



## FERRY COMMITTEE

### Minutes

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

- A. **Call to Order:** The Chair, Mayor Jared Nicholson (Lynn), called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM.
- B. **Performance/Ridership Update:** MBTA Ferry Operations Director David Perry joined to provide the committee with an update on Ferry Operations. The briefing covered updates to the Winthrop and Quincy schedules, christening events for local students, ridership metrics, new contract procurement, Hingham ferry dock construction, Quincy ferry dock repairs, and the Blue Line Diversion extended service.
  - a. Chair J. Nicholson asked what dock was proposed for use by the Bay State bid. D. Perry answered that they have a dock on the side of Commonwealth Pier. The MBTA does not control the whole area where they operate service in the Long Wharf area--the city of Boston has leases with Boston Harbor City Cruises and the MBTA--which is a frequent pain point for planning. D. Perry said the longterm solution is construction of a new ferry terminal built in arrangement with the MBTA and the city of Boston to accommodate

all current and future service. This would allow the MBTA to award contracts to any party. The RFP was written in such a way that any bidder could gain access to wharf space, not just Boston Harbor Cruises despite their monopoly on dock space. Chair J. Nicholson asked when the MBTA anticipated construction of this new terminal. D. Perry answered that he submitted it to the CIP, and the money was not allocated, however he was encouraged to use capital funding to start the conceptual planning and design work. The city of Boston has also undertaken some design planning through their sea level climate resiliency project. D. Perry estimated that the project was at least ten years out.

- b. Brian Kane (Executive Director) thanked D. Perry for his work and his transparency with the committee.
- c. Frank Tramontozzi (Quincy) asked if there was any update regarding the design and construction of the Quincy Wharf with the fed. grant awarded, and expressed the importance of getting the money obligated soon. D. Perry answered that the design work is underway and agreed with the urgency, saying that the timely completion of environmental permitting and preliminary design work were a priority. DCR has also transferred a \$100k earmark to the MBTA to fund repairs to the Quincy ferry dock.
- d. Joseph Aiello (Winthrop) thanked D. Perry for his leadership. J. Aiello asked for a follow-up on fare media. D. Perry said they have launched the tap-to-ride system using handheld readers on the East Boston and Charlestown routes. Rollout to other routes will happen next month. This integrated system will allow transfers with bus and subway. Additionally, retail sales terminals will be installed at the Winthrop harbormaster office and at Pemberton Point in Hull. These

machines do not sell ferry tickets currently, but the ferry will begin to accept single-ride commuter rail tickets which have the same value. J. Aiello shared observations that he had received from Quincy and Winthrop riders that there is little weather protection for riders departing Boston. J. Aiello also commented that there was a lost opportunity for the MBTA to collaborate with Winthrop on the Blue Line diversion and address the complications caused by the additional bus service. D. Perry answered that many of the discussions revolved around fare mitigation for the diversions, which influenced the MBTA's diversion planning. Many follow up conversations on the efficacy of the diversion considered the ineffectiveness of the buses and the need for greater inclusion of Ferry Operations in diversion planning.

- C. **Minutes:** The Chair requested that approval of the minutes be taken up at the next meeting in order to allow the discussion to continue. The Chair departed at 11:00 AM, but encouraged continued discussion for members who wished to remain.
- D. **Next Meeting & adjourn:** Hanna Switekowski (Deputy Director) thanked D. Perry and members for their time and confirmed the committee will next meet in September. The meeting closed when the discussion was complete at 11:07 AM.

*Note: These minutes were approved by vote of the committee at their September 17, 2025 meeting.*

**Attendees:**

Committee Members:

Cohasset	Corey Evans
Holbrook	Katie Goldrick (Vice Chair)
Hull	Jason McCann
Lynn	Hon. Jared Nicholson (Chair)
Quincy	Frank Tramontozzi
Winthrop	Joseph Aiello

MBTA

David Perry	MBTA Ferry Operations
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MBTA Advisory Board

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