

PASSENGER/REGIONAL RAIL COMMITTEE

Minutes

Wednesday, June 18, 2025

- A. Call to Order:** Chair Rob Scherer (Ashland) called the committee to order at 2:02 PM via Zoom.
- B. Minutes:** The Chair requested a motion to approve the minutes from April 16, 2025. Vice Chair Brian Glennon (Duxbury) moved to approve the minutes. Steve Olanoff (Westwood) seconded. The motion was approved without objection.
- C. MBTA & Keolis Updates:** Alana Westwater, Keolis Commuter Services Chief of Staff, briefed the committee on Commuter Rail Updates, including on-time performance data, ridership returns and supporting legislation to protect Transit workforce at Keolis and RTAs. Mike Rooks, MBTA Chief Railroad Officer, briefed the committee on special event service planning for the FIFA World Cup in 2026, a R. Scherer asked if A. Westwater could follow up with more information about the legislation so the committee could take action to support it. He also clarified if this legislation would have prevented the incident in Ashland. A. Westwater answered that the legislation gives the Transit Police the authority to intervene before situations escalate. Additionally,

- R. Scherer commented that the Ashland Police Department reported good cooperation with the MBTA and Keolis during this incident. Bruce Leicher (Harvard) asked if the committee wanted to put together a formal message of support for the legislation at the next meeting after committee members have the chance to review.
- b** B. Leicher asked if there are issues with not having enough train cars for the special event service. M. Rooks answered that the service is ticketed which prevents any capacity issues.
 - c** Steve Olanoff (Westwood) asked for officials to provide more information on accidents occurring at grade crossings. M. Rooks answered that the MBTA and Keolis has several ongoing initiatives to improve grade crossing safety including updated signage, bollards, better markings, and municipal communication. R. Scherer asked for a further discussion on this topic in the fall, during the committee's Operation Lifesaver meeting. S. Olanoff asked if there are any cameras installed at crossings for trains to identify potential track disruptions. M. Rooks answered that there is some infrastructure, but it often is unable to alert trains in time for them to slow down. Mike Mueller, MBTA Executive Director of Commuter Rail added that most incidents involve motorists trying to beat the gates, often damaging the gates and other property.
 - d** Sheila Page (Wellesley) asked about comments made by the General Manager regarding plans to move the Commuter Rail system towards

30minute headways. M. Mueller answered that this is a long-term goal for much of the system, but it is subject to significant investment. R. Scherer asked if the MBTA has been in touch with municipalities about these plans. In Ashland, housing developments planners are conducting traffic studies based on the current train schedule. M. Mueller answered that this was helpful to hear and encouraged municipalities to reach out to the MBTA when planning developments.

- e B. Leicher asked if driving apps are directing drivers onto tracks. M. Mueller answered that the MBTA worked with Ways and Google Maps developers to give drivers audio alerts when they approach crossings.
- f S. Page asked the timeline for the Natick Center station. M. Rooks answered that it is on track for the end of the calendar year. S. Page also commented that riders at Wellesley Square often report confusion regarding the signage and direction of the tracks. M. Mueller answered that the MBTA is also aware of this issue and is working to rationalize signage so that it is consistent across the service.
- g S. Olanoff commented that fare collections have improved, but he has noticed they occur less during evening service. S. Page commented that conductors had done a commendable job with crowd management and service during the weekend's large parade crowds.
- h R. Scherer asked if there were any updates on the Allston Layover Facility project. M. Mueller answered that the project is an ongoing conversation. R. Scherer thanked the guests for joining.

- i Hanna Switekowski (Deputy Director) commented that Advisory Board staff traveled to Fall River and New Bedford and their delegates expressed interest in joining the committee in the future.

D. Old Business | New Business: The committee will next meet on September 17. The committee will be joined by MBTA and Keolis officials. Committee members expressed interest in discussing the Commuter Rail contract and electrification.

E. Adjourn: The Chair requested a motion to adjourn. B. Leicher moved to adjourn the meeting, a motion which S. Page seconded. The motion was approved without objection and the meeting adjourned at 2:48 PM.

These minutes were approved by vote of the committee at their February 11, 2026 meeting.

Attendance

Committee Members

Ashland	Rob Scherer
Brockton	Alan Castaline
Canton	Chris Podgurski
Duxbury	Brian Glennon
Marshfield	Greg Guimond



Wellesley

Sheila Page

Westwood

Steve Olanoff

Advisory Board Staff

Deputy Director

Hanna Switekowski