

**MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY (MART)
MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 26, 2023
REMOTELY**

I. Call to Order

The meeting started at 10.34 without a quorum and was called to order at 10:31 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
Carly Antonellis (representing Selectman)	Ayer
Adam Lamontagne (representing Selectman)	Templeton

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Kenneth F. Troup (representing Selectmen)	Bolton
April Lynn Forest (representing Selectman)	Ashby
Jan Robbins (representing Selectman)	Ashburnham
Selectperson Aubrey LaBrie	Winchendon
Selectperson Heather Billings	Westminster
Selectperson Deborah D'Amico	Royalston
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
Alexandra Turner (representing Selectmen)	Lancaster
No Representative	Shirley
No Representative	Hardwick
No Representative	Phillipston

STAFF PRESENT:

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

GUESTS PRESENT:

Melissa L'Ecuyer	MTS
Andy Divoll	MTS
Taimur Khan	MTS

Agenda

I. Call to Order

II. General / Public Comments

Bruno Fisher informed the Board that Harvard will begin having a shuttle from Harvard to the Littleton train station twice in the am and twice in the pm. Harvard will use their MBTA assessment to fund this service.

MART insurance has gone up 3.1% this year and Ran rate has a coupon that will help MART save \$170,000.

III. Approval of June 6, 2023 Meeting Minutes

RESOLUTION- Dean Mazzarella of Leominster moved that the Advisory Board of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority approves the June 6, 2023 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Roll Call was done.

Mayor Stephen DiNatale	yes
Mayor Michael Nicholson	yes
Mayor Dean Mazzarella	yes
Dick Maki (representing Selectmen)	yes
Carly Antonellis (representing Selectman)	yes

IV. Financial Updates

A. Finance and Audit Committee

1. SFY23 Financial Audit Presentation / Recommendation

James Sluss informed the Board that the FY23 audit had no findings and received favorable comments from the auditor. MART has a very strong net position. Revenue and expenses are up 37.5% over last year.

James then went over the key driver's document. (attached) MART will have \$500,000 in total saving between security, janitorial, IT Services and insurance contract. MART is also working with the operating company to run more efficiently and have a higher head count per hour. In FY23 MART will have a \$1.2 million loss on subscription service but we have raised the price to try and recover some of that loss.

2. SFY24 Financial Projection

B. MassDOT State Funding

1. SFY24 State Contract Assistance Funding

Bruno Fisher informed the Board that FY24 MART's portion of State Contract Assistance Funding will be \$6.5 million. There will also be \$56 million in operational money, MART will receive \$2.4 million of this for a total of \$8.7 million in FY24. The state is looking for RTA's to increase services including nights, weekends and increase frequency. Also, will receive funding for 6 months of fare free program for all RTA's. Hoping to increase ridership.

2. SFY24 Additional MassDOT Funding Opportunities

C. FTA Federal Funding

1. FFY23 FTA Funding

Bruno informed the Board that MART has received FY23 funding of \$4.7 million, these funds are based on ridership and population. FY24 should be around \$5 million.

a. Areas of Persistent Poverty Grant

MART received \$600,000 for an app to book transportation.

2. FFY24 FTA Projected Funding

V. Administrative Matters

A. Election of Officers

Chairman – Mayor Michael Nicholson

Vice Chairman – Mayor Dean Mazzarella

i. Floor Nominations

Floor nominations were solicited by the Chairperson and closed. There were none.

ii. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

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 and Mayor Dean Mazzarella as Vice Chairperson. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Roll call was done.

Mayor Stephen DiNatale	yes
Mayor Michael Nicholson	yes
Mayor Dean Mazzarella	yes
Dick Maki (representing Selectmen)	yes
Carly Antonellis (representing Selectman)	yes

B. Acceptance of FY23 Financial Audit –

RESOLUTION – Richard Maki of Sterling moved that the Advisory Board of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority accept the Auditor’s Report. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Roll call was done.

Mayor Stephen DiNatale	yes
Mayor Michael Nicholson	yes
Mayor Dean Mazzarella	yes
Dick Maki (representing Selectmen)	yes
Carly Antonellis (representing Selectman)	yes

C. Update on Property Acquisition – 27 Antietam St, Devens

MART will have a great present out in the Devens area by utilizing this property as a depot. This depot will reduce deadhead and the wear and tear on the vehicles. MART also applied for a \$1 million grant to help rehab the building and improve the property.

D. Technical Assistance Program Funding Request to MassDOT

MART has requested \$2 million a year in funding to use to do a 3–5-year study, looking at all routes, services, and bus stops.

E. MassDEP VW Mitigation Electric Bus Funding Award – \$2,428,715.75

MART was awarded \$2.4 million for (3) 30-foot electric buses.

VI. Operational Updates

A. Operational Updates:

1. Transit FY22/23 Full Year Ride/Rev Data Comparison
 - a. Taxi/Livery Grant Update
880 rides to date.
2. Brokerage FY22/23 Full Year Ride/Rev Data Comparison
 - a. Lyft Pilot Project Launch

This is part of the contract with HST and MART started in mid-July of 2023.

VII. Other Business

A. Items Not Reasonably Anticipated to be Discussed

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.