

**MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY (MART)  
MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 13, 2022  
REMOTELY**

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 10:39 a.m.

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

Mayor Dean Mazzearella	Leominster
Mayor Stephen DiNatale	Fitchburg
Mayor Michael Nicholson	Gardner
Dick Maki (representing Selectmen)	Sterling
Kenneth F. Troup (representing Selectmen)	Bolton
Selectperson Aubrey LaBrie	Winchendon
Alexandra Turner (representing Selectmen)	Lancaster

**ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Selectperson Heather Billings	Westminster
Robert Pontbriand (representing Selectman)	Ayer
Selectperson Deborah D'Amico	Royalston
Adam Lamontagne (representing Selectman)	Templeton
Lisa Lavargna (representing Selectman)	Ashby
Joe Layden (representing Selectmen)	Littleton
Ryan Ferrara (representing Selectmen)	Boxborough
Tim Bragan (representing Selectman)	Harvard
Ryan McLane (representing Selectmen)	Hubbardston
Alyson Toole (representing Selectmen)	Stow
Jessica Sizer (representing Selectman)	Barre
Michael-Ray Jeffreys	Lunenburg
Mitchell Grosky (representing Selectmen)	Athol
Jan Robbins (representing Selectman)	Ashburnham
No Representative	Shirley
No Representative	Hardwick
No Representative	Phillipston

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Bruno Fisher, Bonnie Mahoney, George Kahale, Jessica Lashua, and Keary Connors.

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Melissa L'Ecuyer MTS

**I. Call to Order**

**II. General / Public Comments (Est. 10 minutes)**

**III. Approval of September 27, 2022 Meeting Minutes – Board vote required**

**RESOLUTION-** Dean Mazzearella of Leominster moved that the Advisory Board of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority approves the September 27, 2022, minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Roll call was done (7 yes)

**IV. Financial Updates (Est. 15 minutes)**

**A. Finance Committee - Updates**

Bruno Fisher informed the Board that the expenditures are high because of the difficulties we are having hiring drivers. MART will be reaching out to Seniors and Veterans for bus driver positions.

- 1. FY23 Four Month Financial Update
- 2. FY23 Full Year Financial Projection
- 3. FY24 Financial Projection
- 4. CARES / CRRSAA / ARPA Grant Updates
  - CARES - \$3.9 million
  - ARPA - \$3.3 million
  - CRRSAA - \$2.3 million

The remainder of the APRA grant will be expended in the first quarter of FY2024.

Dick Maki of Sterling asked if the ARPA funds were used faster than expected?

Bruno stated yes MART was hoping cost would reduce but that is not the case. With the hiring difficulties we are paying higher overtime costs. MART will be working with MTS to increase workforce.

**V. Administrative Matters (Est. 20Minutes)**

- A.** Mass Development Finance Agency – Taxi/Livery Grant (\$250,000)  
Bruno stated with this grant MART will use taxi/livery to provide service in rural areas that are underserved. MART is hoping to have the fully executed contract soon.
- B.** Operating Company RFP being Issued in January 2023  
Bruno stated the operating company RFP will be release mid-January after FTA has reviewed the document. This process must be done every 5 years. The contract will be awarded for FY2024-FY2028.
- C.** Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan – Presentation and Approval – **Board vote required**  
Bonnie Mahoney informed the Board MART had to revise it’s PTASP because Congress made changes to 49 U.S. Code 5329 Public Transportation Safety Code. MART had to create a Safety Committee to help protect front line workers/drivers. MART’s Safety Committee met on November 9, 2022, Scott Rich, MART’s Assistant Administrator, is the Chief Safety Officer. The committee will focus on risk reduction.

**RESOLUTION- Dean Mazzarella of Leominster moved that the Advisory Board of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority approves the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

Mayor Dean Mazzarella	yes
Mayor Stephen DiNatale	yes
Mayor Michael Nicholson	yes
Dick Maki (representing Selectmen)	yes
Kenneth F. Troup (representing Selectmen)	yes
Selectperson Aubrey LaBrie	yes
Alexandra Turner (representing Selectmen)	yes

- D.** Potential Transit Depot at Devens  
Bruno informed the Board MART is looking into having a potential transit depot in Devens. This will reduce the dead head miles. Once MART works out all the details it will bring the information to the Board for approval.

**VI. Operational Updates (Est. 20 Minutes)**

- A.** Operational Updates:
  - 1. Transit Ridership / Revenue Data Comparison
    - a. FY22/23 Four Month Ridership/Revenue Data Comparison
    - b. FY18 to FY22 Ridership/Revenue Data Comparison
 Transit is up 32% from last year. Veteran rids have decreased, there are local services available now to veterans. MART started a pilot program in Athol, where students ride for free, this will help increase ridership.
  - 2. Brokerage Ridership / Revenue Data Comparison
    - a. FY22/23 Four Month Ridership/Revenue Data Comparison
    - b. FY18 to FY22 Ridership/Revenue Data Comparison

**VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.