



FERRY COMMITTEE

Minutes (DRAFT)

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

- A. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:04 AM.
- B. **Minutes:** The Chair, Hon. Jared Nicholson (Lynn), requested a motion to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2025 meeting. Frank Tramontozzi (Quincy) moved to approve the minutes, and Vice-Chair Katie Goldrick (Holbrook) seconded. The motion was approved without objection.
- C. **Presentation of Ferry Study:** Patricia Cahill, Transit Planner MassDOT, joined for a presentation on the MassDOT's ongoing Water Transportation Study.
 - a. Brian Kane (Executive Director) thanked P. Cahill for the presentation and offered the Ferry Committee as a resource for community engagement. He also commented that the committee has taken a position to support interoperability between providers. Finally, he commented that the economic opportunities that ferry service can bring to the communities it operates in are significant, and encouraged any inclusions of economic development in the study.

- b. F. Tramontozzi commented that the city of Quincy received a federal discretionary grant for ferry facility improvements and inquired about the status of the funding with concern for the national trend of loss of such funds. D. Perry answered that the MBTA shares the same concern, but that these funds are not likely to be on the list of targeted funds. The project is in progress currently.
- c. Joe Fisher (Hingham) asked for the slide deck to be made available to the committee. He also commented that many communities would be willing to assist with the community engagement components of the study. He added that the ferry service might have an opportunity for collaboration with communities around the 250th celebrations. Finally, he shared that pop-ups at the ferry stations might be difficult places to capture riders because they are in a rush.
- d. Aaron Clausen (Lynn) asked P. Cahill to elaborate on existing condition analysis in the study regarding the economic development potential for water transportation service. P. Cahill answered that the study is looking at anywhere that permits have already been pulled and collaborating with municipalities to gain local information. When alternatives are developed in the spring, they will be looking at the ED for those locations. A. Clausen added that the city of Lynn is planning transit-oriented development around the ferry, so the study can also look beyond what is entitled to what is in municipalities' development plans.
- e. Jason McCann (Hull) joined members in offering municipalities as partners for community engagement. P. Cahill thanked members for their involvement and promised to stay in touch as the study progresses.

- f. F. Tramontozzi asked if there is any consideration of public notification technology at ferry terminals. D. Perry answered that the Ferry has procured tablets from the contractor that provides them for buses, and is in the process of adding the ferries to the bus contract. They will display real time positions and routes of vessels on the ferries and allow the information to be transmitted to the MBTA's app and digital platforms. Displaying real time information at terminals is a more difficult project with electricity considerations, but it is in the works. J. Fisher added that this information would be valuable at ticket offices as well.
- g. Chair J. Nicholson asked if the community engagement would include one-on-one meetings with communities to discuss their future planning. P. Cahill answered that she would be happy to do that and to follow up with community members to organize such meetings.

D. Performance/Ridership Update: MBTA Ferry Operations Director David Perry joined to provide the committee with an update on Ferry Operations, scheduling, and ridership trends.

- a. Corey Evans (Cohasset) commented that the data shown confirms the idea that there is latent demand for the ferry, and when the service is provided the ridership will follow. He offered the committee's support for any future endeavors of the ferry.
 - b. J. Fisher asked about data from transportation to Logan airport because the uptick in passenger demand at the airport provides an opportunity for increased demand on the ferry.
- E. Adjourn:** With all business transacted, the Chair thanked the guests and adjourned the meeting at 10:58 AM.

Attendees:

Committee Members:

Cohasset	Corey Evans
Hingham	Joe Fisher
Holbrook	Katie Goldrick (Vice Chair)
Hull	Jason McCann
Lynn	Hon. Jared Nicholson (Chair)
Lynn	Aaron Clausen
Quincy	Frank Tramontozzi

MassDOT

Patricia Cahill	MassDOT
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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