

BERKSHIRE REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
MEETING OF THE ADVISORY BOARD

April 26, 2018  
4:00 PM  
BRTA Intermodal Transportation Center  
One Columbus Avenue Pittsfield, MA 01201

MINUTES

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

William Elovirta, Becket; William Cooke, Great Barrington; Harvey Drosehn, Hinsdale; Peter Gallant, Lanesborough; Sandra Lamb, North Adams; Sheila Irvin, Pittsfield; and Douglas McNally, Windsor.

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

Erica Girgenti, Adams; Timothy Drumm, Alford; Mark Webber, Cheshire; Carl McKinney, Clarksburg; Bill Drosehn, Dalton; Bruce Turner, Egremont; Neil Olsen, Florida; Steve Moritz, Lee; Channing Gibson, Lenox; Kenneth Basler, Monterey; Jim Lovejoy, Mount Washington; Jason Jayko, New Ashford; William Hiller, Otis; Caleb Mitchell, Peru; Alan Hanson, Richmond; Nadine Hawver, Sheffield; Donald Chabon, Stockbridge; and Richard Grillon, Washington; Brian O’Grady, Williamstown

Also, present: Robert Malnati, Sarah Vallieres, and Bridget Keegan - BRTA staff; Kirk Dand and Eli Grenier – BTM; Patti Annechiarico; Devin O’Neil; Anuja Koirola, BRPC; Jonathan Levine, Pittsfield Gazette; and Amanda Drane, Berkshire Eagle.

	Voting Shares	Present	
Adams	2.18	0.00	
Alford	1.00	0.00	
Becket	1.05	1.05	
Cheshire	2.12	0.00	
Clarksburg	1.00	0.00	33.00
Dalton	2.12	2.12	needed for
Egremont	1.00	0.00	quorum
Florida	1.00	0.00	
Great Barrington	3.82	0.00	33.91 present
Hinsdale	1.29	1.29	
Lanesborough	2.87	2.87	
Lee	3.82	0.00	
Lenox	3.21	0.00	
Monterey	1.00	0.00	
Mt. Washington	1.00	0.00	
New Ashford	1.00	0.00	
North Adams	4.93	4.93	
Otis	1.00	0.00	
Peru	1.00	0.00	
Pittsfield	18.95	18.95	
Richmond	1.02	0.00	
Sheffield	1.02	0.00	
Stockbridge	2.72	0.00	
Washington	1.00	0.00	
Williamstown	2.88	2.88	
Windsor	1.00	1.00	
Disability Community	1.00	0.00	

1) **ROLL CALL**

Meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM.

2) **MINUTES OF MARCH 29, 2018 MEETING- VOTE**

Mr. McNally made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 29, 2018 meeting.

Mr. Gallant seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

3) **ADMINISTRATOR`S REPORT**

Mr. Malnati stated that he found out today (April 26<sup>th</sup>) that the State House has put in their budget. Mr. Malnati stated that there was an amendment filed collectively for the RTAs at 88 million. The amendment was not accepted. The state released the budget of 80 million with an additional 2 million to be used for RTAs to split who were under budget. Which put BRTA back at an 80-million-dollar budget. 99 representatives out of 160 signed the amendment for the budget increase. Mr. Malnati stated they would be putting together a letter signed by other administrators of the RTA's as well as board members expressing their disappointment given the fact that there was a lot of support for an increase. Mr. Malnati stated he was glad the BRTA was proactive with holding their public meeting to receive public comments are to what areas of service would need to be cut back.

Mr. Malnati stated that he received a lot of great input from operators, and stated the operators had suggestions for different routes, and service cuts. Mr. Malnati stated that between now, and next board meeting he and the staff will be compiling a spreadsheet and presentation listing the projects or possible choice of service cuts.

Mr. Malnati stated that any changed done to the routes, would have an effective date of around September 2<sup>st</sup>, 2018. This way the schedules could be re-done and some education of the new services would be available. Mr. Malnati stated that they would still be receiving comments from the public for the rest of April.

Mr. Malnati stated that the BRTA sent an application in last fall for discretionary 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities grant program. They received notification that BRTA would receive funding for two replacement Gillig buses, replacing the 2007 vintage 35' buses. They are set to arrive in FY 20. BRTA also received word from MassDOT will fund to replace two 2010 minibuses operating today. These two vehicles are set to arrive in June.

Mr. Malnati stated that the Design Thinking Project is still meeting to discuss alternative means of transportation for first mile, last mile and express routes connecting Williamstown to Greta Barrington.

4) **PUBLIC MEETING – VOTE**

Mr. Malnati stated that he would like a vote to go forward and compile information received from the public meetings and create scenarios. Mr. Gallant made a motion to accept, the Public Meeting vote and Mr. Cooke seconded the motion which passes unanimously.

Mr. McNally raised a question about seeing a model of the suggested route changes, before the next meeting rather than the date of next meeting to give the board members

some time to review the possible changes. Mr. Malnati stated that over the next two weeks he would be able to send something out for review.

**5) CASH REPORTS FOR MARCH 2018 - VOTE**

Mr. Elovirta made a motion to accept the cash reports for March 2018. Mr. Gallant seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**6) BUDGET YTD**

Mr. Malnati stated the fixed route fares were 8% below budget, but that when the weather becomes better we will see more ridership back. Paratransit fares were up. For fringe benefits the budget was showing over, as health insurance costs increased. Over all the budget was showing as being under \$4,500. On the HST side we are over on the budget for income and over for expenses.

**7) RIDERSHIP YTD**

Mr. Malnati stated the currently though March our total ridership is up over 1 percent. Paratransit is over almost 3 percent. ADA trips are up almost 2000 from last year, and the non-ADA were up 600. Route 34 carried the most wheelchairs. Mr. Malnati stated that the HST trips are higher compared to last year.

**8) OLD BUSINESS**

Ms. Lamb reminded the group that next month there will be an election for officers of the Advisory Board at the next meeting. If there is anyone interested please let Ms. Lamb or Mr. Malnati know. Ms. Lamb stated that some interest for the positions has been shown.

**9) NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Lamb stated that Mr. Malnati's three-year contract has ended. He met with the finance meeting last week where his goals and expectations were discussed. It was agreed upon renewing a three-year contract with Mr. Malnati as Administrator with no salary increase this year. This will be reviewed next year. Mr. Drosehn asked Mr. Malnati if he was okay with this and good help is hard to find. Mr. Malnati replied that he was happy with the contract renewal and enjoys his position as administrator.

Mr. Malnati stated that he received an email from Beth Ann at Senator Hines office, inquiring about the Town of Chester. The town is apparently unhappy with the service their RTA in their county has been providing them. There is new legislation that states the Town of Chester could become a member of the BRTA, if the board votes to allow them.

**10) NEXT MEETING DATE/TIME**

May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 4:00PM.

**11) ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Drosehn made the motion to adjourn and Ms. Irving seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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