



MINUTES

Fare Changes Review Committee

Friday, March 01, 2024

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

A. Call to order: Co Chair, Mayor Sam Squalia called the meeting to order at 11:01 AM.

B. Roll Call: At the Co-Chair’s direction, Brian Kane (Executive Director) called the roll:

Ashland	Rob Scherer	Absent	Gloucester	Hon. Greg Verga	Absent
Boston	Matt Moran	Present	Lynn	Aaron Clausen	Present
Brockton	Alan Castaline, P.E.	Present	Needham	Duncan Allen, P.E.	Present
Chelsea	John DePriest	Present	Watertown	Steve Magoon	Present
Fitchburg	Hon. Sam Squailia	Present			

A quorum was established.

C. Minutes: Co-Chair Squalia requested a motion to approve the minutes of the 02/16/2024 meeting of the committee. Steve Magoon (Watertown) made such a motion, which Alan Castaline (Brockton) seconded. The motion was approved unanimously by roll call vote.

D. Discussion: At the Chair’s instruction, B. Kane began the discussion. He thanked each of the committee members for their edits on the more recent drafts of the reports. He continued that the document will be uploaded to Google Drive so that all members can make additional edits and changes to the document online, and see the changes others have made. He also noted that at the 2/29/24 meeting of the MBTA Board of Directors, members of the Massachusetts Senior Action Council appeared during public comment period to demand that the final low-income fare policy make no distinction between ADA and premium fares.

- Steve Magoon (Watertown) stated that he and Watertown support the proposed fare changes including the low-income fare proposal. He

suggested that the report reference the public comments by the Mass. Senior Action Council as well.

- John DePriest (Chelsea) noted his and Chelsea’s support for the fare proposals as well. He suggested that the language around the MBTA’s outreach plan be strengthened and that the report make it clearer that the Advisory Board insists that the MBTA keep to its commitments on outreach and engagement with local community groups, municipalities, and those who work with low-income individuals.
- Duncan Allen (Needham) noted that the Kansas City, MO transit system is looking to convert back from fare-free to charging fares again. This is because of cost considerations. He continues that he and Needham support the proposals and the direction of the report.
- Matthew Moran (Boston) added that he and Boston also support the proposals and the report’s course.
- Aaron Claussen (Lynn) also added that he and Lynn strongly support the low-income fare proposal and the other proposed changes, and that there are many individuals in Lynn who will benefit greatly from a reduction in a one-way fare from Lynn to North Station from the current \$7 to \$3.50.
- B. Kane added that he has compiled a chart of current commuter rail fares based on example stations from each current zone, as well as what the low-income fare would be if the proposals were approved. This chart was shown on the zoom screen. Kane noted that he plans to include this chart as an appendix in the report if the committee agrees. There was general agreement that this made sense. Kane further continued that he will continue to make changes and edits to the report based on the committee member’s requests, and edits. He suggested that the final version should be ready by Wednesday, March 6 in advance of the Committee’s final meeting on March 8. He asked that members complete their edits and revisions before close of business on the 5th.

E. Upcoming Committee Meetings: Mayor Sam Squailia (Fitchburg), Co-Chair noted the following upcoming events for the committee:

- 3/8/24: Discussion and action on report/recommendation
- 3/12/24: Presentation to MBTA Advisory Board



- 3/14/24: Presentation of MBTA Advisory Board report to MBTA Board of Directors Finance & Audit Committee
- 3/28/24: Presentation of MBTA Advisory Board report to MBTA Board of Directors

F. Adjourn: With all business discussed, S. Squailia (Fitchburg) requested a motion to adjourn. J. DePriest moved to adjourn, a motion which D. Allen seconded. The meeting adjourned at 11:34 AM.

Note: These minutes were approved by vote of the Committee at its 3/8/24 meeting.