



MBTA ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes

Friday, May 16, 2025

- A. Call to Order:** The Chair, Hon. Tom Koch (Quincy), called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM via Zoom, and led Advisory Board members in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.
- B. Presentation by the Capital Budget Oversight Committee (CBOC) of its review of the MBTA's FY26-30 Capital Investment Program:** Tom Skwierawski (Revere) presented the FY26-30 Capital Investment Plan Oversight Report on behalf of the Committee. He opened for questions and discussion following the presentation.
- a** Lenard Diggins (Arlington) thanked the committee for the report and commented that it struck a good balance with the points made. He asked if the PMT has always been completed by MassDOT. The Chair said that this topic could be discussed at a later meeting. Steve Magoon (Watertown) asked when the MBTA Board would have an opportunity to respond to this report, and T. Skwierawski answered that the report would be presented to the Board of Directors at their next meeting on May 20. Alan Castaline (Brockton) expressed support for the adoption of this

report. He commented that the MBTA's CIP fails to address the significant issue of the constraints caused by the single-track segment of the Old Colony Line. He called on the other communities served by the Old Colony Line to continue advocating for greater investment in this project. Debra Roberts (Stoughton) asked if the MBTA Officials could respond to the report's concerns about a lack of long-term, strategic visions. Lynsey Heffernan, MBTA Chief of Policy and Strategic Planning, answered that, as her title suggests, the MBTA does engage in strategic planning, but the MBTA understands a need for greater. She said the Strategic Plan has been presented to the Board, including 8 clear goals, and serves an interim plan with short-term goals for service improvements. The MBTA also acknowledges the Advisory Board's requests for transparency regarding long-term goals. Dan Salvucci (Whitman) asked if the Plymouth station that is no longer in use will ever see rail service return. The Old Colony Planning Council is interested in finding alternative uses for the space if rail service will not return. L. Heffernan answered that a decision was made to terminate the line in Kingston because the Plymouth station saw lower ridership and was operationally difficult to service, however she will connect with Railroad Operations to ask about any future plans. Joe Fisher (Hingham) commented that the report lists federal funds as a predictable source of Capital Funding and asked if that should be amended to reflect

- current uncertainty. Brian Kane (Executive Director) answered that the language could be edited to convey this.
- b** The Chair asked for a motion to approve the Oversight Report and recommend it for presentation to the MBTA Board of Directors on May 20. D. Salvucci made the motion and D. Roberts seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- C. Presentation of Draft FY26 MBTA Operating Budget:** Joe Regan, MBTA Operating Budget Director, presented the MBTA’s FY2026 Operation Budget to the Board. He opened for questions following the presentation.
- a** Steve Olanoff (Westwood) asked for clarification on the savings target. J. Regan answered that the savings target comprises efforts the MBTA takes to cut costs as well as items that are required to be budgeted (like snow removal) but are likely to cost less than budgeted. The savings target was achieved in FY25 and should also be achieved in FY26, however there are a finite number of efficiencies to reach in an organization so this target will become more difficult to achieve. Additionally, there is enough in reserves for the FY26 budget to be balanced even if the savings target is not achieved. Duncan Allen (Needham) asked if there is any risk that the projected numbers for South Coast Rail will not be accurate given it is a new service. J. Regan answered that the South Coast Rail revenue is a small portion of total revenue because it has a smaller ridership, and is therefore not a “needle-mover.” The major driver for increased fare collection in

FY26 will be the fare gates installed at Back Bay and South Station. D. Roberts asked for further detail on the capitalization of interest with debt service. J. Regan answered that it is a way for the MBTA to postpone debt payments further. It is a last resort option that the MBTA prefers not to use because it increases the amount of debt service payments made. In FY25, there were no other funding solutions so the MBTA was forced to do this to bring the deficit down. In FY26, because of legislative proposals for greater funding, they will not have to do this. D. Roberts also asked how the deficiency fund was funded. J. Regan answered that the deficiency fund's recent inflow was federal COVID relief funds. The Governor, House and Senate have proposed replenishment for this reserve in their FY2 budget proposals. L. Diggins asked if the state's proposed funding number for the income-eligible fare program covered the full cost of the program for the T. J. Regan answered that the state's proposal aims to cover operating expenses and lost revenues from the program and the \$50 million proposed is the full estimated cost.

- b** The Chair, T. Koch, thanked MBTA Officials for their time and hard work, and extended the Advisory Board's gratitude to the Executive and Legislative branches of the state government for their recognition of the great financial needs at the T. The Chair asked for a motion to refer the Operating Budget to the Operating Budget Oversight Committee for their



review. John DePriest (Chelsea) moved and D. Salvucci seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Adjourn: Chair T. Koch called for the meeting to adjourn which D. Salvucci made. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 10:48 AM.

These minutes were approved by vote of the board at their June 10, 2025 meeting.

Attendees

Abington		Lowell		Tyngsborough	
Acton		Lunenburg		Upton	
Amesbury		Lynn		Wakefield	
Andover		Lynnfield		Walpole	
Arlington	Lenard Diggins	Malden		Waltham	
Ashburnham		Manchester		Wareham	
Ashby		Mansfield		Watertown	Steve Magoon
Ashland		Marblehead		Wayland	
Attleboro		Marlborough		Wellesley	Colette Aufranc
Auburn		Marshfield	Greg Guimond	Wenham	
Ayer		Maynard		West Boylston	
Bedford		Medfield	Gus Murby	West Bridgewater	Adam Linn
Bellingham		Medford	Todd Blake	West Newbury	
Belmont	Patrice Garvin	Medway		Westborough	
Berkley		Melrose		Westford	
Beverly		Merrimac		Westminster	
Billerica		Methuen		Weston	
Boston		Middleborough		Westwood	Steve Olanoff
Bourne		Middleton	Kyle Smith	Weymouth	
Boxborough		Millbury		Whitman	Daniel Salvucci
Boxford		Millis		Wilmington	
Braintree		Milton		Winchester	
Bridgewater	Bob Rulli	Nahant		Winthrop	

Brockton	Alan Castaline	Natick		Woburn	
Brookline	Erin Chute	Needham	Duncan W. Allen	Worcester	Todd Kirrane
Burlington		New Bedford		Wrentham	
Cambridge	Andy Reker	Newbury			
Canton		Newburyport			
Carlisle		Newton	David Koses		
Carver		Norfolk			
Chelmsford		North Andover			
Chelsea	John DePriest	N. Attleborough			
Cohasset		North Reading		Other:	
Concord	Mark Howell	Northborough		MBTA	Joe Regan
Danvers		Northbridge		MBTA	Josh Ostroff
Dedham		Norton		MBTA	Lynsey Heffernan
Dover		Norwell		MBTA	Mike Malia
Dracut		Norwood	Joe Collins	MBTA	Mona Met
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		Princeton			
Fitchburg		Quincy	Thomas P. Koch Frank Tramontozzi		
Foxborough		Randolph			
Framingham	Mike Tusino	Raynham			
Franklin		Reading			
Freetown		Rehoboth			
Georgetown		Revere	Tom Skwierawski		
Gloucester		Rochester			
Grafton		Rockland			
Groton		Rockport			
Groveland		Rowley			
Halifax		Salem	Brendan Linard		
Hamilton		Salisbury			
Hanover		Saugus			
Hanson		Scituate			

Harvard		Seekonk			
Haverhill	Christine Lindberg	Sharon	Kiana Pierre-Louis		
Hingham	Joe Fisher	Sherborn			
Holbrook	Katie Goldrick	Shirley			
Holden		Shrewsbury			
Holliston		Somerville			
Hopkinton		Southborough			
Hull		Sterling			
Ipswich		Stoneham	Raymie Parker		
Kingston		Stoughton	Debra Roberts		
Lakeville		Stow			
Lancaster		Sudbury			
Lawrence		Sutton			
Leicester		Swampscott			
Leominster		Taunton			
Lexington		Tewksbury			
Lincoln		Topsfield			
Littleton		Townsend			