



Charles D. Baker, Governor
Karyn E. Polito, Lieutenant Governor
Stephanie Pollack, MassDOT Secretary & CEO
Steve Poftak, General Manager



MINUTES

Meeting of the Fiscal and Management Control Board

January 25, 2021 AT 12:00 P.M.

10 PARK PLAZA, BOSTON, MA

This meeting was held virtually in accordance with the Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law issued by Governor Baker on March 12, 2020.

Members participated remotely and had materials provided to them prior to the meeting. Public participation and comment occurred via written communication, voice message and live public comment through conference call.

This meeting was live streamed.

BOARD MEMBERS

PARTICIPATING REMOTELY:

Chairman Joseph Aiello, Vice-Chair Monica Tibbits-Nutt, Director Brian Lang, Director Chrystal Kornegay, and Director Tim Sullivan

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

Others Present and/or Participating for Various Portions of the Meeting:

General Manager Steve Poftak, Secretary Stephanie Pollack, Acting Secretary Jamey Tesler, Deputy General Manager Jeff Gonnevillie, Deputy Director of Stakeholder Engagement Hope Patterson, Chief Mechanical Officer Steve Hicks, Undersecretary for Climate Change at the Executive Office of Energy & Environment, David Ismay, Senior Director of Rail Transformation Alistair Sawers, Chief Financial Officer Mary Ann O'Hara, Chief of Operations Strategy, Policy & Oversight Kat Benesh, Transportation Program Planner Scott Hamwey, Transportation Program Planner Caroline Vanasse, Chief of Green Line Transformation Angel Peña, Chief of Red and Orange Line Transformation Maysoon Tawfik, Chief Engineer Eric Stoothoff, Assistant Director of Policy Daniel Sullivan, General Counsel Marie Breen,

Chief Counsel Michelle Kalowski, and Senior Counsel Amy Nash

A. Call to order by the Chairman

Chairman Aiello called the meeting of the Fiscal and Management Control Board to order at 12:04 PM. Senior Counsel Amy Nash called the roll of the Members participating remotely, being a quorum of the Fiscal and Management Control Board:

Chairman Aiello	Yes
Vice-Chair Tibbits-Nutt	Yes
Director Kornegay	Yes
Director Lang	Yes
Director Sullivan	Yes

B. Public Comment

Chairman Aiello began by noting that Secretary Pollack will be leaving MassDOT to accept a position at the Federal Highway Administration. Each of the Directors thanked the Secretary for her service. The Secretary thanked everyone and briefly discussed the progress the MBTA has made under the FMCB's leadership. Chairman Aiello then welcomed Acting Secretary Jamey Tesler, who discussed Secretary Pollack's impact on the organization.

In accordance with the current public health emergency, public comment was taken through an online form, voicemail, email, and regular mail. Written public comments received will be distributed to the Directors as soon as practicable after the meeting.

The Directors listened to public comments left via voicemail:

Jarred Johnson, Executive Director for Transit Matters, objected to service cuts and urged the FMCB to deliver a strong reply to the Decarbonization road map and stated that the transformation items in the agenda need greater community engagement.

Staci Rubin of the Conservation Law Foundation advocated for setting goals in terms of

fleet electrification and for corresponding upgrades to bus facilities.

Caitlin Allen-Connelly, Project Director of A Better City, objected to the MBTA's service cuts in light of the MBTA's total federal funding.

Kate Dineen, Executive Vice President of A Better City, called the decarbonization strategies inadequate and called for increased investment in public transit.

Veena Dhamaraj of the Sierra Club criticized the implementation of the bus transformation office and called for updates on the timeline for electrification of bus and commuter rail.

Mark Liu of the Chinese Progressive Association criticized the decision to devote only \$17 million of the total federal stimulus funds to decreasing service cuts and stated opposition to the Governor's veto of low-income fares.

Mela Miles, Director of Transportation Oriented Development and T Riders Union at Alternatives for Community and Environment, asked that cut services be restored.

Sabrina Davidson of the Coalition for Social Justice said she was saddened by Governor's veto of low-income fares and disappointed by the limited rollback of service cuts.

Richard Prone of the MBTA Advisory Board and Duxbury stated his opposition to the cuts to service to Duxbury.

Garrett Wallman, a Framingham to Cambridge commuter, shared thoughts on necessary upgrades that would improve his commute.

Naftali Poritz encouraged electrification, the use of EMU trains, and increasing the frequency of trips, particularly in the urban core.

Jake Hartz, a Cambridge resident, is excited about adding BEBs but criticized piloting

them on trackless trolley routes.

Graciela, a student at Boston Latin School, said that she disagrees with the use of only \$17 million in federal funding to roll back service cuts.

Sophia, a student at the Boston Student Advisory Council, said that she disagrees with the use of only \$17 million in federal funding to roll back service cuts.

Adam, a student at Boston Public Schools, is disappointed that the MBTA is not using more of the federal stimulus money to roll back service cuts.

Kimaro DeBarros, a T Riders Union Member, said that the service cuts would burden environmental justice communities and that a mode shift would be difficult for these riders.

Louise Baxter of the T Riders Union said that low-income fares have been sacrificed for the sake of “unity” and called the prioritization of low-income communities and minorities.

Susan Backstrom of the T Riders Union stated that Chelsea riders depend on the service.

Olivia Nichols of the T Riders Union and Green Roots said T’s plan to spend only \$17 million on restoring service cuts is unacceptable.

There were no real-time commenters.

C. Approval of Minutes

The next item on the agenda was the approval of the minutes of the December 14th, 2020 FMCB meeting. After a brief discussion about how certain comments made by Director Lang during that meeting were reflected in the minutes, Senior Counsel Amy Nash read the agreed-upon revised language. Chairman Aiello then called for a motion to approve the minutes.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was by roll call:

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the Fiscal Management and Control Board Meeting held on December 14, 2020.

Chairman Aiello	Yes
Vice-Chair Tibbits-Nutt	Yes
Director Lang	Yes
Director Kornegay	Yes
Director Sullivan	Yes

D. Public Schedule

Deputy Director of Stakeholder Engagement Hope Patterson provided an update on the public schedule, noting that there is a presentation of Fare Transformation scheduled for February 8th. The General Manager and Chairman Aiello spoke about efforts to make materials more concise and understandable. Acting Secretary Tesler said he looked forward to working with the team on joint items moving forward.

E. General Manager's Report

General Manager Steve Poftak provided the Report from the General Manager.

Mr. Poftak discussed current Covid-19 cases and the MBTA's safety efforts, encouraging employees to get vaccinated. He reviewed ridership trends and presented a budget update for November. Mr. Poftak provided an overview of the MBTA Capital Program and CIP process, including upcoming FMCB touchpoints.

Director Lang stated that the FMCB needs to think about how to convey these complexities to the public. Chairman Aiello agreed. Mr. Poftak thanked the Directors for the feedback and stated that customers care mainly about outcomes – speed, frequency, and reliability. Director Kornegay echoed the other Directors' comments and said she would appreciate including a specific spending goal in the CIP to advance minority and women-owned businesses and the diversity, equity and inclusion initiative. Chairman Aiello noted

that nearly all the transformation elements extend beyond 5 years and said an informal analysis of the next five years might be helpful.

F. FMCB – Annual Report

The Chairman continued to the next agenda item, the FMCB’s Annual Report, which FMCB members had reviewed prior to the meeting. Director Lang said that this is the first time the report has been concise enough for people to read it and said it is a good report.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was by roll call:

VOTED: to approve the 2020 FMCB Annual Report and further to authorize that the Report be submitted to the Legislature, pursuant to Section 207(b) of Chapter 46 of the Session Laws of 2015.

Chairman Aiello	Yes
Vice-Chair Tibbits-Nutt	Yes
Director Kornegay	Yes
Director Lang	Yes
Director Sullivan	Yes

G. Contract Amendment – Engineering Support for Green Line Reliability Program

Chief Mechanical Officer Steve Hicks reviewed Agenda Item G, a proposed contract amendment with LTK Engineering Services for certain engineering services related to the Green Line Reliability Program. Director Lang asked if staff expect to have “Type 10s” in service by 2030. Mr. Poftak stated that they are expected to be online before 2030 depending on when procurement starts, which is currently scheduled for 2025 at the earliest. Director Lang asked if Type 7s would be replaced, followed by Type 8s. Mr. Hicks responded yes.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was by roll call:

VOTED: That the General Manager, or his designee, be, and hereby is, authorized to execute, in the name and on behalf of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, and in a form approved by the General Counsel,

Amendment No. 2 to MBTA Contract No. X29PS01 with LTK Engineering Services in an amount not to exceed \$2,080,578.04.

Chairman Aiello	Yes
Vice-Chair Tibbits-Nutt	Yes
Director Kornegay	Yes
Director Lang	Yes
Director Sullivan	Yes

I. Rail Transformation Update

Chairman Aiello announced that Agenda Item H would be covered later in the meeting, and introduced Senior Director of Rail Transformation Alistair Sawers, who presented Agenda Item I, an update on Rail Transformation. Mr. Sawers reviewed the agenda and objectives, discussing the team's approach.

Vice-Chair Tibbits-Nutt asked if the team had hired staff yet. Mr. Sawers explained that he currently is the only full-time project member.

Chairman Aiello thanked Mr. Sawers for a well-organized and thorough presentation. The Chairman asked if we know how much carbon we emit. Mr. Sawers said that we only have estimates, which are based on a different service plan. The Chairman emphasized the importance of understanding this, what next phases will look like, and which elements contribute to reducing emissions. He said the FMCB needs a fiscally unconstrained analysis about how fast we could fully decarbonize. He also said that the Commonwealth's plan is detailed but also recognizes we cannot predict everything. Mr. Sawers said he would look into such an analysis.

J. Bus Transformation Update

Chief of Operations Strategy Kat Benesh, Transportation Program Planner Caroline Vanasse, and Transportation Program Planner Scott Hamwey provided an update on Bus Transformation. Vice-Chair Tibbits-Nutt apologized for adding information that lengthened

the update. Ms. Benesh outlined the program's goals, achievements, key projects, governance and next steps. Mr. Hamwey outlined three key projects, fleet and facilities, as well as network redesign. Transportation Program Planner Caroline Vanasse said that fleet and facilities work is critical and reviewed high priority corridors. Ms. Benesh discussed improvements to speed and reliability.

Director Lang asked if we have a statistic comparing times of pre-bus lane versus post-bus lane time. Ms. Benesh said that this type of comparison is the kind of information staff hopes to put on the website. Director Lang said that this simple metric could be used to encourage people to take the bus and lobby their municipalities to participate.

Vice-Chair Tibbits-Nutt asked if the impact on car traffic was also in data. Acting Secretary Tesler said he appreciates the team's work and progress, noting that outcomes will be important to consider. Ms. Benesh said staff are trying to pull in the national research on traffic.

Chairman Aiello agreed with Mr. Poftak. He stated that these are all big complicated multi-year projects that are not fully funded, and as such, staff need to look at a 10-year timeframe. The Chairman said he is concerned with future real estate purchases.

Director Kornegay agreed that real estate could be the Achilles' heel of the plan. She said that staff should think about facility design and how to get more from existing sites.

Vice-Chair Tibbits-Nutt said bus transformation has been under development for so long and buses carry so many passengers that a team head should be hired. Mr. Poftak agreed.

K. Green Line Transformation Update

Chief of Green Line Transformation Angel Peña presented Agenda Item K, a Green Line Transformation update. Mr. Peña explained the changes in approach and discussed notable projects and the program office.

Vice-Chair Tibbits-Nutt said that community responsiveness has been impressive. Chairman Aiello asked if an analysis on Type 10s and accessibility will be ready in early April. Mr. Peña said staff could not commit to April because the team needs to coordinate with municipal partners. Mr. Poftak said the analysis will hopefully be part of the CIP.

L. Red/Orange Line Transformation Update

Maysoon Tawfik, Chief of Red and Orange Line Transformation, provided an update on the Red and Orange Line Transformation, Agenda Item L. Deputy General Manager Jeff Gonneville clarified that this would be an update on where we are and next steps. Chairman Aiello said he was glad to hear that and stated that customer-facing performance-based outcomes is the revolutionary part. Ms. Tawfik discussed the vision for the transformation, reviewed current achievements and reviewed other next steps.

Chairman Aiello discussed headlines from presentation and the long-term strategy for investment.

H. 2050 Decarbonization Roadmap and Draft 2030 Clean Energy and Climate Plan

The Chairman announced that Undersecretary for Climate Change at the Executive Office of Energy & Environment David Ismay would now present the 2050 Decarbonization Roadmap and a draft 2030 Clean Energy and Climate Plan, Agenda Item H. Mr. Ismay reviewed the commitments on greenhouse gases and noted, while reviewing the roadmap through 2050, that transit has fewer levers to pull than some industries. Mr. Ismay reviewed and explained findings of the 2030 Clean Energy and Climate Plan.

Director Lang asked how much thought was put into reducing emissions by driving people into public transit. Mr. Ismay said that staff ran numbers on mode-shifting and vehicle miles traveled (“VMT”) and did not find much bulk benefit. Mr. Ismay said that VMT would need to be reduced by hundreds of millions of miles and that even aggressive VMT strategies could not drive the needed emissions reductions on their own. Mr. Ismay noted that the density of Eastern Massachusetts reduces the available options.

Chairman Aiello said that two of the transformation projects are centered on decarbonization, with a goal to completely decarbonize by 2040, but that no interim targets have been set. The Chairman asked if the FMCB will receive guidance on post-2030 decarbonization requirements. Mr. Ismay replied that he does not know yet, noting that although continued reductions in carbon content of transportation fuels will help send price signals, a robust 2050 strategy is the long-term goal, which will include a transition from liquid petroleum to something natural gas-based.

M. Blue Line Update

Chief Engineer Eric Stoothoff provided an update on the Blue Line, Agenda Item M, which currently is not subject to a transformation project. Mr. Stoothoff reviewed goals and timeframe for program implementation and discussed achievements to date. Mr. Stoothoff presented an asset investment planning look ahead, covering infrastructure improvements including a new power structure, an improved signal system, station repairs and upgrades, a focus on resiliency and improving regional connectivity. He concluded by discussing next steps. Chairman Aiello complimented the presentation and asked staff to try not to leave presentations about the Blue Line until the end of meetings.

Chairman Aiello asked for a motion to adjourn.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was by roll call:

VOTED: to adjourn at 4:23 p.m.

Chairman Aiello	Yes
Vice-Chair Tibbits-Nutt	Yes
Director Lang	Yes
Director Kornegay	Yes
Director Sullivan	Yes

Documents relied upon for this meeting:

- January 25, 2021 Agenda
- FMCB Public Schedule
- Report from the General Manager
- FMCB Annual Report 2020
- Contract Amendment – Engineering Support for Green Line Reliability Program with LTK Engineering Services
- 2050 Decarbonization Roadmap and Draft 2030 Clean Energy and Climate Plan
- Rail Transformation Update
- Bus Transformation Update
- Green Line Transformation Update
- Red/Orange Line Transformation Update
- Blue Line Transformation Update