



RAPID TRANSIT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

October 25, 2022

12:00 PM – 1 PM

A. Call to order by the Chair, Matthew Moran (Boston) at 12:02 PM

B. Discussion and action on the **minutes** of the April 19, 2022 meeting and the October 21, 2022 meeting.

C. Discussion on a position on the MBTA **Bus Network Redesign** proposal

The committee discussed the positives and negatives of the revised Bus Network Redesign (BNR) presented at the last meeting. There were concerns about engagement and the overall need for transparency. Public feedback was so important there were revisions of the initial proposals made based on community feedback. The committee is advocating for more time to hear from the service planners & public comment.

The committee shared positive feedback and some concerns regarding outreach, and framework. It was difficult to know whether to support or oppose the revised changes without seeing revised proposal. Many of the tradeoffs were hard to understand and absorb.

There was not enough conversation around fare increases and modest bus changes. Some challenges were timing, planning, and a lack of understanding of how this will all roll out. There were additional concerns about the proposal, not having enough operators, the fleet, funding, and facilities. The committee then propose solutions moving forward for the best processes on how to roll out slowly and considered building confidence in staff. There is a need for public meetings since the MBTA is listening to feedback and making changes. Public hearing is critical before the approval of the board. Outstanding questions on how to community feels about the changes must be addressed.

There is a call for more public engagement with the public sooner to voice those requested changes. Based on those changes there should be revisions. Finally, we need all changes implemented and scheduled in a timely matter.

The committee's message is to ask the board to slow down and have additional approval periods. Add additional implantation timeline and funding stream framework. Overall support transit as a mode. However, we must clarify what is the purpose seen for the MBTA. What is going to be the driving force behind our efforts?



“Service planners listened to the input and made changes according to public feedback. Need more time for additional changes with service planners. We need to take a position and when do we need to?”

D. Next Meeting, Old Business/New Business: The committee discussed priorities for the upcoming new administration. Some projects of interest are; commuter rail transformation (regional rail), Red/Blue Connector, Silver Line extension, and Greenline to route 16. We would like to support establishing the process for engagement and outreach for the newly elected while also taking into account the huge impact on the budget.

The MBTA Advisory Board’s next meeting will be held on November 15, 2022. The committee would like to create a document for review and approval to make sure the committee’s goals and objectives are defined for the MBTA (Need direction and writing 1st draft letter with all members opinions taken into consideration). The committee is scheduled to meet two more times before November 15, 2022 meeting. Brian, Matt, and Amira will follow up at November 3, 2022 meeting. Considering a schedule for how the committee should be meeting. Considering a monthly meeting schedule.

E. Adjourn at 1 pm

Attendance:

Matt Moran, City of Boston
Jay Monty, City of Everett
Susan Barrett, Town of Lexington
David Koses, City of Newton
Alan Castaline, City of Brockton
Brian Howard, City of Randolph
Lenard Diggins, Town of Arlington

Steve Olanoff, Town of Westwood
Susanne Rasmussen, City of Cambridge
Todd Blake, City of Medford
Todd Kirrane, Town of Brookline

Staff:

Brian Kane, Executive Director
Amira Patterson, Transportation Planner

NOTE: These minutes were approved at the Committee’s 12/08/22 meeting