



MBTA ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)

Tuesday, October 1, 2025

- A. Call to Order:** Hon. Shaunna O'Connell (Taunton) called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM via Zoom.
- B. Chief Administrative Officer:** Introduction to the Chief Administrative Officer position and role by Jeff Cook, MBTA Chief Administrative Officer.
- a** Brian Kane (Executive Director) introduced MBTA Chief Administrative Officer Jeff Cook and MBTA Chief Financial Officer Mary Ann O'Hara.
 - b** J. Cook addressed the Advisory Board.
 - c** B. Kane asked how the authority is moving away from an austerity mindset and culture. M. O'Hara said expense reports over the last decade show an austerity mindset with a mandate to control costs and balance budgets. While this approach may have been necessary at the time, under General Manager Eng and the MBTA Board of Directors, leadership are re-investing in the system by strengthening operations and maintaining

- d** Rob Scherer (Ashland) asked about the current operating deficit, the impact of the Fair Share tax on MBTA funding, and the feasibility plans to increase headways on Commuter Rail Lines. M. O’Hara answered that there is a 2026 savings target of \$82 and planned transfer from the deficiency fund to offset the deficit. J. Cook added that he hopes that usage of the rainy-day fund will be able to return to just that instead of using it yearly to plug deficits. He also commented that the MBTA should receive more of the Fair Share funds than are currently distributed and, regarding services, the MBTA need to look at what projects can be done with the resources available and that nothing should be off the table.
- e** Duncan Allen (Needham) asked for reporting of fare revenue on commuter rail and asked if increased revenues compare to increased expenses from South coast Rail. J. Cook answered that he would follow up with an answer to this question.
- f** Hon. Patrick Keefe (Revere) commented that the approach mentioned by J. Cook is refreshing, the priorities of safety and service are commendable, and the MBTA should continue to search for savings and efficiencies.
- g** Joseph Aiello (Winthrop) asked if the Advisory Board could be provided with a breakdown of the hiring between operations and capital departments since 2019 to contextualize the growth. He commented that the MBTA has historically experienced periods where they are viewed as a bad investment

of taxpayer's money, and he is concerned that the authority does not publicize the extent of the progress they have made in efficiency and productivity.

- h** Matthew Petersen (Boston) seconded J. Aiello's comments urging the MBTA to better communicate the increases in productivity and efficient project delivery. Additionally, he commented that the remaining deficient emphasizes the need for diversified revenue sources.
- i** Debra Roberts (Stoughton) asked about the authority's philosophy regarding consultant costs. J. Cook answered that the GM's focus remains on bringing talent in-house and reviewing all third-party contracts that the MBTA holds. When reviewing the contracts, he said it is important that the in-house talent is hired for long term positions to best shape the overall structure of the authority.
- j** Susan Barrett (Lexington) commented that the municipal experience of working with the MBTA has improved in the last few years. S. Barrett asked about conversations to coordinate ADA paratransit services across the Commonwealth and maximize Fair Share revenue by looking at creative coordination of all transportation systems. J. Cook answered that such specific conversations are not currently taking place, but holistically the GM's goal is to pursue greater connection among all transit associations in the

region. He added that the MBTA must continue to expand and innovate its services to attract back the ridership from before the pandemic.

k Bruce Leicher (Harvard) asked if there is a designated budget or team to maintain electric vehicle chargers at commuter rail station parking lots. J. Cook answered that he can follow up about this question, however he has observed a lack of consideration of long-term operating maintenance costs on new capital projects.

l Hon. Breanna Lungo-Koehn (Medford) commented concerns around mismanagement of scarce funding after the MBTA's selection of Riverside Ave. in Medford for a bus maintenance and storage facility.

C. FY26 MBTA Operating Budget update: MBTA Chief Financial Officer Mary Ann O'Hara delivered an update on the FY26 MBTA Operating Budget following passage of the State's FY26 operating budget.

D. Discussion and action on the Minutes of the February 2, 2025 and June 10, 2025 meetings: The draft meeting minutes having previously been distributed, Brian Glennon (Duxbury) moved to approve the minutes as presented. Daniel Salvucci (Whitman) seconded the motion. The motion was approved without objection.

E. Adjourn: Vice-Chair B. Lungo-Koehn called for a motion to adjourn the meeting which D. Salvucci made and Frank Tramontozzi (Quincy) seconded. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 11:00AM.

Attendees

Abington		Lowell		Tyngsborough	
Acton		Lunenburg		Upton	
Amesbury		Lynn		Wakefield	
Andover		Lynnfield		Walpole	
Arlington	Lenard Diggins	Malden	Yem Lip	Waltham	
Ashburnham		Manchester		Wareham	
Ashby		Mansfield		Watertown	Steve Magoon
Ashland	Rob Scherer	Marblehead		Wayland	
Attleboro		Marlborough		Wellesley	Sheila Page
Auburn		Marshfield	Greg Guimond	Wenham	
Ayer		Maynard		West Boylston	
Bedford		Medfield	Gus Murby	West Bridgewater	
Bellingham		Medford	Hon. Breanna Lungo-Koehn, Todd Blake	West Newbury	
Belmont		Medway		Westborough	
Berkley		Melrose		Westford	
Beverly		Merrimac		Westminster	
Billerica	Christopher Dillon	Methuen		Weston	
Boston	Matthew Petersen	Middleborough		Westwood	Steve Olanoff
Bourne		Middleton		Weymouth	Jack Gillon
Boxborough		Millbury		Whitman	Daniel Salvucci
Boxford		Millis		Wilmington	
Braintree	Peter Matchak	Milton		Winchester	
Bridgewater		Nahant		Winthrop	Joe Aiello

Brockton	Alan Castaline	Natick	Morgan Griffiths	Woburn	
Brookline	Erin Chute	Needham	Duncan W. Allen	Worcester	
Burlington		New Bedford		Wrentham	
Cambridge	Andy Reker Stephanie Groll	Newbury			

Canton		Newburyport			
Carlisle		Newton	David Koses		
Carver		Norfolk			
Chelmsford		North Andover			
Chelsea	John DePriest	N. Attleborough		MBTA	Jeff Cook
Cohasset		North Reading		MBTA	Mary Ann O'Hara
Concord	Mark Howell	Northborough			
Danvers		Northbridge			
Dedham		Norton			
Dover	Cam Hudson	Norwell			
Dracut		Norwood			
Duxbury	Brian Glennon	Paxton			
E. Bridgewater		Peabody		MBTA Advisory Board	Brian Kane
Easton		Pembroke		MBTA Advisory Board	Hanna Switekowski
Essex		Plymouth		MBTA Advisory Board	Isabella MacKinnon
Everett		Plympton			
Fall River	Dan Aguiar	Princeton			
Fitchburg		Quincy	Thomas P. Koch Frank Tramontozzi		
Foxborough		Randolph	Brian Howard		
Framingham		Raynham			
Franklin		Reading			
Freetown		Rehoboth			
Georgetown		Revere	Hon. Patrick Keefe		

			Tom Skwierawski		
Gloucester	Hon. Sean Reardon	Rochester			
Grafton		Rockland			
Groton		Rockport			
Groveland		Rowley			
Halifax	Jonathan Selig	Salem	Brendan Linard		
Hamilton		Salisbury			
Hanover		Saugus	Michael Serino		
Hanson	Ed Heal	Scituate			
Harvard		Seekonk			
Haverhill	Christine Lindberg	Sharon	Kiana Baskin		
Hingham	Joe Fisher	Sherborn			
Holbrook	Anne Mahoney, Katie Goldrick	Shirley			
Holden		Shrewsbury			
Holliston		Somerville			
Hopkinton	Lance DelPriore	Southborough			
Hull		Sterling			
Ipswich		Stoneham	Raymie Parker		
Kingston		Stoughton	Debra Roberts		
Lakeville		Stow			
Lancaster		Sudbury	Dan Carty		
Lawrence		Sutton			
Leicester		Swampscott			
Leominster		Taunton	Hon. Shaunna O-Connell		
Lexington		Tewksbury			
Lincoln		Topsfield			
Littleton		Townsend			