

## Passenger/Regional Rail Committee

### Minutes

Wednesday, March 11, 2026

- A. Call to Order:** Chair Rob Scherer (Ashland) called the committee to order at 2:03 PM via Zoom.
- B. Minutes:** R. Scherer requested a motion to approve the minutes from the February 11, 2026 meeting. Brian Glennon (Duxbury) made the motion and Bruce Leicher (Harvard). The motion was approved unanimously.
- C. MBTA/Keolis Updates:** Michael Muller, MBTA Executive Director of Commuter Rail, Dave Walker, Keolis Vice President of Service Delivery, & Executive Staff joined to brief the committee on ridership, performance data, weather response, and fare gates.
- a R. Scherer asked about the relationship between ticket activation and revenue. D. Walker answered that activation doesn't exactly correlate to revenue. Activation data is cited because it is the best data available for ticket use and revenue patterns on commuter rail.
  - b Chester Osborne (Maynard) asked for an update on commuter rail parking lot snow removal by first train on storm days. D. Walker answered that most stations had one or two passes of the plows before the first train. At some locations, parking lots were partially cleared at first so that they

- could be accessible in time for trains and then fully cleared later in the day so that all parking lots could be reached by first train. C. Osborne asked about efforts to reduce salt application at MBTA grade crossings. M. Muller answered that most municipal DPWs are aware and take action, however some of the issues are out of their control such as runoff from melting snow or lack of communication with contractors. C. Osborne asked if the MBTA has deployed signs. M. Muller answered that they have begun to install “no-salt area” signs.
- a R. Scherer asked if there was an update on 2026 World Cup service. M. Muller answered that schedules are set to be released soon and there will be a lot of upcoming stakeholder engagement. Hanna Switekowski (Deputy Director) commented that the Advisory Board could host a full board discussion on the plans closer to the event. H. Switekowski also asked if Keolis has any plans to expand Providence Line service during the event. M. Muller answered that there is no ability to expand service with the constraints of trains and crews. There will be special event service to Gillette and regular service on the Providence line to the extent that is possible. R. Scherer asked about the significance to the Providence Line and H. Switekowski answered that, in her capacity as Vice-Chair of the Sharon Select Board, she is concerned that people will also use this line to get to Foxborough. M. Muller said that they have considered this, however without the capacity to add additional service, the MBTA will message potential disruptions to the impacted communities.

- b B. Leicher asked why event trains won't also stop at Rt. 128. M. Muller answered that there are a number of reasons: queuing, crowd control, security, etc.
- c R. Scherer asked for an update on Foxborough station work. M. Muller answered that the station will be ready for the events. There is a temporary high-level platform in place which will be replaced with a permanent platform in the future.
- d R. Scherer asked for an update on the commuter rail operations contract. M. Muller answered that most information is already in the public domain including the RFP released to three qualified bidders and the current period of bidder engagement. The MBTA is satisfied with the results of the process so far.
- e H. Switekowski asked about Back Bay station construction for fare gates. M. Muller answered that the construction at Back Bay is related to a concourse redevelopment project. The fare gate project is in the design and permitting phase and fare gates will be installed at Ruggles first.

**D. Next Meeting Dates: April 8**

**E. Old/New business:**

- a Brian Kane (Executive Director) reported that he had met with one of the bidding consortiums for the commuter rail contract and that potential bidders and their representatives seem committed to maintaining a relationship with the committee and municipalities. B. Kane also reported

that the committee will be discussing the FY2027- 2031 Capital Investment Program at upcoming meetings which will be an important forum for conversations about projects and priorities.

- b B. Leicher shared that he has followed up with MBTA staff about electric vehicle charger installation and parking lot expansion. B. Kane commented that it is unlikely that chargers, parking lot expansion, or solar canopies are a priority for the MBTA given the scale of capital needs across all modes and the lack of economic viability.
- c Chair R. Scherer re-emphasized that the committee is interested in a report at a future meeting from C. Osborne about his mode shift calculator.

**F. Adjourn:** Chair R. Scherer adjourned the meeting at 3:48 PM.

*These minutes were approved by vote of the committee at their April 8, 2026 meeting.*

**Attendees:**

Committee:

|         |                  |
|---------|------------------|
| Ashland | Rob Scherer      |
| Canton  | Chris Podgurski  |
| Duxbury | Brian Glennon    |
| Hingham | Joe Fisher       |
| Reading | Mark Kraunelis   |
| Maynard | Chester Osborne  |
| Natick  | Morgan Griffiths |



Wellesley  
Westwood  
Worcester

Sheila Page  
Steve Olanoff  
Todd Kirrane

MBTA

Michael Muller  
Paula Fallon  
Alana Westwater  
Dave Walker

MBTA  
MBTA  
Keolis  
Keolis

MBTA Advisory Board Staff:

Brian Kane  
Hanna Switekowski  
Isabella MacKinnon

Executive Director  
Deputy Director  
Budget & Policy Analyst