

**MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY (MART)**  
**MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 9, 2025**  
**REMOTELY**

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 10:32 am with a quorum.

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

Michelle Nadeau (representing Mayor Mazzarella)	Leominster
Samantha Squailia	Fitchburg
Mayor Michael Nicholson	Gardner
Kenneth F. Troup (representing Select Board)	Bolton
Jan Robbins (representing Select Board)	Ashburnham
Robert Pontbriand	Ayer
Kathy Black	Seven Hills

**ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

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

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Bruno Fisher, Scott Rich, Steve Bliss, Jessica Lashua, and Josh Vander Baan.

**GUESTS:**

Andy Divoll	MTS
Melissa L'Ecuyer	MTS

**Agenda**

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

Bruno Fisher introduced Steve Bliss MART's new CFO.

Kathy Black from Seven Hills also introduced herself to the Board.

**III. Approval of December 17, 2024 Meeting Minutes – Board vote required**

**RESOLUTION- Ken Troup of Bolton moved that the Advisory Board of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority approves the December 17, 2024 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and passed.**

Roll Call was done.

Michelle Nadeau (representing Mayor Mazzarella)	Yes
Samantha Squailia	Yes
Mayor Michael Nicholson	Yes
Kenneth F. Troup (representing Select Board)	Yes
Jan Robbins (representing Select Board)	Yes
Robert Pontbriand	Yes

#### **IV. Financial Updates (Est. 20 minutes)**

- A.** Finance Committee Updates
  - 1. FY25 Eight Month Financial Update / Full Year Financial Projection
  - 2. FY26 Funding Forecast
    - a. Federal Funding
    - b. State Funding

Bruno informed the Board 5307 Federal Funding looks like it will be level funding for FY2026. State funding for FY2026 looks stable, including funding to continue to be fare free.

Jessica Lashua informed the Board that year to date MART is trending to a balance budget for FY2025.

#### **V. Administrative Matters (Est. 25 Minutes)**

- A.** MassDOT Grant Funded Projects
  - 1. Emerson Hospital Shuttle (Ayer, Shirley & Harvard)
  - 2. Ayer, Shirley & Lancaster Microtransit Service
  - 3. Fitchburg/Leominster Route Redesign

Scott Rich stated that MART has receive funding to grow ride services. Harvard, Ayer, and Shirley can travel to Emerson hospital using the Emerson Shuttle which runs 7 loops a day. Ayer, Devens, Shirley and Lancaster can now use Microtransit service 7 days a week, up to 20 miles into and out of the communities. They can also use this service to connect to MART's fixed bus route. MART is also working on redesign the Fitchburg and Leominster routes to increase frequency.

- B.** FTA Triennial Review

FTA conducts a Triennial Review of all RTA's every 3 years. They check 23 areas for compliance with federal regulations. They will be on site July 8-10, 2025.

- C.** MassDOT Audit

MassDot does a audit mostly of financial controls, processes and procedures. Last time MART was the only RTA to not have any findings.

- D.** MassDEP Funded Electric Buses

- A.** Projected Bus Delivery Date to Gardner
  - Buses should be delivered in late June or early July.
- B.** National Grid Funded Facility Electrical Upgrade  $\approx$  \$338,000
  - MART received a grant to upgrade Gardner facility for the new electric buses.

#### **VI. Operational Updates (Est. 10 Minutes)**

- A.** Operational Updates:
  - 1. Transit FY24/25 Ten Month Ride/Rev Data Comparison
    - Transit ridership 19% increase
  - 2. Brokerage FY24/25 Ten Month Ride/Rev Data Comparison
    - Ridership and revenue are pretty much stable across all services.

#### **VII. Other Business**

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

#### **VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:19 a.m.