

# BERKSHIRE REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE ADVISORY BOARD

April 24, 2025

4:00 PM

BRTA Intermodal Transportation Center, Second Floor Board Room, 1 Columbus Avenue, Pittsfield, MA 01201

## ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

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

William Elovirta, Becket; Mary Reilly, Lanesborough; Frank Abbott, Monterey; Sherri Youngkin, New Ashford; Stuart Lawrence, New Marlborough; Sandra Lamb, North Adams; Mayor Peter Marchetti, Pittsfield; Jamie Minacci, Stockbridge; Brian O'Grady, Williamstown; and Douglas McNally, Windsor. Ray Killeen, Cheshire arrived during the Micro Transit Presentation.

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

Sarah Fontaine, Adams; Bruce Schreiber, Alford; Jeff Levanos, Clarksburg; John Boyle, Dalton; Melanie Vicneire, Egremont; Neil Olsen, Florida; Benjamin Elliott, Great Barrington; Sherman Derby, Sr., Hancock; Raymond Huntoon, Hinsdale; Andrea Wadsworth, Lee; Mindi Morin, Lenox; Brian Tobin, Mt. Washington; Brandi Page, Otis; Terry Walker, Peru; Alan Hanson, Richmond; Justin Kaczowski, Savoy; Nadine Hawver, Sheffield; Michael Case, Washington; Andrew Potter, West Stockbridge; and Brian Morrison, Rider Representative.

**Also, present:** Robert Malnati, Sarah Vallieres, and Barbara White, BRTA; Accem Scott, Ben Hansen, and Bobby Quintos, BTM; Patti Annechiarico; Anuja Koirola and Clete Kus, BRPC; Breanna Steele, iBerkshires; Cathy Carchedi, PDC

	Voting Shares	Present	
Adams	2.76	0.00	
Alford	1.00	0.00	
Becket	1.08	1.08	
Cheshire	3.66	3.66	
Clarksburg	1.00	0.00	38.5000 needed for quorum.
Dalton	2.47	0.00	40.05 when called to order.
Egremont	1.02	0.00	43.71 during Micro-transit presentation.
Florida	1.00	0.00	
Great Barrington	3.69	0.00	
Hancock	1.00	0.00	
Hinsdale	1.29	0.00	
Lanesborough	2.29	2.29	
Lee	3.55	0.00	
Lenox	4.42	0.00	
Monterey	1.02	1.02	
Mt. Washington	1.00	0.00	
New Ashford	1.07	1.07	
New Marlborough	1.00	1.00	
North Adams	6.15	6.15	
Otis	1.00	0.00	
Peru	1.04	0.00	
Pittsfield	20.93	20.93	
Richmond	1.00	0.00	
Savoy	1.00	0.00	
Sheffield	1.05	0.00	
Stockbridge	2.95	2.95	
Washington	1.00	0.00	
West Stockbridge	1.00	0.00	
Williamstown	2.52	2.52	
Windsor	1.04	1.04	
Rider Representative	1.00	0.00	
Disability Community	1.00	0.00	

**1) ROLL CALL**

D. McNally called the Advisory Board Meeting to order at 4:00 PM stating this meeting will be recorded for the purposes of the notes of the Board Minutes. He mentioned the May meeting is an important one as it will include a vote to approve the BRTA FY26 Budget. Please verify your attendance to ensure a quorum is met.

**2) ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

R. Malnati shared the House mirrored the Governor's FY2026 budget with the RTAs level funded, which was released on April 16. The Senate's budget will be finalized at the end of May. On Friday, Reps. Blais and Farley-Bouvier crafted an amendment to add \$13M to the \$204M collective RTAs line. \$3M would be an inflation factor and an additional \$10M from the fare share funding for fare free programs. FY25's budget for the fare free programs was \$30M with 13 out of 15 RTAs participated in the program. FY26 will have \$40M for all RTAs with year-round fare free potentials. The House leans more toward the MBTA. The Senate leans more to the RTA's. R. Malnati reminded everyone that the May Advisory Board Meeting will include a vote for BRTA's FY26 Budget, the election of the Advisory Board Officers, and future meeting dates.

**3) MINUTES OF MARCH 27, 2025- MEETING VOTE**

B. O'Grady made a motion to accept the minutes of March 27, 2025, and M. Reilly seconded the motion. The minutes of March 27, 2025 meeting was approved with the abstentions of S. Youngkin and B. Elovirta.

**4) CASH REPORTS MARCH 2025- VOTE**

B. O'Grady made a motion to accept the cash reports for March 2025 and M. Reilly seconded the motion. All stated aye and the March 2025 Cash Reports were unanimously passed.

**5) BUDGET YTD**

Mr. Malnati provided an overview of the Budget YTD through March. BRTA is \$30,000 over budget in fare revenue after adjustment for the fare free dollars. Federal fund draws have been occurring and have been available. Utilities are under budget \$2,500; interest expense is under Budget by \$8,000. Fixed Route and Paratransit are under Budget. BRTA is over in income and under in expenses and is in good shape.

**6) RIDERSHIP YTD**

R. Malnati reviewed the Ridership Report and are 9% higher than March of last year. The fixed route in March had a large increase of 50,000 riders compared to 43,000 last year. Paratransit had increased, probably to do with the fare free. Non-ADA transportation started to be fare free April 1. The Route 34 in North Adams has the highest wheelchair transports on the fixed route bus, carrying almost ½ of all wheelchairs. Bikes have leveled off proving that BRTA is providing services where it is needed.

**7) BRPC MICROTRANSIT STUDY PRESENTATION**

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) presented the "BRTA Advisory Board Briefing" for BRPC's Micro-Transit Feasibility Study in consultation with Jessica Klion from Foursquare ITP.

There were questions related to the still developing scenarios including zones, data from South County Connector, and fixed route potential from Great Barrington to Sheffield. The final study will be concluded in the Fall.

D. McNally would like to add this study to the May meeting agenda.

**8) NEXT MEETING DATE/TIME MAY 22, 2025@ 4PM**

**9) ADJOURNMENT**

J. Minacci made a motion to adjourn, and S. Lawrence seconded the motion. All stated aye and the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.

**MEETING MATERIALS**

BRTA Advisory Board Packet

BRPC Micro-transit "BRTA Advisory Board Briefing" handout

<b>Town</b>	<b>3) Minutes of March 27, 2025 Meeting-VOTE</b>	<b>4) Cash Reports for March 2025- VOTE</b>	<b>9) Adjournment</b>
Becket	Abstained	Yes	Yes
Cheshire	-	-	Yes
Lanesborough	Yes	Yes	Yes
Monterey	Yes	Yes	Yes
New Ashford	Abstained	Yes	Yes
New Marlborough	Yes	Yes	Yes
North Adams	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pittsfield	Yes	Yes	Yes
Stockbridge	Yes	Yes	Yes
Williamstown	Yes	Yes	Yes
Windsor	Yes	Yes	Yes