Fiscal and Management Control Board
Transportation Board Room
10 Park Plaza
March 9, 2020
12:00 p.m.
MEETING MINUTES

Present:	**Chair Joseph Aiello, Director Monica Tibbits-Nutt, Director Brian Shortsleeve, and Director Chrystal Kornegay**
Quorum Present:	**Yes**
Others Present:	**Deputy General Manager Jeff Gonneville, David Abdoo, Hope Patterson, Owen Kane, Michelle Kalowski, David Panagore, Kat Benesh, Karen Antion, Steve Belanger, Mary Ann O'Hara, Laurel Paget-Seekins, and Andy Stuntz**

At the call of Chair Aiello a meeting of the Fiscal and Management Control Board (Board) was called to order at 12:09 p.m. at the State Transportation Building, Transportation Board Room, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, Massachusetts.

At 12:11 p.m., Chairman Aiello opened up the public comment period for items appearing on the agenda.

The first speakers, Brian Doherty from the Building Trades Union; Deb Gilcoine, 30-year MBTA employee in maintenance; Darlene Lombos from the

Greater Boston Labor Council and Lendy Ware, a MBTA employee in maintenance who all commented on the safety record of the MBTA.

Next, Olivia Nichols from Green Justice Coalition and Green Roots commented on bus privatization and low income fares.

Next, Andrea Nyameke, a MBTA rider commented on low-income fares.

Next, Lee Matsueda from CLU commented on privatization of maintenance facilities, safety and affordable fares.

Next, Steve Tolman, President from MA AFL-CIO and Louise Baxter from TRU commented on cuts to the MBTA maintenance workforce.

Next, Harold Roberts, Secretary/Treasurer and Business Agent of Local 42 commented on The Ride dedicated ride procurement.

Next, Mike Vartabedian from Local 254 IAM commented on safety at the MBTA, the maintenance workforce, privatization and low-income fares.

Next, Evan Foss supported previous comments made during this public comment period and maintenance problems.

Next, Mela Miles from TRU and Green Justice Coalition, commented on safe and affordable transportation and privatization.

Next, Marilyn McNabb commented on a safe transit system.

Next, Jay Monty from Everett and Brad Rawson from Somerville commented on bus priority lanes in Everett and Somerville and bus network redesign.

Lastly, Cindy Luppi from Clean Water Action commented on the Blue Line, low-income fares and privatization.

Next, was the approval of minutes of February 10, 2020 and February 24, 2020.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was:

VOTED: to approve the minutes of February 10, 2020.
Director Shortsleeve abstained from voting.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was:

VOTED to approve the minutes of February 24, 2020.
Director Shortsleeve abstained from voting.

Chair Aiello called on General Manager Poftak to present Agenda Item D, the Report from the General Manager. Mr. Poftak discussed coronavirus preparedness that included an increased sanitation schedule, sanitizers and personal protective equipment and communication. Mr. Poftak next discussed the MBTA coronavirus daily dashboard.

Mr. Poftak continued with discussing historical hires, promotions and separation data, and the expected impact of hiring for safety and capital acceleration.

Mr. Poftak concluded discussing Transit Driver Appreciation Month and provided a brief you-tube video, as set forth in the attached document labeled, “Report from the General Manager, March 9, 2020.”

Next, Chair Aiello called on Deputy General Manager Jeff Gonneville to present the Deputy General Manager’s Report, Agenda Item E. Mr. Gonneville first updated the Board on the determination to take the new orange line cars out of service and to fully investigate the issue. Mr. Gonneville will report back to the Board when more information becomes available.

Mr. Gonneville continued with an update on the transitioning and implementation the new THE RIDE software, transition concerns and the go-live process. Mr. Gonneville concluded discussing the Better Bus Project Open House scheduled for March 10, 2020 in Roxbury, as set forth in the attached document labeled, “Report from the Deputy General Manager, March 9, 2020.” Discussion ensued on the coronavirus pandemic and the future of the new Red Line cars.

Chair Aiello next called upon Hope Patterson, Deputy Director of Stakeholder Engagement to present Agenda Item E, the FMCB Public Schedule. Ms. Patterson

reviewed upcoming agenda items with the Board, as set forth in the attached document labeled, “FMCB Public Schedule, March 9, 2020.”

Next, Mr. Poftak presented Agenda Item F, the Safety Update. Mr. Poftak provided a brief update on the project management process. Mr. Poftak continued discussing an implementation of a safety management system (SMS), aligning the MBTA around safety as a core value, refreshing right-of-way (ROW) training and reducing Green Line speeding.

Mr. Poftak continued discussing the establishment of a QA/QC department to support monthly audits of PMIs. He also discussed the restructuring of the Safety Department to meet goals for safety oversight and SMS implementation, as set forth in the attached document labeled, “Safety Update, March 9, 2020”.

Next, Vice Chair Tibbits-Nutt called on Chief Administrative Officer David Panagore to present Agenda Item H, a discussion of the Preliminary FY21 Operating Budget and submission to the MBTA Advisory Board. Mr. Panagore provided a brief overview of the budget process and continued discussing budget and structural considerations.

Mr. Panagore next discussed assumptions for the FY21 preliminary itemized operating budget, established budget priorities, calculating available remaining funding and FY21 policy choices made on: Rail Transformation; Fare Transformation; investing in peak bus service and light and heavy rail.

Director Shortsleeve pointed out that while expenditures were rising, the number of passenger trips provided was staying static or trending downward. He noted that if the economy declined there would be cost structures that can never keep up; the MBTA has to boost productivity, reducing the cost per trip. Discussion ensued.

Kat Benesh, Chief of Operations Strategy, Policy & Oversight continued with the presentation and discussed in detail policy choices in bus transformation. Ms. Benesh reviewed three weekend pilot options, opting for the option costing $500K for precision investment, focused on weekend routes with highest crowding and potential to grow ridership.

Ms. Benesh next discussed the options for the bus network redesign demonstration project. Ms. Benesh noted that the third option was chosen, a revised proposal focusing on existing bus priority corridors and continued planning for Mattapan to the Longwood Medical Area.

Ms. Benesh concluded, discussing recommended bus pilots and expansion, as set forth in the document labeled, “FY21 Preliminary Itemized Operating Budget, March 9, 2020.” Discussion ensued.

Director Kornegay requested an amendment to the proposed vote adding language to add staff for planning needs for a FY22 means tested fare system.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was voted:

VOTED:

That the Fiscal and Management Control Board (FMCB) hereby directs the General Manager or his designee to submit the preliminary FY 2021 itemized Operating Budget, as presented during the March 9, 2020 FMCB meeting, with the addition of appropriate staffing level to advance the Means Testing Fares Study, in the name and on behalf of the Authority, to the MBTA Advisory Board for review.

Next, Laurel Paget-Seekins, Assistant General Manager for Policy introduced Andy Stuntz, Senior Manager of Fare Policy Analysis to present Agenda Item I, the Commuter Rail Zone Study. Mr. Stuntz reviewed the current policy principles for commuter rail fares. Mr. Stuntz discussed the study findings, improving commuter rail fare equity and concluded with recommendations of the study, discussed recommendation to address issues and opportunities, and next steps, as set forth in the attached document labeled, "Commuter Rail Zone Study: Final Update, March 9, 2020." Discussion ensued.

Next, Chair Aiello called on PTC Project Manager Karen Antion to present Agenda Item J, the Positive Train Control (PTC) Amendment. Ms. Antion provided the Board with an update of the federally mandated safety PTC system that remained on schedule. Ms. Antion reviewed current PTC activities, progress made and updated the Board members on the Siemens hardware, and software issues, Keolis support issues and the North Side ATC program.

Ms. Antion discussed LTX Engineering Services' involvement as the Engineering Advisor for the MBTA's PTC program. She noted that additional LTK services were required due to unanticipated technical issues encountered and required additional resources beyond what was anticipated. She noted the following Board action with LTK, provided additional services required to complete the PTC program implementation for $2,978,999.02, as set forth in the attached document labeled, "Positive Train Control (PTC) Program Update, March 9, 2020."

On motion duly made and seconded, it was:

VOTED:

That the General Manager, or his designee, is hereby authorized to execute in the name of and on behalf of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (the "MBTA"), and in a form approved by the General Counsel Amendment No. 2 as part of MBTA Contract No. X60PS02 entitled, "Commuter Rail Positive Train Control Engineering and Technical Support Services" with LTK Engineering Services, for a sum not to exceed $2,978,999.02 with a design completion date on or before December 31, 2020.

Lastly, Chair Aiello called on Senior Project Manager Steve Belanger to present Agenda Item K, the Green Line Track Upgrades on the B & C Branches. Mr. Belanger provided an overview of the contract that is an identified project in the 2020 Acceleration Plan to provide services for the Green Line Transformation track renewal plan and urgent on-call repairs for the Green Line B & C Branches, as set forth in the attached document labeled, "MBTA Construction Contract No. T25CN01

On-Call Green Line Track IV B & C Branches Construction Contract Award, March 9, 2020."

On motion duly made and seconded, it was:

VOTED:

That the General Manager, or his designee, is hereby authorized to award and execute in the name of and on behalf of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (the "MBTA"), and in a form approved by the General Counsel, MBTA Construction Contract No. T25CN01 – On-Call Green Line Track IV – B & C Branches, Construction Services, with Barletta Heavy Division, Inc., for an amount not to exceed $17,948,240.36.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was:

VOTED: To adjourn to enter into Executive Session to approve Executive Minutes at 2:15 p.m.

Documents relied upon for this meeting:

Minutes of February 10, 2020
Minutes of February 24, 2020
Report from the General Manager, March 9, 2020
Report from the Deputy General Manager, March 9, 2020
FMCB Public Schedule, March 9, 2020
Safety Update, March 9, 2020
FY21 Preliminary Itemized Operating Budget, March 9, 2020
Commuter Rail Zone Study: Final Update, March 9, 2020
Positive Train Control (PTC) Program Update, March 9, 2020
MBTA Construction Contract No. T25CN01 Onn-Call Green Line Track IV B & C Branches Construction Contract Award, March 9, 2020