

**MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY (MART)  
MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 5, 2023  
REMOTELY**

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 10:38 a.m.

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

Michelle Nadeau (representing Mayor)	Leominster
Mayor Stephen DiNatale	Fitchburg
Mayor Michael Nicholson	Gardner
Dick Maki (representing Selectmen)	Sterling
Carly Antonellis (representing Selectman)	Ayer
Adam Lamontagne (representing Selectman)	Templeton
Kelly Dolan (representing Selectmen)	Lancaster
Jan Robbins (representing Selectman)	Ashburnham
Kenneth F. Troup (representing Selectmen)	Bolton

**ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

April Lynn Forest (representing Selectman)	Ashby
Selectperson Aubrey LaBrie	Winchendon
Selectperson Heather Billings	Westminster
Selectperson Deborah D’Amico	Royalston
Joe Layden (representing Selectmen)	Littleton
Ryan Ferrara (representing Selectmen)	Boxborough
Tim Bragan (representing Selectman)	Harvard
Ryan McLane (representing Selectmen)	Hubbardston
Alyson Toole (representing Selectmen)	Stow
Jessica Sizer (representing Selectman)	Barre
Michael-Ray Jeffreys	Lunenburg
Mitchell Grosky (representing Selectmen)	Athol
No Representative	Shirley
No Representative	Hardwick
No Representative	Phillipston

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Bruno Fisher, James Sluss, Scott Rich, Jessica Lashua, and Keary Connors.

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Melissa L’Ecuyer	MTS
Andy Divoll	MTS
Michelle Elissa Glaser	

**Agenda**

**II. General / Public Comments**

**III. Approval of September 26, 2023 Meeting Minutes – Board vote required**

**RESOLUTION- Ken Troup of Bolton moved that the Advisory Board of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority approves the September 26, 2023 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and**

passed unanimously.

Roll Call was done.

Michelle Nadeau (representing Mayor)	yes
Mayor Stephen DiNatale	yes
Mayor Michael Nicholson	yes
Dick Maki	yes
Carly Antonellis	yes
Adam Lamontagne	yes
Kelly Dolan	yes
Jan Robbins	yes
Kenneth F. Troup	yes

#### IV. Financial Updates

##### A. Finance Committee

###### 1. SFY24 Four Month Financial Update

James informed the Board about the increase in subscription pricing and the cost savings associated with janitorial, security and insurance. MART will be doing a second price increase on subscription service at the beginning of the year.

###### 2. Full Year Financial Projection

###### 3. Update: Fare Reduction, Student Fare Free and Free Regional Transfer

###### 4. Proposed Six Month Fare Free Fixed Route / ADA Pilot (MassDOT Fund) – Board vote required

All RTA's received funding to run fare free from January 1, 2024-June 30, 2024. MART is hoping fare free services will increase ridership. The Finance Committee approved to recommend fare free for fixed route and ADA service January 1, 2024-June 30, 2024.

**RESOLUTION- Richard Maki of Sterling moved that the Advisory Board of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority approves for MART to be fare free from January 1, 2024-June 30, 2024. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

Roll Call was done.

Michelle Nadeau (representing Mayor)	yes
Mayor Stephen DiNatale	yes
Mayor Michael Nicholson	yes
Dick Maki	yes
Carly Antonellis	yes
Adam Lamontagne	yes
Kelly Dolan	yes
Jan Robbins	yes
Kenneth F. Troup	yes

###### 5. FY24 COLA Review / Recommendation – Board approval required

James informed the Board that MART is looking at a 2% increase for all employees, this amount has been built into the budget. The Finance Committee approved recommending the acceptance of a COLA of 2% for all employees to the Board.

**RESOLUTION- Mayor Stephen DiNatale of Fitchburg moved that the Advisory Board of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority approves a 2% COLA for all MART employees. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

Roll Call was done.

Michelle Nadeau (representing Mayor)	yes
Mayor Stephen DiNatale	yes
Mayor Michael Nicholson	yes
Dick Maki	yes
Carly Antonellis	yes

Adam Lamontagne	yes
Kelly Dolan	yes
Jan Robbins	yes
Kenneth F. Troup	yes

**B. MassDOT State Funding**

**1. SFY24 State Contract Assistance Funding Increase**

**a. New Service Pilots – Board approval required**

MART has received \$2.4 million funding to start new service pilots. The new pilots will center around increased frequency and Sunday service.

**RESOLUTION- Ken Troup of Bolton moved that the Advisory Board of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority approves MART to run new service pilots which will add Sunday service and increase frequency. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

Roll Call was done.

Michelle Nadeau (representing Mayor)	yes
Mayor Stephen DiNatale	yes
Mayor Michael Nicholson	yes
Dick Maki	yes
Carly Antonellis	yes
Adam Lamontagne	yes
Kelly Dolan	yes
Jan Robbins	yes
Kenneth F. Troup	yes

**2. FFY24 FTA Projected Funding**

MART has received \$5.25 million in Federal Funds.

**V. Administrative Matters**

**A. PTASP Safety Plan Update and Acceptance– Board vote required**

**RESOLUTION- Mayor Stephen DiNatale of Fitchburg moved that the Advisory Board of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority approves the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

**B. Update on Property Acquisition – 27 Antietam St, Devens**

Bruno stated MART did not receive the grant to help perform work on property. MART will now be looking at other facilities to have a depot in the Devens area.

**C. Technical Assistance Planning Grant from MassDOT**

MART was awarded \$100,000 to hire a consultant to look at all of MART’s routes. MART is looking for the consultant to do a comprehensive operational analysis of Gardner, Fitchburg, and Leominster, as well as a transit master plan.

**D. FY24 Additional MassDOT Funding Awards / Opportunities**

**i. Community Transportation Grant Awards**

MART received \$80,000 for better coordination between all council on aging’s. This grant will help the council on aging’s share resources and use a new program called My Senior Center.

**ii. Innovation Grant Applications**

MART also received a grant to update our How to Ride Videos.

**VI. Operational Updates**

**A. Operational Updates:**

**1. Transit FY23/24 Four Month Ride/Rev Data Comparison**

**a. Taxi/Livery Grant Ride Data**

Scott Rich informed the Board that the Taxi/livery grant has done 1800 rides and continues to be a good service.

**b. Community Connections Grant Implementation Plan**

MART will provide shopping shuttles to the towns of Bolton, Littleton, Stow, and Boxborough. Stow will also have a commuter shuttle to the South Acton Train Station.

**2. Brokerage FY23/24 Four Month Ride/Rev Data Comparison**

**VII. Other Business**

**A. Items Not Reasonably Anticipated to be Discussed**

**VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m.