



MINUTES

Meeting of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority Board of Directors

January 27, 2022 AT 10:00 A.M.

This meeting was held virtually in accordance with the Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law issued by Governor Baker on March 12, 2020. Members participated remotely and had materials provided to them prior to the meeting. Public participation and comment occurred via written communication, voice message and live public comment through conference call.

This meeting was broadcast virtually.

**BOARD MEMBERS
PARTICIPATING
REMOTELY:**

Chair Betsy Taylor, Director Robert Butler, Director Scott Darling, Director Thomas Koch, Director Travis McCready, Director Mary Beth Mello, Secretary Jamey Tesler

**Others Presenting
and/or Participating for
Various Portions of the
Meeting:**

General Manager Steve Poflak, Assistant General Manager for Policy & Transit Planning Lynsey Heffernan, Director of Fare Policy & Analytics Steven Povich, Rail & Transit Administrator Meredith Slesinger, Executive Director of Commuter Rail Mike Muller, Chief of Capital Transformation Angel Peña, Deputy Chief of Green Line Transformation Desiree Patrice, GLX Program Manager John Dalton

Others Present:

General Counsel Marie Breen, Managing Attorney-Corporate and Regulatory Eileen Fenton, and Noah Potash, Esq.

OPEN OF MEETING

Call to order by the Chair

Chair Betsy Taylor called the meeting of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority ("MBTA") Board to order at 10:00 a.m. Noah Potash called the roll of the MBTA Board of Directors participating remotely, being a

quorum of the MBTA Board:

Chair Taylor	Yes
Director Butler	Yes
Director Darling	Yes
Director Koch	Yes
Director McCready	Yes
Director Mello	Yes
Secretary Tesler	Yes

Chair Taylor began with a moment of silence in honor and memory of Roberta Sausville Devine, who tragically lost her life on January 21st at a Wilmington train crossing.

Public Comment

Louise Baxter expressed support for a low-income fare and expanded online sales.

Adrian Madaro, a Representative from the 1st Suffolk District, said he was pleased with the MBTA's commitment to equity and supported expanding low-income fares.

Paulina Casasola of Clean Water Action expressed support for a low-income fare.

Bri Nichols of the Coalition for Social Justice supports low-income fare.

Jarred Johnson of TransitMatters urged the adoption of a low-income fare program.

Collique Williams of Community Labor United called for the creation of a low-income fare structure.

Adam Castiglione requested improved customer-facing signage during any future closures of Haymarket station.

Juanita Gibson of the Conservation Law Foundation said that a low-income fare program would induce more trips and that service delays make it difficult for riders to connect with job opportunities.

Tom Ryan of A Better City expressed support for fare reduction options and asked the Board to fund a means-tested fare program.

Staci Rubin of the Conservation Law Foundation expressed support for the proposed fare changes and for a low-income fare pilot. She also expressed support for the Green Line Extension.

Emmanuel Barros of Alternatives for Community & Environment said he supports low-income fares and expressed concern about riders aging out of the YouthPass program.

REPORT

1. Report from the General Manager

General Manager Steve Poftak expressed condolences for the tragic death of Roberta Sausville Devine and discussed the actions taken to investigate the accident and prevent future occurrences. Secretary Tesler emphasized the importance of transparency and accountability, requesting that staff provide updates on safety issues at future meetings. Director Darling expressed his condolences and requested that the Safety Panel's final report be provided to the Board at the next meeting. Chair Taylor said she would add that item to the agenda.

The General Manager provided updates on the Commuter Rail, ridership, and employee recruitment. Director Darling asked if staff are doing outreach to community groups like the Urban League and the NAACP. The General Manager said that staff are actively reaching out through multiple channels and added that he would be happy to take suggestions on new potential channels. Responding to a question from Director Butler, General Manager Poftak said that staff were evaluating whether statutory adjustments could be made to allow some retirees to return to work to assist in critical areas. Director Mello commended staff for making the MBTA's tuition reimbursement program more equitable and suggested increased outreach to employees to ensure the program is fully utilized. Director McCready suggested outreach to the community college system and offered to assist with connections to the non-profit workforce development community. Secretary Tesler noted that the MBTA is constantly adjusting its recruitment program. Director Butler asked how recruitment is trending for rail operators and the General Manager explained that rail hiring is not experiencing as many difficulties as bus operator hiring.

General Manager Poftak continued with a presentation on proposed one-time investments, reviewing important components of the proposed investments, and requesting a sense of the Board on proceeding. Chair Taylor said she appreciated the amount of funding allocated to bus electrification. Director Koch noted the MBTA's progress on maintenance issues and said he fully supported the investment plan. Director Mello said that she was reassured by the flexibility built into the plan

and was fully supportive. Director Butler echoed Director Koch's comments and expressed support. Director Darling agreed and thanked the General Manager for addressing flexibility. Director McCready said it was important to emphasize the impacts that capital infrastructure projects have on riders. Secretary Tesler commented on the importance of including funding for recruitment and retention and noted that staff do not have plans to increase fares or reduce service. General Manager Poftak noted that higher than project ridership and revenues along with cost control measures by staff have resulted in revenues exceeding expectations. Director Mello said she appreciated the itemization in the presentation.

The General Manager concluded with a slide in memoriam of former MBTA employee Jeffrey Parker, encouraging employees dealing with stress to access the MBTA's robust Employee Assistance Program, including the Clinic and Occupational Health Services. Director Mello thanked the General Manager for the remembrance.

PRESENTATIONS AND ACTIONS

2. Approval of Minutes

Chair Taylor requested a motion to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2021 MBTA Board Meeting.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was by roll call:

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the MBTA Board Meeting held on December 16, 2021.

Chair Taylor	Yes
Director Butler	Yes

Director Darling	Yes
Director Koch	Yes
Director McCready	Yes
Director Mello	Yes
Secretary Tesler	Yes

3. Proposed Fare Tariff Changes and Public Comment Schedule

Assistant General Manager for Policy & Transit Planning Lynsey Heffernan and Director of Fare Policy & Analytics Steven Povich presented a selection of proposed fare tariff changes for Fiscal Year 2023 and reviewed the public comment schedule. Chair Taylor said that the Audit & Finance subcommittee discussed this topic and noted she has asked staff to return with a presentation on means-tested fares and other creative adjustments to shifting work patterns.

4. Amtrak – Attleboro Line Agreement Extension

Rail & Transit Administrator Meredith Slesinger presented a proposed extension of the Attleboro Line Agreement with Amtrak. Director Mello said that she appreciated the comprehensive presentation. Chair Taylor noted that the Audit & Finance subcommittee had a robust discussion on the agreement.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was by roll call:

VOTED: That the Board authorizes the General Manager, or his designee, to execute an agreement with Amtrak relating to the Attleboro Line, consistent with the terms of the attached Term Sheet, which is attached hereto as "Attachment A" and to take any and all actions necessary or advisable to effectuate the Agreement.

Chair Taylor	Yes
Director Butler	Yes

Director Darling	Yes
Director Koch	Yes
Director McCready	Yes
Director Mello	Yes
Secretary Tesler	Yes

5. Proposed Contract Award of Program Management/Construction Management (PM/CM) Services to HDR for Red Line and Orange Line Transformation Program

Chief of Capital Transformation Angel Peña and Deputy Chief of Green Line Transformation Desiree Patrice presented on the Capital Transformation Program and a proposed contract with HDR Engineering Inc. for PM/CM services. Chair Taylor asked if there has been discussion of potential skill transfer from the contractor to MBTA employees. Mr. Peña said that staff were taking the potential for skill transfer into account. Director Butler expressed support for getting this work completed. Director McCready asked about the DBE performance of the contract. Ms. Patrice explained that HDR has committed to more than 15% DBE participation, all of which will be completed by Massachusetts companies. At Secretary Tesler's request, Mr. Peña discussed signal work included in the program, which he said would improve overall service quality and reduce delays and disruptions. Director Mello thanked staff for including high quality imagery in the presentation.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was by roll call:

VOTED: To authorize the General Manager of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, or his designee, to award and execute a contract with HDR Engineering, Inc., for Program Management/Construction Management (PM/CM) Services for the Red Line and Orange Line Transformation Program and to take any and all

actions necessary or advisable to effectuate the Agreement, in a form approved by the General Counsel, in an amount not to exceed \$66,830,697.00.

Chair Taylor	Yes
Director Butler	Yes
Director Darling	Yes
Director Koch	Yes
Director McCready	Yes
Director Mello	Yes
Secretary Tesler	Yes

6. GLX Project Update

GLX Program Manager John Dalton provided a presentation on the Green Line Extension, providing updates and context on the project delivery effort. Chair Taylor said the program was a welcome success. Director Mello said she was thrilled with the team's work and commented on leadership's commitment to the project. Director McCready echoed Director Mello's comments and asked how simulated revenue runs were going and how DBE commitments are progressing. Mr. Dalton said that the operations side was going very well, and that the overall system has experienced minor, expected issues. Mr. Dalton explained that the project has a 7% DBE goal for design and a 14% goal for construction and said the project has achieved beyond both goals. Director Darling thanked the team and leadership for their work on this long-term project. Director Mello commented on the efforts by MassDOT and the Governor to keep costs on the project low. General Manager Poftak thanked Mr. Dalton for his leadership. Secretary Tesler noted that this project was highlighted by the Governor at his State of the Commonwealth address and emphasized the achievements of the purpose-built delivery team. Secretary Tesler

said that we should learn from our investments in this team and discussed the project in the context of the expanded MBTA Capital Investment program. Chair Taylor thanked everyone for their comments and said the Board would continue to discuss this topic.

7. Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to litigation. Board will not return to Open Session.

The final agenda item was an executive session to discuss strategy with respect to litigation. Chair Taylor explained that she had determined, and the General Counsel concurred, that discussion of these matters in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the MBTA. She stated that the Board would not return to open session at the conclusion of the executive session.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was by roll call:

VOTED: to enter executive session to discuss strategy with respect to litigation at 12:13 p.m.

Chair Taylor	Yes
Director Butler	Yes
Director Darling	Yes
Director Koch	Yes
Director McCready	Yes
Director Mello	Yes
Secretary Tesler	Yes

Documents relied upon for this meeting:

- January 27, 2022 Agenda
- Minutes of the December 16, 2021 MBTA Board Meeting
- Report from the General Manager
- Fare Changes – Board 202220127 – v1
- 20220127_BoardMBTA_AttleboroAgreement
- 1.27.22 Attleboro Agreement Term Sheet

- MBTA Contract No. R19PS04 PMCM Services for Red-Orange Transformation Programs.pptx
- 6. PR_20220127_G LX Update to MBTA Board_Rev1_MBTA_JHD