

## CLIMATE & CLEAN ENERGY COMMITTEE

### Minutes (DRAFT)

Tuesday, April 12, 2025

- A. Call to Order:** The Chair, Mayor Katjana Ballantyne (Somerville), called the committee to order at 3:05 PM via Zoom.
- B. Operating Budget Presentation** – Brian Kane (Executive Director) presented the MBTA’s FY 26-30 Capital Improvement Program to the Committee and opened for discussion.
  - a** Susan Barrett (Lexington) commented that the committee has previously discussed the importance of growing ridership and expanding service, electric or not, as a climate policy for the MBTA. S. Barrett asked for B. Kane to provide an update on any further work by the Transportation Funding Task Force. Secondly, she asked if there is an opportunity for a statewide paratransit system. B. Kane answered first that the Task Force ended meetings following the publication of its report, and now the avenue for conversations about long-term vision is the upcoming PMT. There are no plans to bring the group back together formally. Second, B. Kane answered that, given the current approach of the federal administration, he does not see a Federal Waiver for state paratransit

operations in the near future. However, he has spoken to state legislators, who are interested in taking it up as an issue.

- b** Chris Osgood (Boston) asked B. Kane to identify the investments that address electrification and resiliency of the system. B. Kane identified the Quincy Facility, Fairmount electrification, Blue Line resiliency projects, ferry electrification, and mode shift goals.
- c** Logan Casey (Marblehead) asked about the impact of Fair Share dollars on the T's financial outlook. B. Kane answered that the Governor, House and Senate budgets all allocate significant funds to the MBTA. The final number reached by the conference committee will directly determine how many years out the T's deficit will be solved.

**C. Update from MBTA Climate Policy and Planning:** Kat Eshel (MBTA) provided an update on implementation of the MBTA's Climate Assessment including the Systemwide Resilience Roadmap. K. Eshel detailed conversations around staffing levels and working conditions during extreme weather events and corresponding safety trainings. Additionally, she mentioned her participation in the new Embodied Carbon Intergovernmental Coordinating Council.

- a** Sheila Page (Wellesley) asked about a past initiative at the MBTA to install solar canopies over parking lots. K. Eshel answered that each parking lot was assessed for its viability for this technology and companies worked to install them. Brad Rawson (Somerville) asked if K. Eshel might discuss

further at a later date how the Climate Policy and Planning Office works with other agencies such as MassDOT to implement their mission. C. Osgood and S. Barrett asked how committee members could provide comments for the Oversight Report and B. Kane answered that they are welcome to reach out to him via e-mail at any time and the Full Board will vote to approve the Report at their upcoming meeting.

**D. March 17, 2025 meeting minutes:** The Chair moved to approve the minutes. The motion was approved without objection.

**E. Adjourn:** The Chair moved to adjourn the meeting, which the committee approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.

### **Attendees:**

#### **Committee Members:**

Boston	Chris Osgood
Cohasset	Corey Evans
Marblehead	Logan Casey
Somerville	Hon. Katjana Ballantyne (Chair)
Somerville	Brad Rawson
Wellesley	Sheila Page



MBTA Advisory Board Staff:

Brian Kane	Executive Director
Hanna Switlekowski	Deputy Director
Isabella MacKinnon	Budget & Policy Analyst

MBTA:

Kat Eshel	MBTA Senior Director of Climate Policy & Planning
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