



ADVISORY BOARD FULL BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

February 5, 2025, 10:00 AM

- A. Call to order:** Mayor Thomas P. Koch (Quincy) called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM. The Chair led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance, and a Moment of Silence for those in uniform working for peace around the globe.
- B. December 10, 2024, Meeting Minutes:** The draft meeting minutes having previously been distributed, John DePriest (Chelsea) moved to approve the minutes as presented. Erin Chute (Brookline) seconded the motion. The motion was approved without objection with Roy Epstein (Belmont) abstaining.
- C. Discussion and action to elect a slate of officers, committee members, and committee charges for the MBTA Advisory Board for calendar year 2025:** Brian Kane (Executive Director) presented the slate to be voted on. Chair Koch commented that there is an open spot on the By-Law Committee, and any members interested in serving should reach out to B. Kane. R. Epstein said that he will not be running for another Select Board term, which may impact his committee leadership. B. Kane said they would discuss a plan after the meeting. The Chair asked for a motion to elect the 2025 committee slate, which Brian Glennon (Duxbury) made, and Alan Castaline (Brockton) seconded. The motion was approved without objection.
- D. Update on Governor Healey's Transportation Funding Task Force and MBTA FY26 funding:** B. Kane gave a presentation on the conclusion of the

Transportation Funding Task Force, the publication of the Task Force’s report, and the release of the Governor’s transportation funding plan.

- a** Raymie Parker (Stoneham) asked what percentage of the Fair Share tax was going to the T. B. Kane answered that, currently, the Fair Share tax revenue is allocated with 57% going to education and 43% to transportation. The Governor’s proposal evens out those percentages to split the tax revenue. The T will get the majority of the 50% allocated to transportation, but he is unsure of the exact amount. The Task Force considered the 50-50 split to be an important recommendation.
- b** Maya Mudgal (Boston) asked what the timeline would be for the 50-50 split of Fair Share revenue to take effect. B. Kane responded that the Task Force did not recommend a timeline, but that the proposal is in the Governor’s budget and supplemental budget and would be enacted in the next fiscal year which would begin on July 1, 2025.
- c** Susan Barrett (Lexington) asked why, in a 161-step report, there was only one page about next steps with no definitive timeline or action plan for those next steps. Secondly, she asked if municipalities might commit to working in partnership with their local transit authority when distributing Chapter 90 funds. She noted that the Task Force’s report did not include recommendations for expansion of service in areas that have lost their regular service--such as Lexington. Lastly, she asked what the Task Force’s definition of “micro transit” was, as many communities have different definitions. B. Kane answered that, in regard to the recommendations for a next step, there was not a lot of support for diving into that question

- when there were a considerable number of short-term problems, and that such work should follow the mobility planning done by MassDOT. Regarding the Chapter 90 funding, B. Kane answered that he is unfamiliar with the allocation process. Regarding “micro-transit,” B. Kane answered that the Task Force defined this term as services like the Quinsigamond Connector, and other small connectors between RTA bus stops and riders’ final destinations. Regarding the expansion of the system, B. Kane answered that the Task Force tried to balance aspirational planning with solutions they felt would be politically feasible in the state legislature. He said he does not see much appetite from the executive or legislature for broad-based taxation or revenue generation.
- d** Andy Reker (Cambridge) asked if B. Kane could report on any additional conversations in the Task Force that illuminated any shared or diverging interests beyond stabilizing the T. B. Kane answered that one area of significant consensus was a shared trust in leadership with MBTA General Manager Phil Eng and Transportation Secretary Monica Tibbits-Nutt. Across public transportation and roadways, the agencies are scoring a number of wins and proving that they provide a strong Return on Investment with public funds.
- e** R. Epstein asked if the Governor’s funding proposal addressed the T’s depleted reserve funds. B. Kane answered that the Governor’s supplemental budget included a \$300,000 transfer to the T to build up reserves. Additionally, the provision includes proposed changes for the ways that the T can use the interest generated on reserves. R. Epstein

commented that this component of the proposal should be highlighted publicly as it demonstrates good fiscal discipline from the T.

- f** S. Barrett asked if the Task Force considered the handling of ADA paratransit. She also asked if any of the Fair Share tax revenue would go towards public transit systems that would support students and educators. B. Kane answered that school transportation has come up frequently, but he was unsure of the specifics of any potential proposals. Regarding statewide paratransit, B. Kane answered that he mentioned the issue but received little follow-up with the Task Force. He agreed that the discussion must continue to happen.
- g** M. Mudgal asked what the support in the Task Force was for revenue sources such as delivery fees or increasing the TNC share. B. Kane answered that he believed that such discussions would be more prevalent in the Task Force meetings, but the consensus was to use exclusively Fair Share dollars. The T will endeavor to be good stewards of the money it is given, demonstrate project wins, and hopefully increase its share of funding over time.
- h** Chair Koch thanked B. Kane for his work on the Task Force and extended gratitude to Governor Healey for taking a strong position on transportation funding and the T's fiscal health. Chair Koch said he planned to speak to his City Council about the importance of transportation funding and urged other members to do the same and to contact their legislators to spread this message.

- E. Old/New Business:** B. Kane shared that there will be full Advisory Board meetings in April, May, and June as well as many committee meetings throughout the year. The schedule will be published soon.
- F. Adjourn:** With all business transacted, the Chair requested a motion to adjourn. Hon. Breanna Lungo-Koehn moved to adjourn; a motion which Rob Scherer (Ashland) seconded. This motion was approved unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 10:43 AM.

Note: These minutes were approved by vote of the Advisory Board at their 10/1/2025 meeting.

Attendees

Abington		Essex	
Acton		Everett	
Amesbury		Fitchburg	
Andover		Foxborough	
Arlington	Lenard Diggins	Framingham	Mike Tusino
Ashburnham		Franklin	Jamie Hellen
Ashby		Freetown	
Ashland	Rob Scherer	Georgetown	
Attleboro		Gloucester	
Auburn		Grafton	

Ayer		Groton	
Bedford		Groveland	
Bellingham		Halifax	
Belmont	Roy Epstein	Hamilton	
Berkley		Hanover	
Beverly		Hanson	
Billerica		Harvard	
Boston	Maya Mudgal	Haverhill	Josselyn De Leon-Estrada
Bourne		Hingham	
Boxborough		Holbrook	Katie Goldrick
Boxford		Holden	
Braintree		Holliston	
Bridgewater	Bob Rulli	Hopkinton	
Brockton	Alan Castaline	Hull	Jason McCann
Brookline	Erin Chute	Ipswich	
Burlington		Kingston	
Cambridge	Andy Reker	Lakeville	
Canton		Lancaster	
Carlisle		Lawrence	
Carver		Leicester	
Chelmsford		Leominster	
Chelsea	John DePriest	Lexington	Susan Barrett

Cohasset		Lincoln	
Concord	Mark Howell	Littleton	
Danvers		Lowell	
Dedham		Lunenburg	
Dover		Lynn	
Dracut		Lynnfield	
Duxbury	Brian Glennon	Malden	Yem Lip P.E.
East Bridgewater		Manchester	

Easton		Mansfield	Kevin Dumas Brendan Roche
Marblehead		Rochester	
Marlborough		Rockland	
Marshfield	Greg Guimond	Rockport	
Maynard	Chester Osborne	Rowley	
Medfield	Gus Murby	Salem	Brendan Linard
Medford	Hon. Breanna LungoKoehn Todd Blake	Salisbury	
Medway		Saugus	
Melrose	Tom Dalton	Scituate	Karen Canfield
Merrimac		Seekonk	
		Sharon	Kiana Pierre-Louis
Methuen		Sherborn	

Middleborough		Shirley	
Middleton	Kyle Smith	Shrewsbury	
Millbury		Somerville	
Millis		Southborough	
Milton		Sterling	
Nahant		Stoneham	Raymie Parker
Natick		Stoughton	
Needham		Stow	
Newbury		Sudbury	
Newburyport		Sutton	
Newton	David Koses	Swampscott	
Norfolk		Taunton	
North Andover		Tewksbury	
N. Attleborough		Topsfield	
North Reading		Townsend	
Northborough		Tyngsborough	
Northbridge		Upton	
Norton		Watertown	
Norwell		Wayland	
Norwood	Joe Collins	Wakefield	
Paxton		Walpole	
Peabody		Waltham	

Pembroke		Wareham	
Plymouth		Wellesley	Colette Aufranc Sheila Page
Plympton		Wenham	
Princeton		West Boylston	
Quincy	Hon. Thomas Koch Frank Tramontozzi	W. Bridgewater	
Randolph		West Newbury	
Raynham		Westborough	
Reading		Westford	
Rehoboth		Westminster	
Revere		Weston	
Westwood	Steve Olanoff	Winthrop	
Weymouth		Woburn	John Cashell
Whitman		Worcester	Todd Kirrane
Winchester		Wrentham	
Wilmington			