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Berkshire Regional Transit Authority
Finance/Audit Committee

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March 5, 2025
Virtual Meeting

Berkshire Regional Transit Authority Finance/Audit Committee Members present:
Doug McNally, Windsor; Sandra Lamb, North Adams; and Brian O'Grady, Williamstown.
Also present: Robert Malnati and Sarah Vallieres, BRTA.

R. Malnati called the Finance/Audit Committee meeting to order at 10:06 AM.

1. **Approval of Minutes for September 26, 2024-VOTE**
   The Finance Committee members reviewed the minutes of the September 26, 2024 meeting. D. McNally made the motion to accept the minutes, was seconded by S. Lamb, and was approved by all.

2. **Approval of Minutes for January 30, 2025-VOTE**
   The Finance Committee members reviewed the minutes of the January 30, 2025 meeting. D. McNally made the motion to accept the minutes, was seconded by B. O'Grady, and was approved with S. Lamb abstaining.

3. **Fare Free Non-ADA Communities Discussion**
   R. Malnati discussed the Fare Free grant funding that was award by the State for both fixed route and complementary ADA services. Non-ADA services, in communities without fixed route buses, costs $7.50 base and $2.50 for every town they travel through. If BRTA does not collect a fare for these non-ADA services, riders may try the service and may increase ridership for people who may find this service to be too expensive. He would like to have Non-ADA services fare free from April-June. BRTA needs a recommendation from the Finance Committee, before this can be a voteable item at the Advisory Board meeting. There is an additional $7000 in the FY 25 budget from a COA that is no longer part of the 5310 program and this funding has not been redistributed. This could offset the funding for this program.
   Discussion:
   S. Lamb and B. O'Grady agreed that this would be a great opportunity for better access for people to use this service. D. McNally shared that BRTA truly becomes county-wide, and letting residents know what BRTA offers. He did note to market this with the COAs but also to let the Berkshire Legislative Delegation know about this service.

4. **Fare Free Non-ADA Communities-VOTE**
   D. McNally made a motion for the BRTA Finance Committee to recommend to the BRTA Advisory Board, pilot fare free Non-ADA transportation to member towns. Sandy seconded the motion and was approved by all.

5. **FY26 Funding Update**
   R. Malnati updated the Finance Committee that work has commenced on the FY26 budget. The Governor's budget is level funded, which is a cut for BRTA. He has met with both Rep. Farley-Bouvier and the Berkshire Legislative Delegation about funding. The Federal apportionment has not posted the funding level. BRTA will presume a similar amount to last year, which included a $500,000 reduction due to the 2020 Census. There are a lot of unknowns with Federal funding and uncertainty about the slow downs that have impacted project approvals at the Federal level. He has a meeting with Rep. Farley-Bouvier that may provide more insight on the State funding level.
   Discussion:

D. McNally shared at the BRTA and Berkshire Legislative Delegation meeting, Rep. Barret spoke positively about BRTA projects and work. Also, the entire Delegation was upstate at the State funding of the RTAs and the increase and focus on the MBTA. R. Malnati noted that BRTA relies heavily on their support.

6. **Next Meeting**
TBA- if there are updates prior to the March Advisory Board meeting, may meet prior to the meeting. Otherwise meet before the Advisory Board meeting in April.

7. **Adjournment**
D. McNally made the motion to adjourn the BRTA Finance Committee at 10:23 AM, was seconded by S. Lamb and was approved by all.

Meeting Materials
- **BRTA Finance/Audit Committee Agenda**
- **BRTA Finance/Audit Committee Packet**

	Minutes 9/26/24	Minutes 1/30/25	Fare Free Non-ADA Communities	Adjournment
North Adams	Yes	Abstain	Yes	Yes
Williamstown	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Windsor	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes