

**MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY (MART)
MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 17, 2025
REMOTELY**

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:33 am 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
Jan Robbins (representing Select Board)	Ashburnham
Carly Antonellis	Ayer
Ryann Brown (representing Select Board)	Templeton
April Lynn Forest (representing Select Board)	Ashby

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Kathy Black	Seven Hills
Laura Shifrin	Townsend
Rick Ward (representing Select Board)	Winchendon
Melanie Jackson (representing Select Board)	Phillipston
Kelly Dolan (representing Select Board)	Lancaster
Lisa Marrone (representing Select Board)	Sterling
Joe Layden (representing Select Board)	Littleton
Carter Terenzini (representing Select Board)	Boxborough
Dan Nason (representing Select Board)	Harvard
Nate Boudreau (representing Select Board)	Hubbardston
Alyson Toole (representing Select Board)	Stow
Jessica Sizer (representing Select Board)	Barre
Caesar Nuzzolo	Lunenburg
Mitchell Grosky (representing Select Board)	Athol
Sharon Hardaker	Hardwick
No Representative	Shirley
No Representative	Westminster
No Representative	Royalston

STAFF PRESENT:

Bruno Fisher, Scott Rich, Steve Bliss, Louis Brown, Jessica Lashua, Josh Vander Baan and Keary Connors.

GUESTS:

Andy Divoll	MTS
Melissa L'Ecuyer	MTS

Agenda

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

III. Approval of April 9, 2025 Meeting Minutes

RESOLUTION- Mayor Samantha Squailia of Fitchburg moved that the Advisory Board of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority approves the April 9, 2025 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and passed.

Roll Call was done.

Michelle Nadeau (representing Mayor Mazzarella)	Yes
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Mayor Samantha Squailia	Yes
Mayor Michael Nicholson	Yes
Carly Antonellis	Yes
Ryann Brown (representing Select Board)	Yes

IV. Financial Updates (Est. 20 minutes)

A. Finance Committee Updates

1. FY25 10 Month Financial Summary / Full Year Financial Update
 - Steve Bliss went over the budget
 - \$19 million for transit which is a 23% increase.
 - \$278 million for brokerage
 - 4.3% over budget for payroll
 - 11% over budget for operating expenses
 - Fiscal is taking a hard look at contracts and equipment.
2. FY26 Funding Forecast
 - a. FTA Apportioned Federal Funding
 - Bruno Fisher informed the board that in FY25 we received slightly more in federal funding than we did in FY24:
 - \$4.4 million
 - \$162,000 Boston UZA
 - \$60,00 Worcester UZA
 - Total \$4.7 in funding
 - b. Projected MassDOT State Contract Assistance Funding
 - State funding will be level funding with a larger amount on the fare free side.
 - c. FY26 Budget Recommendation
 - Steve Bliss informed the Board that FY26 budget he used a conservative approach, it is a balanced budget. MART will be leveraging all grant opportunities and State pricing on all supplies. There is also a spending freeze on discretionary spending. The budget also includes a modest COLA.

RESOLUTION-Ken Troup of Bolton moved that the Advisory Board of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority approve the FY2026 budget as presented by the Chief Financial Officer. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Roll Call was done.

Michelle Nadeau (representing Mayor Mazzarella)	Yes
Mayor Samantha Squailia	Yes
Mayor Michael Nicholson	Yes
Kenneth F. Troup (representing Select Board)	Yes
Jan Robbins (representing Select Board)	Yes
Carly Antonellis	Yes
Ryann Brown (representing Select Board)	Yes

V. Administrative Matters (Est. 25 Minutes)

A. Nomination of Advisory Board Officers

Mayor Michael Nicholson, Chairman
 Mayor Sam Squailia Vice-Chairman

There were no other nominations made.

B. Approval of MART CFO Signatory Authority

RESOLUTION – Mayor Samantha Squailia of Fitchburg moved that the Advisory Board of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority allows Steven Bliss, CFO to be an authorize signatory on behalf of MART. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Roll Call was done.

Michelle Nadeau (representing Mayor Mazzarella)	Yes
Mayor Samantha Squailia	Yes

Mayor Michael Nicholson	Yes
Kenneth F. Troup (representing Select Board)	Yes
Jan Robbins (representing Select Board)	Yes
Carly Antonellis	Yes
Ryann Brown (representing Select Board)	Yes

- C. FTA Triennial Review – Onsite July 8th thru July 10th
- D. MassDOT Audit Update
Bruno briefed the Board on the above 2 items.
- E. MassDEP Funded Electric Buses Update
Bus should arrive the first week of July.
- F. MassDOT Shared Streets and Spaces Grant Award
MART received \$275,000 to buy 15 bus shelters, to be used across all of MART communities.

VI. Operational Updates (Est. 10 Minutes)

A. Operational Updates:

1. Transit FY24/25 Ten Month Ride/Rev Data Comparison
2. Brokerage FY24/25 Ten Month Ride/Rev Data Comparison

Steve Bliss informed the Board that the transit ridership is up, and the revenue is down because of fair free. On the brokerage side ridership and revenue are up.

B. Fitchburg / Leominster Fixed Route Redesign

Scott Rich informed the Board that since the redesign of the Gardner routes ridership in Gardner has gone up 57%. In Fitchburg/Leominster MART is looking to increase frequency and add more loops.

C. Ayer, Devens, Lancaster, Shirley Microtransit Grant Project

With this grant MART has transported 858 since May 1, 2025. This service benefits people going to work.

VII. Other Business

A. Administrator's Retirement Announcement

Bruno Fisher announced he will retire December 26, 2025. He will work with the mayors to get someone in advance.

B. Items Not Reasonably Anticipated to be Discussed

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:14 a.m.