

Berkshire Regional Transit Authority
Finance/Audit Committee Virtual Meeting

April 15, 2021 at 10 AM
BRTA Intermodal Transportation Center
One Columbus Avenue, Pittsfield, MA 01201

Berkshire Regional Transit Authority Finance/Audit Committee Members present:

Sheila Irvin, Pittsfield and Doug McNally, Windsor
Also present: Robert Malnati and Sarah Vallieres.

1. **Approval of Minutes for March 17, 2021 -VOTE**

The Finance Committee members reviewed the minutes of March 17 meeting. S. Irvin made the motion to accept the minutes, was seconded by D. McNally, and approved by all.

2. **FY 22 Draft Budget Assumptions-Bob**

Administrator Malnati discussed the FY 22 draft budget. The House's budget is currently at \$90.5M, with \$3.5M for discretionary grants. Rep. Peake is looking for support to amend this to a \$94M line item for operational expenses, as the FY 21 discretionary grants were just awarded. The Senate will prepare their budget next.

Rep. Peake sent a letter to the Governor with 78 signatures to set aside the HST contract for a two-year moratorium. This would allow for the recommendation of the RTA Task Force to meet with HHS, HST, DOT, and the RTAs. This large service area will be an issue to help the most vulnerable of MassHealth clients. The HST manager has left for another job offer and S. Vallieres will fill in the interim. HST has agreed to a 2-month contract of \$21K for staff to close out the HST program should this be needed.

Administrator Malnati explained the process regarding the decision on merging BTM and PMB under one sub-corporation. There will some economies of scale and a letter was sent to the Shop Steward. There was a preliminary review of BTM's budget and a discussion around the potential of the Teamster's health insurance increasing. BRTA and BTM are looking at various scenarios.

3. **Ridership Review**

Administrator Malnati shared the ridership from March 2021. The fixed route had over 29,000 riders; more than February's ridership of 23,000. As of March, BRTA is up to 63% of FY 20 pre-pandemic levels compared to 61% through February. Forecasting similar monthly ridership shows the BRTA fixed route ridership at 75% by the end of the year. The evening service is doing well, whereas Paratransit remains steady at 50% of normal service level.

4. **Old Business**

No Old Business.

5. **New Business**

No New Business.

6. **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be May 13, 2021 at 9:30 AM.