

**MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY (MART)
MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2024
REMOTELY**

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:30am with a quorum.

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: (constituting a quorum)

Michelle Nadeau (representing Mayor Mazzarella)	Leominster
Mayor Samantha Squailia	Fitchburg
Mayor Michael Nicholson	Gardner
Kenneth F. Troup (representing Select Board)	Bolton
Rick Ward (representing Select Board)	Winchendon

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Selectperson Chaz Sexton-Diranian	Townsend
Melanie Jackson (representing Select Board)	Phillipston
Jan Robbins (representing Select Board)	Ashburnham
Kelly Dolan (representing Selectmen)	Lancaster
Lisa Marrone (representing Selectmen)	Sterling
Selectperson Heather Billings	Westminster
Adam Lamontagne (representing Selectman)	Templeton
Carly Antonellis (representing Selectman)	Ayer
April Lynn Forest (representing Selectman)	Ashby
Richard Martin	Royalston
Joe Layden (representing Selectmen)	Littleton
Carter Terenzini (representing Selectmen)	Boxborough
Tim Bragan (representing Selectman)	Harvard
Nate Boudreau (representing Selectmen)	Hubbardston
Alyson Toole (representing Selectmen)	Stow
Jessica Sizer (representing Selectman)	Barre
Caesar Nuzzolo	Lunenburg
Mitchell Grosky (representing Selectmen)	Athol
Sharon Hardaker	Hardwick
No Representative	Shirley

STAFF PRESENT:

Scott Rich, James Sluss, Jessica Lashua, Andrena Edwards??? and Keary Connors.

GUESTS PRESENT:

Melissa L'Ecuyer	MTS General Manager
Andy Divoll	MTS General Manager

Agenda

II. General / Public Comments (Est. 5 minutes)

III. Approval of August 20, 2024 Meeting Minutes – Board approval required

RESOLUTION- Mayor Samantha Squailia of Fitchburg moved that the Advisory Board of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority approves the August 20, 2024 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and passed.

Roll Call was done.

Michelle Nadeau	yes
Mayor Samanth Squailia	yes

Mayor Michael Nicholson	yes
Kenneth F. Troup	yes
Rick Ward	yes

IV. Financial Updates (Est. 20 minutes)

A. Finance and Audit Committee

1. SFY24 Financial Audit Presentation and Recommendation

James Sluss went of over financials. FY2024 no deficit and no surplus. Ridership is up 18.6% because of the fare free program. The Brokerage has earned on average \$660,000 in incentives per quarter.

Ken Troup stated that there were no issues with the audit MART received a clean financial statement with no findings.

2. SFY25 Financial Projection

3. Proposed Fare Free for COA Customers (Funded) – **Recommendation see below**

V. Administrative Updates (Est. 20 Minutes)

A. Election of Advisory Board Officers – Board approval required

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

Roll Call was done.

Michelle Nadeau	yes
Mayor Samantha Squailia	yes
Mayor Michael Nicholson	yes
Kenneth F. Troup	yes
Rick Ward	yes

B. Acceptance of FY24 Financial Audit – Board approval required

RESOLUTION – Mayor Samantha Squailia of Fitchburg 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.

Michelle Nadeau	yes
Mayor Samantha Squailia	yes
Mayor Michael Nicholson	yes
Kenneth F. Troup	yes
Rick Ward	yes

C. Proposed Fare Free for COA Customers (Funded) – Board approval required

MART has received funding which will fund the Council on aging fare free program.

RESOLUTION- Mayor Samantha Squailia of Fitchburg moved that the Advisory Board of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority accept fare free for Council on Aging through June 30, 2025. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Roll Call was done.

Michelle Nadeau	yes
Mayor Samantha Squailia	yes
Mayor Michael Nicholson	yes
Kenneth F. Troup	yes
Rick Ward	yes

D. Technical Planning Update – Fitchburg / Leominster Service Redesign

Scott Rich stated that Nelson and Nygaard have done an analysis of the Fitchburg and Leominster Routes. MART will be going over this in the coming weeks and working on new routes.

E. Insurance Costs / Operational Impacts

James stated the cost of Insurance is growing tremendously. MART will work on using vehicles in a more efficient manor.

VI. Operational Updates (Est. 15 Minutes)

A. Operational Updates:

1. Transit Ridership / Revenue Data Comparison

Transit ridership is up 18.6% in the first six months due to the fare free program. All of MART's services have seen an increase in ridership.

a. FY23/24 Full Year Ridership/Revenue Data Comparison

b. FY25 Two Month Ridership/Revenue Data Comparison

2. Brokerage Ridership / Revenue Data Comparison

Brokerage ridership has increased 3.5% and Revenue 9.50%.

a. FY23/24 Full Year Ridership/Revenue Data Comparison

b. FY25 Two Month Ridership/Revenue Data Comparison

3. Taxi-Livery / Community Connection Updates

Taxi/Livery ridership has increased 27% this month. Lunenburg and Sterling will continue the service with funding from the towns. Community Connection ridership has increased 70% this month.

VII. Other Business

A. Items Not Reasonably Anticipated to be Discussed

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.