

**MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY (MART)
MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 2, 2021
REMOTELY**

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:35 a.m.

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: (constituting a quorum)

Mayor Dean Mazzarella	Leominster
Mayor Stephen DiNatale	Fitchburg
Colin Smith (representing Mayor Nicholson)	Gardner
Dick Maki (representing Selectmen)	Sterling
Robert Pontbriand (representing Selectman)	Ayer
Shaun Suhoski (representing Selectmen)	Athol
Kenneth F. Troup (representing Selectmen)	Bolton
Alexandra Turner (representing Selectmen)	Lancaster
Jan Robbins (representing Selectman)	Ashburnham

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Selectperson Heather Billings	Westminster
Jan Robbins (representing Selectman)	Ashburnham
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, Sherry Corcoran, Stephen Oldfield, Adam Gromelski and Keary Connors.

GUESTS PRESENT:

George Kahale MRPC

II. General Comments

III. Approval of Minutes from November 17, 2020

RESOLUTION- Dick Maki of Sterling moved that the Advisory Board of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority approves the November 17, 2020 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

IV. Financial Matters

A. Status of State Funding

Bruno informed the Board that the State is slated to approve \$90.5 million funding for all RTA's.

B. Status of Federal Funding

Bruno informed the Board MART has received 2 sets of stimulus money.

CARES \$10.3 million

CRRSA \$2.3 million

This stimulus money helps to fund any short falls in the budget.

C. Finance Committee Update

James informed the Board that MART has a balanced budget.

RESOLUTION-Mayor Dean Mazzarella of Leominster moved that the Advisory Board of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority approves to accept the Finance Committees report. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

V. Administrative Matters

A. Election of Officers (from previous nominations)

Chairman – Mayor Stephen DiNatale

Vice Chairman – Mayor Dean Mazzarella

i. Floor Nominations

Floor nominations were solicited by the Chairperson and closed. There were none.

ii. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

RESOLUTION-Ken Troup of Bolton moved that the Advisory Board of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority approves to elect Mayor Stephen DiNatale as Chairperson and Mayor Dean Mazzarella as Vice Chairperson. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

B. Update on HST Brokerage Procurement

i. Successful Negotiation and Executed Contract w/ EOHHS

Bruno informed the Board that MART signed the contract with EOHHS on January 6, 2021. The new contract will begin on July 1, 2021.

ii. Stephen Oldfield, Brokerage Executive Director

C. MART's Title VI Program Presentation

Bonnie Mahoney went over changes in MART's Title VI Program. Per FTA rules the program needs to be updated every 3 years.

i. Approval of Service Standards

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

ii. Approval of Title VI Program

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

Mayor Stephen DiNatale authorized Mohammed Khan to sign the approved resolution for him.

VI. Operational Updates

A. Transit Operation Update:

1. Revenue / Ridership Data

Adam Gromelski informed the Board that over all ridership is down 57% and fixed route ridership is down 54%.

2. Commuter Rail Service Reductions

Mohammed informed the Board that MBTA is eliminating weekend service on the commuter rail and reducing some regular service.

B. HST Brokerage Operation Update

1. Revenue / Ridership Data

2. Continuing COVID Impact

VII. Other Business

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.