

**MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY (MART)
MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 26, 2024
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 Mazzarella	Leominster
Myles Phillips-Wilcox (representing the Mayor)	Fitchburg
Mayor Michael Nicholson	Gardner
Lisa Marrone (representing Selectmen)	Sterling
Jan Robbins (representing Selectman)	Ashburnham
Kenneth F. Troup (representing Selectmen)	Bolton
Selectperson Heather Billings	Westminster

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Kelly Dolan (representing Selectmen)	Lancaster
Adam Lamontagne (representing Selectman)	Templeton
Carly Antonellis (representing Selectman)	Ayer
April Lynn Forest (representing Selectman)	Ashby
Selectperson Aubrey LaBrie	Winchendon
Selectperson Deborah D'Amico	Royalston
Joe Layden (representing Selectmen)	Littleton
Carter Terenzini (representing Selectmen)	Boxborough
Tim Bragan (representing Selectman)	Harvard
Ryan McLane (representing Selectmen)	Hubbardston
Alyson Toole (representing Selectmen)	Stow
Jessica Sizer (representing Selectman)	Barre
Caesar Nuzzolo	Lunenburg
Mitchell Grosky (representing Selectmen)	Athol
Sharon Hardaker	Hardwick
Melanie Jackson	Phillipston
No Representative	Shirley

STAFF PRESENT:

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

GUESTS PRESENT:

Melissa L'Ecuyer MTS

Agenda

II. General / Public Comments

III. Approval of December 5, 2023 Meeting Minutes – Board vote required

RESOLUTION- Dean Mazzarella of Leominster moved that the Advisory Board of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority approves the December 5, 2023 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Roll Call was done.

Mayor Dean Mazzarella	yes
Myles Phillips-Wilcox	yes
Mayor Michael Nicholson	yes

Lisa Marrone	yes
Jan Robbins	yes
Kenneth F. Troup	yes
Heather Billings	Abstained

IV. Financial Updates (Est. 20 minutes)

A. Finance Committee

1. FY24 Seven Month Financial Update

James Sluss went over key drivers document (attached). MART has had cost savings throughout the year including insurance, security, janitorial, IT, RAN borrowing and subscription service price increase. The subscription service price increase has saved about \$700,000 over the last year.

2. FY24 Full Year Financial Projection

3. FY25 Forecast

- a. Projected Federal Funding
- b. Projected State Funding

V. Administrative Matters (Est. 25 Minutes)

A. Proposed Transfer of MART Property to City of Fitchburg – Board vote required

- i. Two Parcels – Part of Fifth Mass Turnpike Cul de Sac
- ii. Subject to Acceptance by the Fitchburg Planning Board and City Council

RESOLUTION- Dean Mazzarella of Leominster moved that the Advisory Board of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority approves the proposed transfer of MART property to the City of Fitchburg. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Roll Call was done.

Mayor Dean Mazzarella	yes
Myles Phillips-Wilcox	yes
Mayor Michael Nicholson	yes
Lisa Marrone	yes
Jan Robbins	yes
Kenneth F. Troup	yes
Heather Billings	yes

B. Twin City Rail Trail Impact – Fitchburg Intermodal Center

- i. Site Improvements
- ii. Visitor Parking Eliminated
- iii. Real Estate Impacts

RESOLUTION- Dean Mazzarella of Leominster moved that the Advisory Board of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority approves and authorizes the transfer of property to the Twin City Rail Trail as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Roll Call was done.

Mayor Dean Mazzarella	yes
Myles Phillips-Wilcox	yes
Mayor Michael Nicholson	yes
Lisa Marrone	yes
Jan Robbins	yes
Kenneth F. Troup	yes
Heather Billings	yes

C. MART’s Title VI Program Presentation

- i. Approval of Service Standards
- ii. Approval of Title VI Program

RESOLUTION- Dean Mazzarella of Leominster moved that the Advisory Board of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority approves the Title VI Program and Service Standards as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Roll Call was done.

Mayor Dean Mazzarella	yes
Myles Phillips-Wilcox	yes

Mayor Michael Nicholson	yes
Lisa Marrone	yes
Jan Robbins	yes
Kenneth F. Troup	yes
Heather Billings	yes

D. MassDOT Planning Grant / MRPC Technical Planning Assistance Update

Bruno Fisher stated MART received a grant to hire a consultant, Nelson and Nygaard. MART will be having them look at routes and redesign starting with Fitchburg/Leominster area routes. MART is also looking to have a Master Transit Plan for all its communities. MART will also be investing heavily into driver recruiting.

VI. Operational Updates (Est. 10 Minutes)

A. Operational Updates:

1. Transit FY23/24 Seven Month Ride/Rev Data Comparison

Bruno stated there has been a 16% increase in ridership over January 2023.

2. Brokerage FY23/24 Seven Month Ride/Rev Data Comparison

The brokerage has seen a drop in ridership because some people are no longer eligible for services.

VII. Other Business

A. Items Not Reasonably Anticipated to be Discussed

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:12 a.m.