

BERKSHIRE REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
MEETING OF THE ADVISORY BOARD

May 19, 2016
4:00 p.m.
BRTA Intermodal Transportation Center
One Columbus Avenue Pittsfield, MA 01201

MINUTES

Berkshire Regional Transit Authority Advisory Board Members Present:

Jeffrey Snoonian, Adams; William Elovirta, Becket; William Cooke, Gt. Barrington; Peter Gallant, Lanesborough; Sandra Lamb, North Adams; Leonard Lipton, Pittsfield; Brian O'Grady, Williamstown; and Douglas McNally, Windsor.

Berkshire Regional Transit Authority Advisory Board Members Absent:

Lucy Prashker, Alford; Mark Webber, Cheshire; Carl McKinney, Clarksburg; Mary Cherry, Dalton; Bruce Bernstein, Egremont; Glenn Burdick, Florida; Jeanne Carmel, Hinsdale; Marianne Somes (Disability Representative), Lanesborough; Ronald Giancola, Lee; Ed Lane, Lenox; Steven Weisz, Monterey; Jim Lovejoy, Mount Washington; Donald Hawley, Otis; Gary Stergis, Peru; Alan Hanson, Richmond; Nadine Hawver, Sheffield; Stephen Shatz, Stockbridge; and Mike Case, Washington.

Also present: Robert Malnati, Sarah Vallieres and Lisa Parise - BRTA staff; Kirk Dand and Doug Roelfs- BTM; Jonathan Levine- Pittsfield Gazette; and Patti Annechiarico.

	Voting Shares	Present	
Adams	2.18	2.18	
Alford	1.00	0.00	
Becket	1.04	1.04	
Cheshire	2.05	0.00	
Clarksburg	1.00	0.00	31.75 shares
Dalton	2.07	0.00	needed for
Egremont	1.00	0.00	quorum
Florida	1.00	0.00	
Great Barrington	3.76	3.76	36.33 present
Hinsdale	1.32	0.00	
Lanesborough	2.68	2.68	
Lee	3.90	0.00	
Lenox	3.18	0.00	
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	
Disability Community	1.00	0.00	

1) **ROLL CALL**

Meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM.

2) **MINUTES OF APRIL 7, 2016- MEETING- VOTE**

Mr. Gallant made the motion to accept the minutes of the April 7, 2016 meeting.
Mr. Lipton seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

3) **ADMINISTRATORS REPORT**

STATE

The House followed the Governor's draft budget pertaining to the RTAs, the adjusted to \$81 million funding level. Amendment 580 looks to restore the funding level to \$84.1 million as presented in the Transportation Finance Framework in 2015. It is proposed the Senate will release their version this week to allow enough time for debate before the Memorial Day recess. Contracts have been distributed from MassDOT at \$80 million level; with a proposed amendment should additional funding be approved. Depending upon the compromised level of the override, BRTA could receive an additional \$127,748.

FEDERAL

Several Notices of Funding opportunity have been issued since April with application deadlines in May and July. The BRTA will or has submitted applications for:

- **LoNo Bus** for 5 low or No emission full size vehicles
- **Bus and Bus Facilities** for a satellite in North County. **Rides to Wellness** for operational funds to expand upon VTCLI and COA transportation
- **Mobility on Demand** for seamless and equitable mobility options for all travelers

The grant applications include letters of support from stakeholders, the legislative delegation, and local interest groups.

PARATRANSIT TRANSITION

The new First Transit sub corporation performing the management and operation of the paratransit service is "Paratransit Management of Berkshire". They have been interviewing candidates for the various positions and assembling policy and procedure manuals for the ramp up to the service start date of July 1, 2016. Mr. Mainati discussed that flyer would be distributed to current customers detailing the new service phone numbers and County would remind customers on the vehicle as well. As of July 1, 2016 the phone number will change to 413-499-2782 ext. 3.

4) **CASH REPORTS FOR MARCH 2016- VOTE**

Mr. O'Grady made the motion to accept the cash reports for March 2016.
Mr. Elovirta seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

5) **BUDGET YTD**

Mr. Malnati gave an overview on the budget through March. He spoke about the possibility of a trial midyear implementation of extended service hours based upon the CSA, dependent upon BRTA's funding level. BRTA, along with its Operating Company, is investigating the possibility of later evening service for the Pittsfield circulator route, and redesign North Adams routes 1, 3, 31, and 33. This would be a 6 month process and need to go out to public comment prior to commencement.

Mr. Malnati explained that we are ahead in passenger fares. ADA tickets are higher than years past but that's because customers are using the lower cost tickets. Advertising is ahead in revenue because there was money left over from the previous year.

6) **RIDERSHIP YTD**

Mr. Malnati gave an overview on the Ridership through April. Paratransit has gone down from last year. Fixed Route is up 2%, HST Brokerage is up 21%, Bikes are up 27.81% and Wheelchairs are up 15.18%.

7) **BUDGET FY17- VOTE**

The Finance Committee met on May 12, 2016 to review the proposed budget which the Advisory Board voted on at today's meeting. The proposed FY 17 budget highlights include: no fare increase; a trial midyear implementation of extended service hours based upon CSA; a 2% staff salary increase; and reduced operating budget for Fixed Route and paratransit operations due to lower fuel costs. The Finance Committee made the recommendation for the Advisory Board to accept this balanced budget. Mr. Malnati provided an overview of the budget to the Board.

The HST budget was not voted on as this is a stand-alone budget and the state did not provide their necessary amounts. The draft was included in the board packet and BRTA will reissue the HST budget with the actuals at the next board meeting.

Mr. Malnati stated we currently have a new tenant next door. We have a contract with them for a 5 year period.

Mr. Gallant made a motion to accept the FY17 Budget. Mr. Lipton seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

8) **ELECTION OF OFFICERS- VOTE**

Mr. Malnati stated that it was time to vote for Election of Officers. The board agreed to keep the same officers that they currently have in place, in their same positions. Mr. Gallant nominated Ms. Lamb as Chairman. Mr. Snoonian made the motion and Mr. Lipton seconded. Mr. Snoonian nominated Mr. Gallant for Vice-Chairman, both of which passed unanimously.

9) **OLD BUSINESS**

None discussed

10) NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Snoonian asked if we had any bus shelters available, and what the process would be to get a shelter put into place in Adams. Mr. Malnati stated that we do currently have some shelters available, and Mr. Dand would coordinate something with Mr. Snoonian to try and put that in place.

After the suggestion of BRTA customers, the Route 4 bus now goes down Springside Ave instead of going down Tyler Street, at no additional cost. The Route 3 bus is now turning into Big Y after conversations with Mayor Alcombright regarding the closure of Price Chopper.

Effective June 30, 2016 The Route 7 & Route 3 Special will be ending.

11) NEXT MEETING DATE/TIME

September 29, 2016 at 4:00 PM

12) ADJOURMENT

Mr. Gallant made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Elovirta seconded the motion.