



## Rapid Transit & Bus Committee

### MINUTES

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

- A. Call to Order:** Rapid Transit & Bus Committee Co-Chair Matt Moran (Boston) called the committee to order at 10:02 AM via Zoom.
- B. Minutes:** Co-Chair M. Moran requested a motion to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2025 and December 17, 2025 meetings. David Koses (Newton) motioned to approve and Frank Tramontozzi (Quincy) seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- C. Presentation:** Dennis Varley, MBTA Chief of Stations, Facilities & Structures, joined the committee for a presentation. He covered the department's continued build of capacity, drone inspections, culvert inspection flotation device innovation, Hynes Convention Center Inhouse Column design & repair, inhouse platform design & repairs at Riverside, Newton Centre Ramp repairs, Hollis Pump room renovation, Eastbound under Harbor pump room renovation, Braintree station restroom repair, and info booths wrapped at 31 stations.
- a Brian Kane (Executive Director) commended the work done by D. Varley and his team. He requested that the MBTA quantify the amount of money saved by executing the presented work in-house to paint an effective picture of the importance of continued investment. D. Varley said the

- exact amount that private contractors would have charged per project is difficult to calculate, however, it is clear that the savings are significant. Additionally, the flexibility in addressing maintenance concerns is greatly improved when the MBTA has its own engineering teams to respond immediately rather than having to source consultants and contractors.
- b Lenard Diggins (Arlington) echoed B. Kane’s comments about the importance of continued investment as illustrated by D. Varley’s presentation. He also emphasized the importance of maintaining staffing levels and continuing to increase headcount to support this momentum.
  - c Todd Blake (Medford) added that MBTA in-house engineering work also saves considerable time lost to procurement processes. D. Varley agreed and said that with a legacy system like the MBTA, there are constant maintenance and repair needs so it is valuable to have a local team that is very familiar with the system.
  - d Brad Rawson (Somerville) thanked D. Varley for his presentation and mentioned the importance of the Boston Region MPO’s role in supporting potential funding for various MBTA projects in the upcoming capital plan. He suggested that the MPO and Advisory Board will benefit from continued communication about this work and how the MPO can support it.
  - e B. Kane asked D. Varley to expand on the MBTA’s internal culture and pride for the impactful projects that staff and workers are completing. D. Varley

- said that he has observed a positive shift in pride for working for the MBTA in the last few years. Completing important projects that contribute meaningfully to the MBTA's improvement as a public service has helped to facilitate that positive shift in morale. L. Diggins added that shifting positive public perception also correlates with these improvements both in the service and in internal morale. He asked what public perception was like at the LIRR and D. Varley said it was generally much more favorable than at the MBTA three years ago.
- f L. Diggins commended the station upgrades and installation of artistic wraps on information booths and commented that they help boost the dignity of the public space.
  - g Steve Olanoff (Westwood) asked to further clarify the scope of D. Varley's work. D. Varley's department manages structures and often works in tandem with Rail and Power departments to service the infrastructure.

**D. Next Meeting Dates:** March 10, 2026 at 10:00 AM.

**E. Adjourn:** Co-Chair M. Moran closed the meeting at 11:00 AM.

*The committee approved these minutes by vote at their March 10, 2026 meeting.*



**Attendees:**

Committee:

Arlington

Cambridge

Everett

Boston

Chelsea

Medford

Newton

Quincy

Somerville

Westwood

Len Diggins

Andy Reker

Jay Monty

Matthew Moran

John DePriest

Todd Blake

David Koses

Frank Tramontozzi

Brad Rawson

Steve Olanoff

MBTA

Dennis Varley

Claudette Bautista

MBTA

MBTA

MBTA Advisory Board Staff:

Brian Kane

Hanna Switekowski

Isabella MacKinnon

Executive Director

Deputy Director

Budget & Policy Analyst