



MINUTES

Meeting of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority Board of Directors

April 28, 2022 AT 10:00 A.M.

This meeting was held virtually in accordance with the law recently signed by the Governor permitting public bodies to continue to hold meetings remotely. 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 Poftak, Chief Safety Officer Ron Ester, Chief Financial Officer Mary Ann O'Hara, Chief of Capital Transformation Angel Peña, Chief Administrative Officer David Panagore, Chief Procurement and Contract Administration Officer Jeff Cook

Others Present:

General Counsel Marie Breen, Chief Counsel Kevin Scanlon, Managing Attorney- Corporate & 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

Public Comment

Kevin Barrett of Boston expressed concerns about the new tap passes.

Dr. Julia Koehler asked that the mask mandate be reinstated.

Scott Sternberg of Salem demanded that the mask mandate be reinstated.

Sarah Koolsbergen urged the MBTA to maintain the mask mandate.

Kelly Brilliant of the Fenway Alliance commended the Green Line Transformation (GLT) team.

Ellen Walker, Executive Director of Mission Hill Main Street said that the GLT team had listened to and addressed her community's concerns.

Todd Kirrane, the Brookline representative to the MBTA Advisory Board, said the GLT model dramatically improved the town's relationship with the MBTA.

Conor Newman, Neighborhood Liaison for Allston-Brighton, expressed support for the GLT project.

State Representative Ruth Balser of Newton said that the GLT was valuable and that the team was responsive to the community.

Erin Chute Gallentine, Commissioner of Public Works for Brookline, expressed support for the GLT and said it had improved the MBTA's relationship with

Brookline.

Claire Durant, Director of Business & Governmental Affairs for the Boston Red Sox said the GLT team has been wonderful.

Bonnie Michelman, Executive Director of Police, Security and Outside Services for Massachusetts General Hospital, expressed support for the GLT.

Jim Curley, Director of State Relations for Boston University, said that the GLT has provided safer and more reliable service.

Pamela Beale of the Kenmore Association expressed support for the GLT.

Bill Mills, Director of Community Affairs for Boston College expressed support for the GLT and said it improved conditions on the Green Line.

Juanita Gibson of the Conservation Law Foundation said that the Safety, Health, and Environment subcommittee should discuss climate issues and public health and called on the MBTA to implement network-wide electrification.

State Senator Will Brownsberger expressed the importance of the GLT to his district.

Tom Yardley, Vice President of Area Planning & Development of MASCO, expressed support for the GLT.

Jarred Johnson of TransitMatters said there were some great things in the CIP, but that additional investments in rail electrification were needed.

Jiyoon Chon of Sierra Club urged the MBTA to strengthen the CIP by setting out timelines for electrification and the phase out of fossil fuels.

Louise Baxter of the T Riders Union called for more investments in low-income fare and safety.

REPORTS

1. Report from the General Manager

General Manager Steve Poftak presented his report, beginning by addressing the Robinson Lalin tragedy and discussing the investigations into that incident. Director Darling said he would like to cover the issue further during the Safety subcommittee report and asked the board to give condolences. Chair Taylor agreed wholeheartedly and expressed condolences on behalf of the board.

Mr. Poftak continued by reviewing ridership, then discussed the Government Center Garage collapse, acknowledging the tragic loss of life and noting that the project is independent of the MBTA. He discussed the MBTA's participation in recovery efforts. Chair Darling thanked the GM for his work and asked the Chair to give the board's condolences to Peter Monsini. Chair Taylor said that the board extends condolences and expressed regret for the loss. Director Butler said that he has spoken to the recovery team and was very impressed with the MBTA's response. Secretary Tesler said that the engineering team had done proactive work to control the response to the incident and ensure the safety of MBTA operations. He said it was important for MBTA customers to understand what was happening in real time. Director McCready echoed his colleagues and asked about the timeline for the Garage project, whether the Garage will get closer to the MBTA tunnels, and whether the MBTA would have to foot the bill for the investigations. Mr. Poftak said that staff

are seeking clarity on the garage removal process and that as removal continues, the garage will recede from the Green Line tunnels. He added that the MBTA has an agreement with the Garage developers that requires the developers to cover the costs of diversions and ancillary work.

Mr. Poftak continued with a review of Bus Network Redesign. Director McCready said he appreciated the public outreach on the topic and asked about the VMT and HR impacts of the program. The General Manager said that he believes the project is highlighted as an additional expense in the budget and discussed the need to hire more bus drivers. He continued by discussing the Blue Line surge/diversions. Director Mello expressed support for using diversions to complete construction. Secretary Tesler noted that additional multimodal coordination takes place.

Mr. Poftak discussed the recent bus operator one-day hiring event. Director Butler said speeding up hiring was great news. Director Mello asked if new benefits available to bus drivers had impacted hiring and Mr. Poftak said he thought that was the case and that staff are conducting surveys to better understand the impact. Secretary Tesler encouraged the board to keep addressing the topic and said it was important to keep trying new approaches.

Mr. Poftak continued with an update on federal grant applications and discussed the recent successful bond sale. Chair Taylor said the bond sale was an important transaction that would support sustainability and flexibility. Mr. Poftak concluded his report by reviewing plans for the U.S. Open and an inventory of

community outreach.

2. Audit & Finance Subcommittee Report

Chair Taylor reported on the activities of the Audit & Finance Subcommittee. She said subcommittee had received a detailed presentation on the Preliminary FY23 Budget and she said she looked forward to the full Board taking up the issue later in the meeting.

3. Safety, Health, and Environment Subcommittee Report

Director Darling asked Director Mello to summarize the most recent Safety subcommittee meeting. Director Mello said that the subcommittee discussed the Safety Engineering Team, reviewed the most recent Safety Data Analysis Report (SDAR), and received an update on the safety requirements of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Chief Safety Officer Ron Ester delivered a presentation on the SDAR. Director Darling discussed implementing a procedure to develop corrective action plans (CAPs) for red indicators on the SDAR and said that it was important to get ahead of negative trends. In response to questions from Director Darling, Mr. Poftak confirmed that there are two active NTSB investigations and that the MBTA cannot provide information on the underlying incidents until the NTSB completes its investigations. Director Darling asked that the findings from those investigations be presented publicly once available. Mr. Poftak said that he would plan on presenting the findings along with the results of the MBTA's internal investigations and any mitigations. Chair Taylor said that the board would aggressively support

implementation of safety recommendations. Director Mello addressed the public request for more discussion of the environment by the subcommittee and said the subcommittee would be addressing the environment at future meetings. Secretary Tesler stressed that the MBTA would make information from investigations available as soon as they are so authorized.

PRESENTATIONS AND ACTIONS

4. Approval of Minutes

Chair Taylor requested a motion to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2022 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 March 24, 2022.

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

5. Green Line Transformation

Chief of Capital Transformation Angel Peña presented on the Green Line Transformation, reviewing the planning process, achievements to date and discussing Type 10 vehicles. Chair Taylor said the program is impressive and demonstrates the value of an integrated program. She said she would ask staff how

to further accelerate the process once grants are received. Director Butler stressed the importance of pursuing grants. Director Mello said it was gratifying to hear positive feedback regarding the Green Line Transformation. Secretary Tesler said that core capacity grant seeking is underway and discussed the MassTRAC bill, which includes a request for \$830 million to fund procurement of Type 10 vehicles. Director Darling said that the board could assist with letters of support for the grants. Director Butler asked staff to return to the board before selecting a vendor. Mr. Peña said that they would return to the board and Chief Procurement and Contract Administration Officer Jeff Cook explained the process for vendor selection. In response to a question from Director Butler, Mr. Poftak said that there will not be a requirement that the Type 10s be manufactured in Massachusetts, as that would preclude receiving federal grants. Director Mello echoed the Secretary's comments on core capacity grants and suggested contacting the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) for insight on pursuing these grants.

6. Preliminary FY23 Budget Preview

Chief Financial Officer Mary Ann O'Hara presented the Preliminary FY23 Budget. Chair Taylor thanked Ms. O'Hara for the thorough presentation and said that the budget would improve safety and basic services. She also welcomed suggestions to raise additional revenues and said the MBTA should not reduce the maintenance or safety budgets to balance the overall budget. Chair Taylor expressed support for releasing the budget to the Advisory Board. Secretary Tesler

said that the largest variable is ridership and discussed the vital increase in payroll and associated retention issues. Ms. O'Hara said that staff report actual results on a quarterly basis. Director Mello added that if revenues are higher than expected, they should be reserved for operating funds. Chief Administrative Officer David Panagore said that those funds would be segregated in the Deficiency Fund. Director McCready thanked Ms. O'Hara for raising the FY24 concerns and asked about supply chain cost impacts. Ms. O'Hara said that the MBTA is experiencing pressure in materials, supplies and services, particularly in fuel costs. Director McCready asked about the plan for initiatives with major cost impacts given the pending deficit. General Manager Poftak spoke on the challenge of incorporating costly initiatives without additional funding and said some projects are addressed in the Pro Forma. Director Mello noted that between federal capital resources and MassTRAC, there is some positivity in the news from competing for those resources.

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

VOTED: That the General Manager is hereby authorized and directed to submit the Preliminary FY23 Itemized Budget, in the name and on behalf of the Authority, to the MBTA Advisory Board; and

That following the Advisory Board review, a Final FY23 Itemized Budget will be submitted to the MBTA Board of Directors no later than June 15, 2022 in accordance with Section 20 of Chapter 161A of the Massachusetts General Laws as amended by Chapter 56 of the Acts of 2020.

Chair Taylor	Yes
Director Butler	Yes
Director Darling	Yes
Director McCready	Yes

Director Mello	Yes
Secretary Tesler	Yes

Executive Session

The final item on the agenda was an executive session. Chair Taylor announced that the board would enter executive session to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel. She noted 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 conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel.

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

Documents relied upon for this meeting:

- April 28, 2022 Agenda
- Minutes of the March 24, 2022 MBTA Board Meeting
- Report from the General Manager
- Safety Data Report
- Green Line Transformation (Including Type 10 Vehicles)
- FY23 Preliminary Budget – VF 4.14.22
- MBTA Federal Discretionary Grant Report_April Final_20220420
- Procurement Capital Operating Contract Awards – 2022-03 March VF 4.19.22