

BERKSHIRE REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
MEETING OF THE ADVISORY BOARD

January 26, 2017

4:00 p.m.

BRTA Intermodal Transportation Center

One Columbus Avenue Pittsfield, MA 01201

MINUTES

**Berkshire Regional Transit Authority Advisory Board Members Present:**

William Elovirta, Becket; Mary Cherry, Dalton; Peter Gallant, Lanesborough; Channing Gibson, Lenox; Sandra Lamb, North Adams; Leonard Lipton, Pittsfield; Brian O'Grady, Williamstown; and Douglas McNally, Windsor.

**Berkshire Regional Transit Authority Advisory Board Members Absent:**

Jeff Snoonian, Adams; Timothy Drumm, Alford; Paul Astorino, Cheshire; Carl McKinney, Clarksburg; William Cooke, Gt. Barrington; Bruce Bernstein, Egremont; Glenn Burdick, Florida; Laurel Schialabba, Hinsdale; Thomas Wickham, Lee; Carol Edelman, Monterey; Jim Lovejoy, Mount Washington; Robert Sarnacki, Otis; Gary Stergis, Peru; Alan Hanson, Richmond; Andrew Peterson, Sheffield; Ernest Cardillo, Stockbridge; Mike Case, Washington; and Vacant Disability Representative

Also present: Robert Malnati and Lisa Parise - BRTA staff; Kirk Dand and Corey Gagnon - BTM; Anjua- BCPC; and Patti Annechiarico.

	Voting Shares	Present	
Adams	2.18	0.00	
Alford	1.00	0.00	
Becket	1.04	1.04	
Cheshire	2.05	0.00	
Clarksburg	1.00	0.00	31.75
Dalton	2.07	2.07	needed for
Egremont	1.00	0.00	quorum
Florida	1.00	0.00	
Great Barrington	3.76	0.00	35.64 present
Hinsdale	1.32	0.00	
Lanesborough	2.68	2.68	
Lee	3.90	0.00	
Lenox	3.18	3.18	
Monterey	1.00	0.00	
Mt. Washington	1.00	0.00	
North Adams	4.48	4.48	
Otis	1.00	0.00	
Peru	1.00	0.00	
Pittsfield	18.86	18.86	
Richmond	1.01	0.00	
Sheffield	1.02	0.00	
Stockbridge	2.62	0.00	
Washington	1.00	0.00	
Williamstown	2.33	2.33	
Windsor	1.00	1.00	

1) **ROLL CALL**

Meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM.

2) **MINUTES OF OCTOBER 27, 2016- MEETING- VOTE**

Mr. Lipton made the motion to accept the minutes of the October 27, 2016 meeting and Ms. Cherry seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

3) **ADMINISTRATORS REPORT**

**HST**

Mr. Malnati explained the HST auditors were on site December 7, 2016. The audit revealed BRTA was compliant in all but 1 area and successfully implemented a Corrective Action Plan to correct the issue before the final report was completed.

**LEGISLATIVE OUTREACH**

Mr. Malnati mentioned the BRTA will be hosting a meeting with the Legislative Delegation to discuss the future of Transportation on Monday, January 30, 2017 at 10 AM. All four representatives and the Senator are scheduled to appear.

Mr. Malnati invited the entire board to attend this meeting.

**GREYHOUND**

Greyhound bus lines reached out to the BRTA on January 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss the proposed bus route between Albany, NY and Boston starting in late February. We have only received a draft schedule showing the bus leaving Albany at 6 AM, arriving at the ITC at 7, then onto Boston. The return trip leaves Boston at 2PM arriving at the ITC at 5:45 PM, then onto Albany. Greyhound has still not released fare information, but stated it would be competitive to Peter Pan's rates. Additional revenue from daily docking fees and ticket commissions would assist BRTA's operating budget. Once the contract with the details is delivered, BRTA legal will review before executing.

**FEDERAL**

Mr. Malnati stated the Triennial Review will be conducted on March 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. The required response documents were sent to the reviewing company on December 16, 2016. The review currently examines 17 areas. In addition to helping evaluate grantees, the review gives FTA an opportunity to provide technical assistance on FTA requirements and aids FTA in reporting to the Secretary, Congress, other oversight agencies, and the transit community on the Urbanized Area Formula Program.

## **NEW FUNDING**

Mr. Malnati stated the BRTA is one of three RTAs eligible to receive Small Urban Federal 5339 funding for capital items. These funds will be administered through the state similar to the way they distributed Rural 5311 funds. BRTA will receive the first allocation of funding. The projected amount of funding is \$500,000, but that has not been finalized.

The BRTA is researching the viability of purchasing zero emission buses for the next round of large bus replacements.

## **4) CASH REPORTS FOR SEPTEMBER THROUGH DECEMBER 2016- VOTE**

Mr. O'Grady made the motion to accept the cash reports for September through December 2016 and Mr. McNally seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

## **5) BUS ROUTE 7 & 40 ELIMINATED- VOTE**

Mr. Malnati explained BRTA will be eliminate the Route 7 & 40 service on February 10, 2017. The Route 7 service currently services US Route 7 all the way into Williamstown and the route 40 services the Berkshire Mall on Friday nights at 9:30 PM. The ridership has been really low for both routes. Funding for the Route 7 bus from Williams College was reduced \$12, 000 compared to last year coupled with the loss of \$125,000 in Federal Job Access Reverse Commute funds. Customers will still be able to get to Williamstown. They would have to take the Route 1 Bus to Wal-Mart in North Adams, transfer to the Route 34 to Main Street in North Adams, and transfer to the Route 3 to Williamstown.

Public notices will be put in all of the buses making the customers aware that the service will be ending.

Mr. McNally made the motion to eliminate the Route 7 & 40 bus service on February 10, 2017. Mr. Gibson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

## **6) BUDGET YTD**

Mr. Malnati gave an overview of the budget through November. Revenue is down due to the 8.51% drop in ridership. Expenses are in line after allowing for the grant activity, pension, and paratransit startup costs.

## **7) RIDERSHIP YTD**

Mr. Malnati gave an overview if the ridership compared to FY 16.  
Total Ridership is down 7.88%  
Fixed Route is down 8.51% or 21,260 customer trips.  
Paratransit is down 2.96% or 935 customer trips.

The combination Route 1 and Route 34 ridership is up 7% for December compared to the combination Route 1, Route 31, and Route 33 for November. The combined Route 12 and Route 14 ridership is up 3.5% for December compared to November. The

overall ridership for December as down 2% compared to November. The schedule adjustments made at the end of November had a positive effect on ridership to the areas served by the changes.

**8) OLD BUSINESS**

None discussed

**9) NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Malnati reported the Governor's budget contained \$80 million for the RTAs. The RTAs are supposed to receive an increase each year to \$86.2 million for FY18 but have been level funded.

The Governor signed a bill that would allow a community to be a member of 2 RTAs provided they are adjoining and the second RTA voted to allow membership.

The Department of Justice performed a site visit to make sure BRTA was ADA assessable. BRTA was compliant except for a missing grab bar in one of the stalls in the downstairs bathroom. This missing bar has already been reinstalled and the issue is closed.

The new Weighted Voting Share Sheet were distributed and will be used for the quorum calculations for the next year. The weights are based upon the Net Cost of Service calculation performed after the audited financial statements are completed.

**10) NEXT MEETING DATE/TIME**

March 23, 2017 at 4:00 PM

**11) ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Lipton made the motion to adjourn and Mr. Elovita seconded the motion.