

**MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY (MART)  
MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 25, 2021  
REMOTELY**

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 10:32 a.m.

**ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: (constituting a quorum)**

Mark Piermarini (Representing Mayor Dean Mazzeola)	Leominster
Patrick Hare (Representing Mayor Stephen DiNatale)	Fitchburg
Mayor Michael Nicholson	Gardner
Dick Maki (representing Selectmen)	Sterling
Kenneth F. Troup (representing Selectmen)	Bolton
Alexandra Turner (representing Selectmen)	Lancaster
Joe Layden (representing Selectmen)	Littleton
Jan Robbins (representing Selectman)	Ashburnham
Jessica Sizer (representing Selectman)	Barre

**ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Robert Pontbriand (representing Selectman)	Ayer
Shaun Suhoski (representing Selectmen)	Athol
Selectperson Heather Billings	Westminster
Joe Layden (representing Selectmen)	Littleton
Corey Harju (representing Selectman)	Ashby
Ryan Ferrara (representing Selectmen)	Boxborough
Tim Bragan (representing Selectman)	Harvard
Ryan McLane (representing Selectmen)	Hubbardston
Roland Hamel (representing Selectmen)	Royalston
Alyson Toole (representing Selectmen)	Stow
Carter Terenzini (representing Selectman)	Templeton
Keith Hickey	Winchendon
Michael-Ray Jeffreys	Lunenburg
No Representative	Shirley
No Representative	Hardwick

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Mohammed Khan, Bruno Fisher, James Sluss, Bonnie Mahoney, Jessica Lashua, Benilda Martinez, Adam Gromelski and Keary Connors.

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

George Kahale	MRPC
Andy Divol	MTS
Melissa L'Ecuyer	MTS
Phil Rocca	MTS

**II. General Comments**

**III. Approval of Minutes from March 2, 2021**

**RESOLUTION-** Dick Maki of Sterling moved that the Advisory Board of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority approves the March 2, 2021 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**IV. Financial Matters**

- A. Status of State Funding
  - 1. SFY21 State Contract Assistance

2. SFY21 JARC Discretionary Grant

Bruno Fisher informed the Board that MART received a grant to extend JARC services to communities around the Fitchburg/Leominster Area. These services will run from 8:00 pm-11:30 pm Monday-Saturday.

3. SFY22 State Contract Assistance – Projected

State budget for RTA's is projected to be \$90.4 million.

**B.** Status of Federal Funding

1. FFY20 / FFY21 Section 5307

MART's portion of Section 5307 funding is \$3.6 million.

2. CARES / CRRSAA / ARPA Stimulus Grants

MART received the following stimulus grants:

CARES \$10.3 million this can be used for capital or operational

CRRSAA \$2.35 million this can be used for operational only

ARPA \$9.2 million no guidance as of yet from the federal government.

3. Discretionary Capital Grants

MART also received the following grants:

Bus grant \$4.5 million bus are ordered awaiting delivery

Fare Collection Grant \$1 million Where's My Bus and APC

Research Grant for contactless payment.

**C.** Finance Committee Update

1. SFY21 Financial Review

James Sluss informed the Board MART will end the year with no surplus and no deficit. MART's budget next year with the new brokerage contract will go from \$100 million to over \$200 million.

2. SFY22 Budget Recommendation

**RESOLUTION- Ken Troup of Bolton moved that the Advisory Board of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority approve the FY2022 budget as presented by the Chief Financial Officer. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

**V. Administrative Matters**

**A.** FY22 – 26 HST Brokerage Contract Update

Bruno stated that the new HST Brokerage Contract will start July 1, 2021.

**B.** Barre Request to Become Member Municipality – Board approval required

Bruno stated that MART received notification that the town of Barre voted to become a member of MART. MassDOT does not have to approve these requests anymore. Communities in the commonwealth can be members of up to 2 RTA's. Barre feels the services that MART can provide are better than the services Barre is getting from WRTA. MART will be meeting with Barre in the near future to find out what services the town needs.

Dick Maki of Sterling asked if Barre joining would change the budget.

Bruno stated that the town decides what they want for services, MART puts together a cost estimate incorporating the local assessment from Barre. Smaller communities have very little impact on the overall budget.

**RESOLUTION- Dick Maki of Sterling moved that the Advisory Board of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority approves to accept the membership of the community of Barre to the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority under Chapter 161b Section 3 of the MGL. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

**C.** Administrator's Retirement Announcement

Mohammed Khan informed the Board that he will be retiring on July 9, 2021 and he recommend that the Board appoint Bruno Fisher as the Interim Administrator.

1. Appointment of Interim Administrator – Board approval required

**RESOLUTION- Ken Troup of Bolton moved that the Advisory Board of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority approves to appoint Bruno Fisher as Interim Administrator. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

## **VI. Operational Updates**

### **A. Transit Operation Update:**

#### 1. Revenue / Ridership Data

Adam Gromelski informed the Board that ridership is down 55% and revenue is down 57%. MART is starting to see a light increase in ridership. Fixed route ridership is at about 70% of pre pandemic ridership.

#### 2. Commuter Rail Schedule Change effective May 3<sup>rd</sup>

MBTA changed Commuter Rail service to hourly effective May 3, 2021.

#### 3. MassDOT Discretionary Operational Grants

COA Grant to regionalize COA services in select communities is making progress. The COA's that participate will share resources to make services more efficient.

MART also received a work force grant for Devens, Ayer and Shirley Area. MART will use vans that are already out in the area to get people to work.

### **B. HST Brokerage Operation Update**

#### 1. Revenue / Ridership Data

## **VII. Other Business**

## **VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:29 a.m.