



## Meeting Notes

# FERRY COMMITTEE

November 22, 2023

- A. **Call to order**, Mayor Jared C. Nicholson (Lynn), determined that a quorum was not present. As such, these are meeting notes not minutes. No votes were taken, but presentations were made for informational purposes.
- B. Update on MBTA Ferry Service in 2023 including a discussion of the success of **Lynn, Salem, and East Boston** Sumner Tunnel mitigation ferry routes. Michael Muller, Executive Director of Commuter Rail and Ferry gave the presentation.
- Lynn service will end 10/31/23 for the season due to high seas.
  - East Boston and Winthrop service will end 11/30 for the season.
  - These services will resume in the Spring of 2024.
  - Ridership was strong on ferries in 2023:
    - Hingham: 215,130
    - Hull: 154,510
    - Charlestown: 133,960
    - East Boston: 75,443
    - Lynn: 23,973
    - Winthrop: 12,814
  - All Ferry ridership sees a drop-off in ridership in the Fall.
  - The Ferry service is planning for growth. The T is looking for more vessels to accommodate this growth. ADA compliant vessels (with the necessary ramps, lifts, minimal thresholds, etc.) that meet Coast Guard standards are difficult to find at present.
  - The MBTA is an operator of ferries, but it needs a policy framework in which to operate.
  - In Boston capacity at Long Wharf is sufficient for current routes including Lynn, East Boston and Winthrop service. But additional space or multiple landings on the Boston-side are necessary to accommodate future growth.



- Policy framework for growth needs to include a decision on the Authority operating its own vessels, or on the contractor-model.
- Currently, the Ferry Department is quite small, and organized under the Commuter Rail Department. Plans are underway to spin-off Ferry as its own department.
- Ferry expansion and improvement requires additional capital and operating revenue to grow beyond FY24 numbers.
- The MBTA Board of Directors, Administration, and all stakeholders should work together to create a policy framework for water transportation in the Commonwealth.

With this presentation concluded, the meeting ended.

Attendees:

Hon. Jared C. Nicholson, Lynn

Frank Tramontozzi, Quincy

Aaron Claussen, Lynn