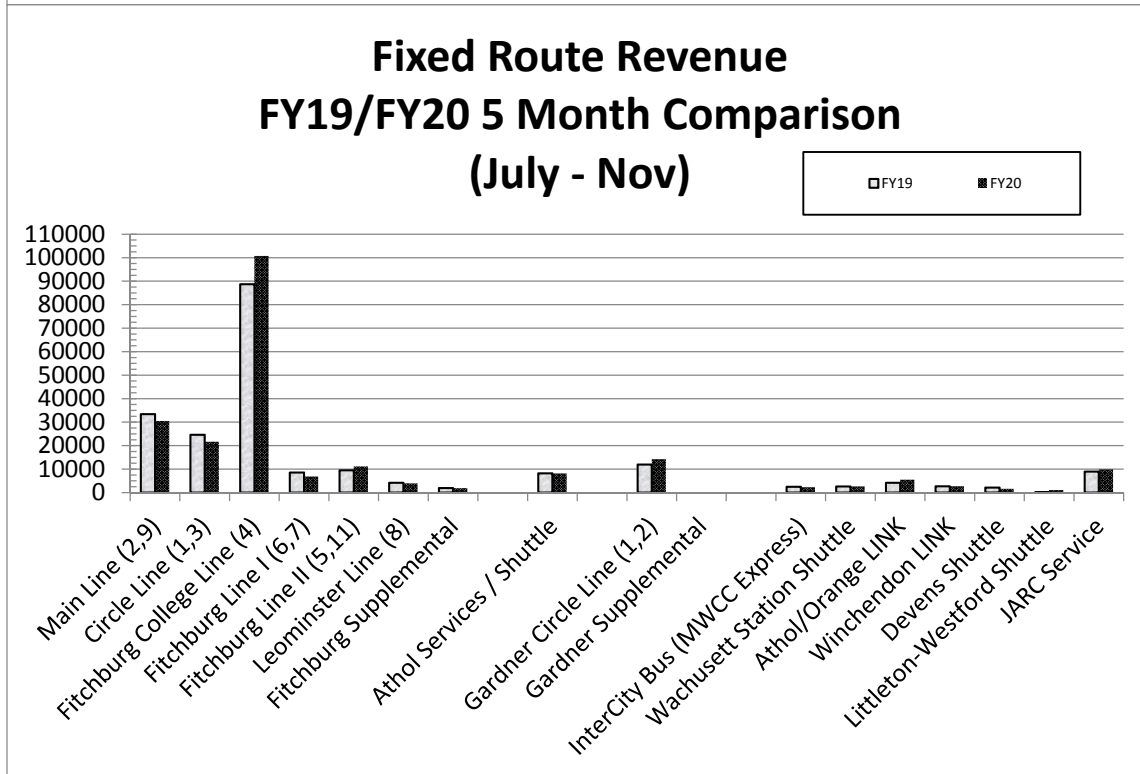
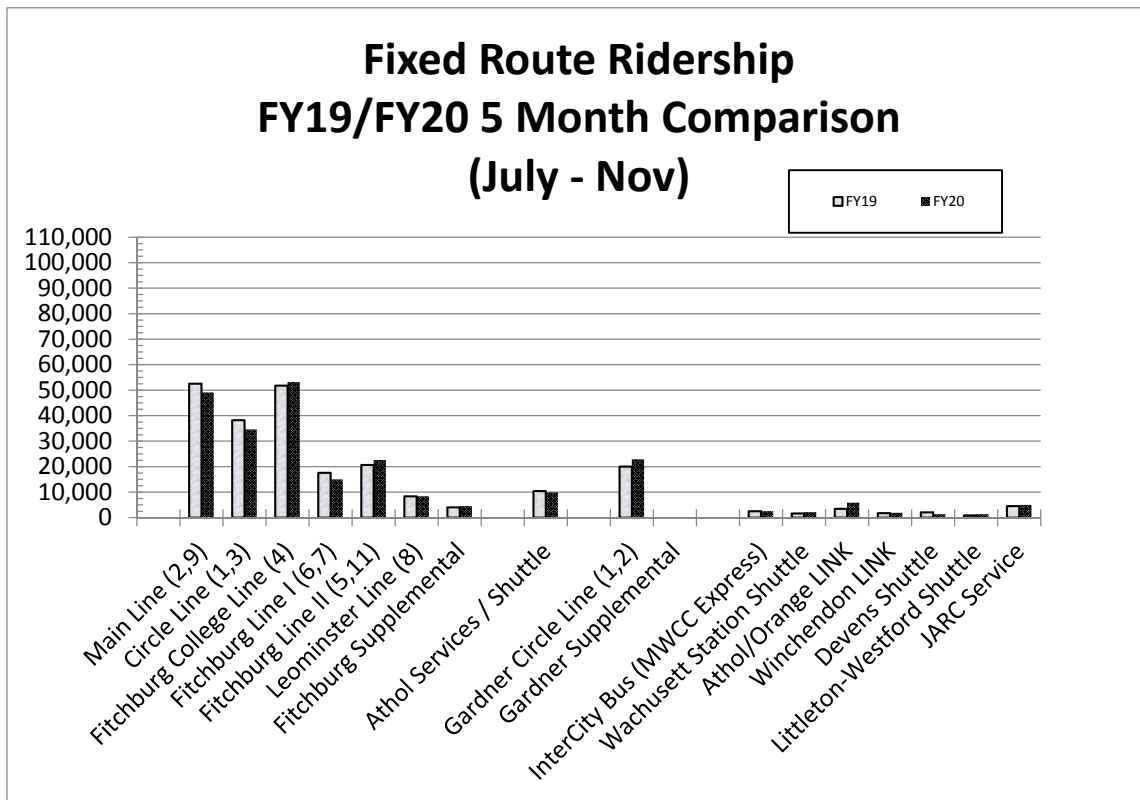
Bruno informed the Board that MART submitted this application and it was supposed to be awarded in December but as of now has not been awarded. This service will be in Clinton and we will work in conjunction with the Worcester Regional Transit Authority. MART will divert the Worcester Shuttle to Clinton and back.

**E.** MassDOT Funding for Centralized Dispatch for Council on Aging(COA) Approved  
Bruno informed the Board that MART was awarded this funding and will work with Council on Aging groups that would like to participate. Calls and dispatching will be done through MART; the towns will only have to have a dispatcher. MART will do a study to see if this will be cost effective for the towns and MART.

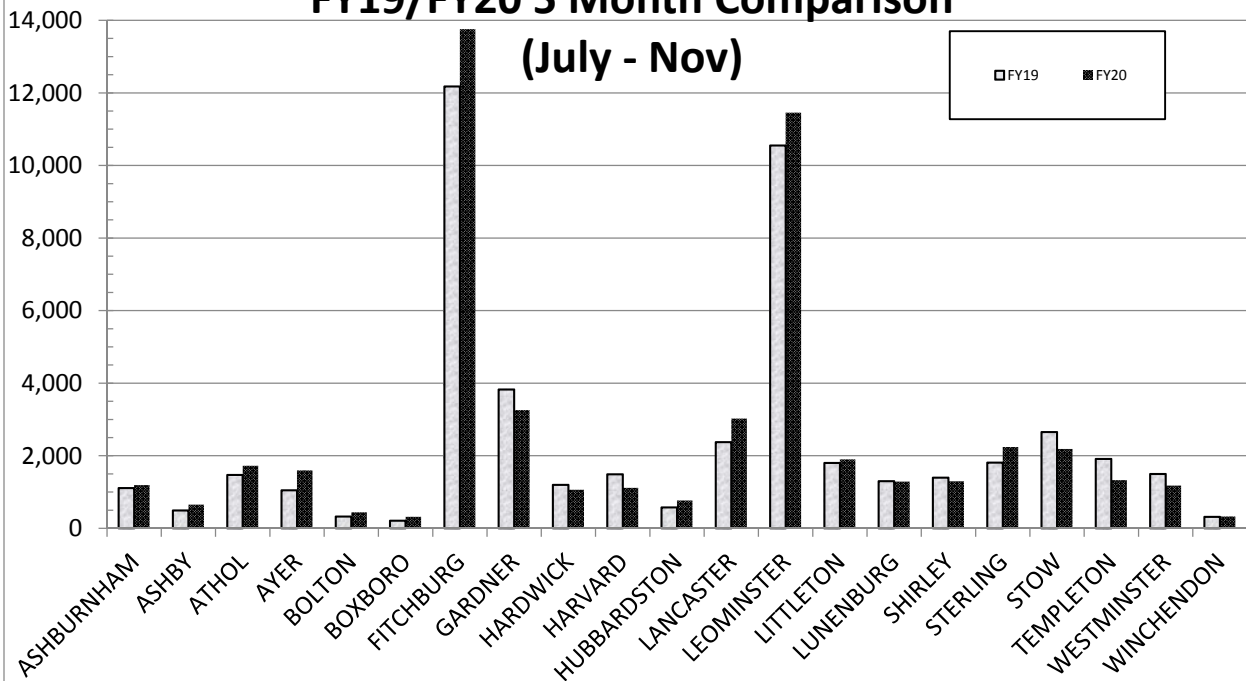
**VI. Operational Services**

**A. MART Transit Operation Status:**

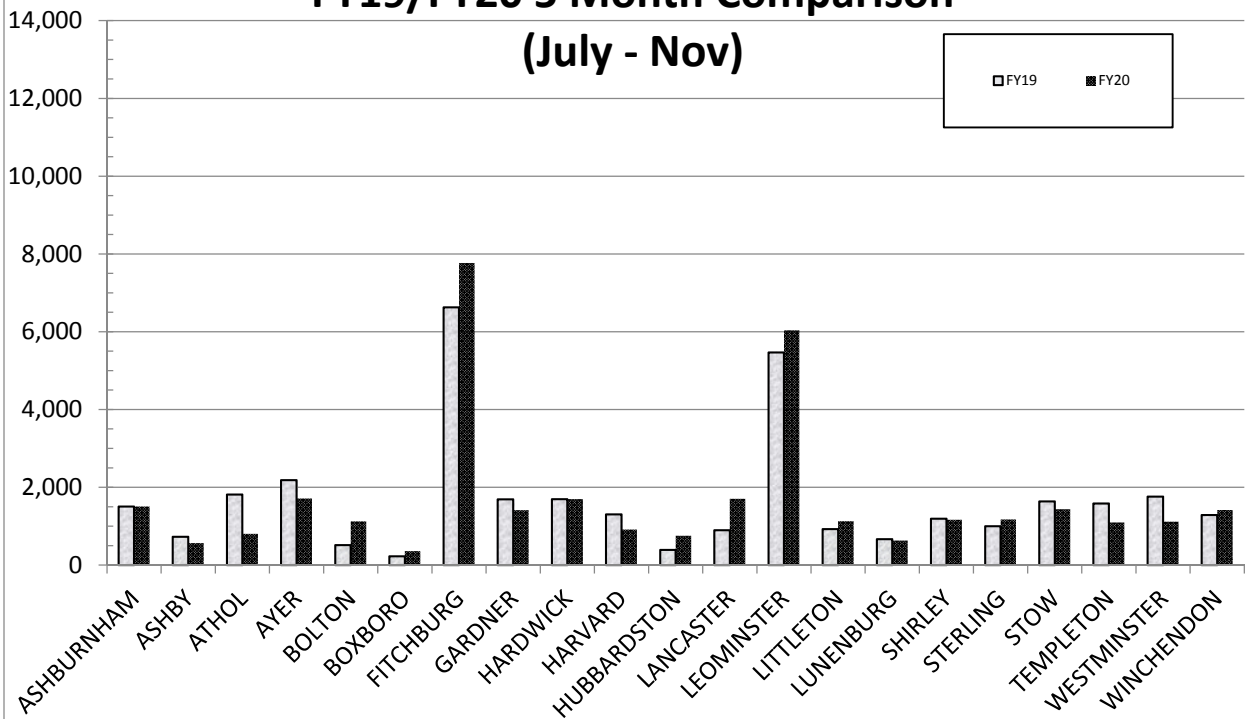
1. Revenue and Ridership
2. Fixed Route Services in Fitchburg, Leominster, Gardner and Athol Area



### Council On Aging Ridership FY19/FY20 5 Month Comparison (July - Nov)



### Council On Aging Revenue FY19/FY20 5 Month Comparison (July - Nov)



**B. HST Brokerage Operation**

**Department of Developmental Services**

MART continues to provide broker transportation services for the Department of Developmental Services. MART is currently transporting approximately 7,700 consumers to 175 various day programs across the above mentioned areas using 55 vendors.

**Department of Mental Health**

MART is currently providing DMH services for five regions across the state. This is currently done with 15 contractors to transport approximately 550 clients to 15 various DMH clubhouses.

**Department of Public Health EI Program**

MART continues to manage transportation services for the Department of Public Health (DPH) Early Intervention Program (EIP). MART is currently managing transportation for approximately 1165 children from birth to age 3. There are 50 active program sites that have some additional sub-sites. The majority of the service is being provided in the Greater Boston Area. This is accomplished through contracts with 13 private transportation companies.

**Mass Health Transportation Program**

MART continues to provide brokerage services for the Mass Health and Integrated Care Options (ICO) transportation for the Greater Metro Boston, Pioneer Valley, North Central and the South Central areas.

MART currently services the transportation needs of the Mass Health consumers in two hundred and twenty-three (223) cities and towns. Transportation averages approximately 10,000 one-way trips per day with the highest volume in the Metro Boston area.

MART is currently contracted with approximately 240 transportation providers for the above mentioned areas and assigns work via a low cost bid system.

**Other Brokerage Services**

MART also provides brokerage services on a smaller scale for the Mass Rehab Commission and the Mass Commission for the Blind; this is primarily a demand response service with transportation requested being processed by the agency through the HST Office and MART then bids out the trips via a low cost bid system. Both of these programs combined average approximately 700 to 800 one way trips on a monthly basis.

**VII. Other Business**

**VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:43 a.m.