



## **MART Advisory Board – Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** Tuesday, December 16, 2025

**Time:** 10:40 AM

**Location:** Zoom Meeting

### **I. Call to Order**

The meeting began informally at 10:40 AM. Introductions were made, including James Ryan, Templeton Town Administrator, who joined on September 30. Bruno Fisher noted that Michelle from Mayor Mazzarella's office was expected but was likely experiencing technical difficulties. Due to quorum timing, Mike suggested proceeding with non-voting agenda items, and the board agreed to move forward.

### **II. Previous Meeting Minutes**

The Advisory Board unanimously approved the meeting minutes from the June 17, 2025 and September 23, 2025 meetings.

### **III. General / Public Comments**

No formal general or public comments were recorded.

### **IV. Financial Updates**

Steve Bliss presented Q1 FY26 financial data showing strong ridership and revenue growth across both transit and brokerage divisions. Increased payroll and operating expenses were noted due to higher ridership and overtime, along with a significant rise in insurance premiums. Advertising revenue and state and federal fuel tax rebates continued to positively impact non-service income.

The Advisory Board unanimously approved a 2.5% cost of living adjustment for MART employees, adding approximately \$169,007 to payroll costs.

### **V. Administrative Updates**

Bruno Fisher announced the resignation of Scott Rich due to personal circumstances and expressed appreciation for his service. The Administrator Search Committee (Mike, Robert Pompeon, Shaun Sahosky) reported that applications are under review and first-round interviews will be scheduled, with two finalists to be presented to the full Advisory Board in January. Bruno Fisher agreed to remain in the Administrator role through the end of January to assist with the transition. Concerns regarding Open Meeting Law requirements for public interviews were raised and will be reviewed prior to scheduling.



## **VI. Operational Updates**

Bruno Fisher provided an update on the FTA triennial review, noting deficiencies in transit asset management, procurement, DBE, ADA, and drug and alcohol programs, with two long-term corrective items expected to be resolved by spring.

Recent grant updates included a Shared Streets and Spaces shelter grant and connectivity grants for Winchendon and Ashburnham. Remaining Emerson Hospital shuttle funds are being reallocated into regional microtransit services. Michael Gippo presented updates on route changes and a technical planning study to improve transit safety, efficiency, and on-time performance, including a planned six-month review of all fixed routes.

## **VII. Other Business**

The Board welcomed James Ryan, Templeton Town Administrator. No additional items not reasonably anticipated were brought forward.

## **VIII. Next Steps**

The Administrator Search Committee will schedule interviews and notify the board of a special meeting in January. Staff will continue addressing triennial review items, coordinating shelter placements, monitoring grant awards, and implementing outcomes from the technical planning study.

## **IX. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned following completion of all agenda items.