

Berkshire Regional Transit Authority
Finance/Audit Committee

November 29, 2023

In Person

BRTA Boardroom, 2nd Floor, 1 Columbus Avenue, Pittsfield, MA

Berkshire Regional Transit Authority Finance/Audit Committee Members present:

Sandra Lamb, North Adams; Sheila Irvin, Pittsfield, and Doug McNally, Windsor.

Also present: Robert Malnati and Sarah Vallieres, BRTA.

R. Malnati called the Finance/Audit Committee meeting to order at 10:07 AM.

1. **Approval of Minutes for September 21, 2023 -VOTE**

The Finance Committee members reviewed the minutes of the September 21, 2023 meeting. D. McNally made the motion to accept the minutes, was seconded by S. Irvin, and was approved by all.

Town	1) Minutes of September 21, 2023
North Adams	Yes
Pittsfield	Yes
Windsor	Yes

2. **FY 24 Fare Free Event**

R. Malnati discussed the Fare Free Event from Black Friday through December 31, 2023. Signage has been put up and on Friday's we will update the Try Transit Thermometer poster at the ITC and BTM, which will be posted on Facebook. Ridership has already increased and has been a positive response. The buses will also be fare free June-July 2024. BTM has reached an agreement with the union to hire part-time drivers and has hired 2 so far. BRTA and BTM is also working on a contingency plan for evening routes and will bring before the Advisory Board tomorrow. R. Malnati will be asking the Board to authorize up to \$275K for Phase 2. The Phase 1 cost is \$168K.

Discussion:

North Adams COA is providing rides to bus stops to ride the bus for free. This has been received positively. Reach out to the Berkshire Eagle about this to see if they will run a story.

3. **FY 24 RTA Funding Update**

The contract has been signed but BRTA hasn't received the funding yet. It will be forthcoming. The Fair Share amount and the true up from the Governor's budget is just under \$1.4M for BRTA. Some of the projects using this funding are the evening service and solar lighting for shelters and some bus stops. 2 kits were purchased from a few companies as a test. More lighting will be purchased once a vendor is determined. BRTA is also looking at the condition of the bus shelters. MassDOT's \$15M discretionary grant's application deadline has been extended into January. BRTA, PVTA, and FRTA will have a joint application to connect these 3 transit authorities. This project checks all of the boxes for the grant application including interconnectivity and rural transportation. There are 2 potential projects: BRTA, PVTA, and FRTA via route 9, Pittsfield to North Hampton and BRTA and FRTA via route 116, North Adams to Greenfield. This application is still in the research phase and more information will be shared.

Discussion:

Question on the Dailey Ave., Dalton bus shelter. BRTA will be removing it for now.

Recommendation to discuss the grant application project with the local selectboards.

4. **Discussion Administrator Contract Extension**

R. Malnati asked the Finance Committee to enter Executive Session for the purpose of conducting strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel. D. McNally made the motion to move to Executive Session, was seconded by S. Irvin, and was approved by all. The Finance Committee meeting will adjourn from Executive Session. The next meeting will be determined after the new year.

Town	Move to Executive Session
North Adams	Yes
Pittsfield	Yes
Windsor	Yes

The Finance Committee meeting adjourned at 10:26 AM and went into Executive Session.

Meeting Materials

- **BRTA Finance/Audit Committee Agenda**
- **BRTA Finance/Audit Committee Minutes- September 21, 2023**