

**MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY (MART)
MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 22, 2022
REMOTELY**

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m.

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: (constituting a quorum)

Mayor Dean Mazzealla	Leominster
Mayor Stephen DiNatale	Fitchburg
Colin Smith (representing Gardner Mayor)	Gardner
Dick Maki (representing Selectmen)	Sterling
Kenneth F. Troup (representing Selectmen)	Bolton
Mitchell Grosky (representing Selectmen)	Athol

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Robert Pontbriand (representing Selectman)	Ayer
Selectperson Heather Billings	Westminster
Joe Layden (representing Selectmen)	Littleton
Corey Harju (representing Selectman)	Ashby
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
Keith Hickey	Winchendon
Jessica Sizer (representing Selectman)	Barre
Michael-Ray Jeffreys	Lunenburg
Joe Layden (representing Selectmen)	Littleton
Jan Robbins (representing Selectman)	Ashburnham
Adam Lamontagne (representing Selectman)	Templeton
Alexandra Turner (representing Selectmen)	Lancaster
No Representative	Shirley
No Representative	Hardwick

STAFF PRESENT:

Bruno Fisher, Scott Rich, James Sluss, Bonnie Mahoney, Jessica Lashua, and Keary Connors.

GUESTS PRESENT:

Phil Rocca	MTS
Melissa L'Ecuyer	MTS
Andy Divoll	MTS

II. General / Public Comments

Bruno Fisher informed the Board that MART is having trouble filling the disabled commuter representative to the Board. We will now be reaching out to social service organizations to help fill this seat. Seven Hills was suggested.

Bruno introduced Scott Rich, MART's new Assistant Administrator. Scott informed the Board he will be concentrating on marketing MART better.

III. Approval of December 14, 2021 Meeting Minutes – Board Vote

RESOLUTION- Mayor Stephen DiNatale of Fitchburg moved that the Advisory Board of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority approves the December 14, 2021, minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

IV. Financial Updates

A. State Funding – Updates

1. SFY22 / SFY23 State Contract Assistance
\$94 million SCA MART's share \$6.2 million, that is \$170,000 more than FY2021
2. SFY21 MassDOT Discretionary Grants – JARC & Workforce
Expanding JARC services will be put on hold until workforce improves.
Reimagining Devens shuttle to meet the businesses needs. Meetings have already been arranged with a few of Devens businesses.

B. Federal Funding – Updates

1. FFY21 Section 5307
2. FFY22-26 Section 5307 within Infrastructure Bill
Funding increases 30% to \$4.8 million over last year. MART will continue to have about a \$100,000 increase yearly over the next four years.
3. CARES / CRRSAA / ARPA
CARES \$4 million remaining
ARPA \$7.2 million remaining
CRRSA \$2.3 million remaining
4. Discretionary Capital Grants

C. Finance Committee

1. SFY22 Q2 Financial Update
2. SFY23 Projections

James Sluss informed the Board that the next 3 years MART will be in good financial standing. MART will be improving transit to run more efficiently. MART will be investing in fareboxes, automatic passenger counter, on time performance and where's my van for the paratransit fleet.

V. Administrative Matters

A. Nominations of Officers

Chairperson, Mayor Michael Nicholson

RESOLUTION-Mayor Stephen DiNatale of Fitchburg moved that the Advisory Board of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority approves to elect Mayor Michael Nicholson as Chairperson. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Vice Chairperson, Mayor Stephen DiNatale

RESOLUTION-Ken Troup of Bolton moved that the Advisory Board of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority approves to elect Mayor Stephen DiNatale Vice Chairperson. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

B. FTA Triennial Review – Update

MART's Triennial Review will be June 6-8, 2022

C. Public Meetings

- i. Fare Collection System
- ii. Route and Schedule Recommendations

Bruno informed the Board MART will be having 4 public meetings regarding the above matter. These meeting will be in Athol, Fitchburg, Leominster, and Gardner. We will also be doing fact finding meetings later within each community to get suggestions on how to improve the fixed bus routes.

D. May Meeting - Finance Committee / Advisory Board for FY23 Budget Approval

VI. Operational Updates

A. Operational Updates:

1. Transit FY21/22 Seven Month Ride/Rev Data Comparison
Fixed route is up about 10% from last year
Demand response is up about 40% from last year
2. Brokerage FY21/22 Seven Month Ride/Rev Data Comparison

VII. Other Business

A. Items Not Reasonably Anticipated to be Discussed

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:19 a.m.