



Charles D. Baker, Governor
Karyn E. Polito, Lieutenant Governor
Stephanie Pollack, MassDOT Secretary & CEO
Luis Manuel Ramirez, General Manager & CEO



**Fiscal and Management Control Board
Transportation Board Room**

10 Park Plaza

September 24, 2018

12:00 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Director Steven Poftak, Director Monica Tibbits-Nutt, Director Brian Shortsleeve

Quorum Present: Yes

Others Present: General Manager Luis Ramirez, Deputy General Manager Jeff Gonneville, General Counsel Marie Breen, Owen Kane, Karen Antion, Beth Larkin, Jessica Casey, Erik Stoothoff. Scott Hamwey, Dan Grabauskas. Jody Ray and Bill Wolfgang

PROCEEDINGS:

At the call of Vice Chair Poftak, a meeting of the Fiscal and Management Control Board was called to order at 12:05 p.m. at the State Transportation Building, Transportation Board Room, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, Massachusetts.

Vice-Chair Poftak opened up the public comment session.

The first speaker was Veena Dharmaraj from the Sierra Club commented on investing in an electric bus fleet.

Next Louise Baxter from TRU commented on bus pilot routes and bus service planning.

The last speaker was Richard Prone, MBTA Advisory Board representative from Duxbury, commented on evening commuter rail and fall schedules.

Next, was the approval of the minutes of the September 10, 2018 meeting.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was:

VOTED: to approve the minutes of September 10, 2018.

Vice Chair Poftak called upon General Manager Luis Ramirez to present Agenda Item D, the General Manager's report. Mr. Ramirez provided the Board with an overview on Positive Train Control and announced Operation Lifesaver - Rail Safety Week was September 23 thru September 29. Mr. Ramirez continued updating the Board on the Bus Locations Instant Tracking System (BLITS) and the Real-Time Arrival Prediction System (RTAPS) and announced that for the first time rapid transit and bus street level real-time Information would be available at Tufts Medical Center. Mr. Ramirez continued announcing the launch of a partnership with UMass Lowell on a commuter rail pilot, as set forth in the attached document labeled, "General Manager's Remarks, September 24, 2018." Discussion ensued.

Ms. Joanne Yaztremski, Senior Vice Chancellor of Finance and Operations at UMass Lowell provided brief remarks on the early success, significance and benefit of the commuter rail pilot to their students.

Next, Vice Chair Poftak called upon Deputy General Manager Jeffrey Gonneville to present Agenda Item E, the Deputy General Manager's report. Mr. Gonneville discussed the partnership between the MBTA and the Good Samaritans during Suicide Prevention Month, as set forth in the attached document labeled, "Deputy GM Remarks, September 24, 2018."

Mr. Steve Mongeau from the Good Samaritans praised and thanked the MBTA for its public outreach and commitment and passion to public safety.

The Vice Chair next called upon MassDOT's Deputy Chief of Staff Nathan Peyton to present Agenda Item F, the FMCB Calendar. Mr. Peyton reviewed upcoming agenda items with the Board, as set forth in the attached document labeled, "FMCB Public Schedule, September 24, 2018."

Next, Vice Chair Poftak called upon Assistant General Manager of Project Delivery Beth Larkin and Karen Antion, PTC Program Manager to present Agenda Item J, the Positive Train Control Update. Ms. Larkin provided an overview of the program. Ms. Antion continued discussing PTC activities and progress and detailed specific program management issues and rectifications. She concluded discussing next steps and the timeline, as set forth in the attached document labeled, "Commuter Rail Positive Train Control (PTC) Program Update, September 24, 2018." Discussion ensued.

Ms. Antion recognized and thanked the various PTC Consultants, Contractors, Managers and Management Teams on this project.

Next, Vice Chair Poftak called Deputy General Manager Jeff Gonneville to kickoff Agenda Item G, the Systemwide update on Bus. Mr. Gonneville provided an overview on investments and the size of fleet.

Erik Stoothoff, Deputy Chief Operating Officer of Infrastructure continued with the Fleet and Facilities portion of the presentation, with contribution from Mr. Gonneville and the General Manager, explaining how the bus fleet would expand over the next 25 years. Mr. Stoothoff provided the specifics of the program plan and continued with an over of the bus garages and bus fleet.

Mr. Stoothoff continued to discuss recent and ongoing bus programs and bus fuel economy advancements/sustainability, planned new procurement and overhaul programs, the facility program development plan and next steps and milestones, as set forth in the attached documented labeled, "Bus Fleet and Facility Program, September 24, 2018." Discussion ensued.

Veena Dharmaraj from the Sierra Club in the audience interjected some additional comments on electric buses.

Next, Jessica Casey, Deputy Chief Operating Office of Service Planning and Strategy continued with an update on the Better Bus Project (BBP). Ms. Casey

began with an overview of feedback received from the Better Bus meetings, operators, local government officials, street teams and online comments. Ms. Casey continued explaining the BBP Service Improvement Process Map, quarterly changes and optimization of the Bus Network for Fall 2018, and next steps of the Tier 1, budget neutral opportunities, as set forth in the attached document labeled “Better Bus Project – Update, September 24, 2018.” Discussion ensued.

Deputy General Manager Gonneville announced the Barr Foundation had awarded a \$900,000, two-year grant to the MBTA to hire staff to develop a closer working relationship with municipalities to improve service.

Next, Scott Hamwey, Manager of Long Range Planning began the Network Re-Design portion of Agenda Item G. Mr. Hamwey reviewed the MBTA Bus Network Redesign Problem Statement that would serve as a starting point, and continued to describe how the MBTA network differed from its peers in planning, infrastructure and productivity. Mr. Hamwey was seeking feedback from the FMCB on the statement and what role cities and towns should have given the unique nature of the network. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Hamwey reviewed the MBTA Bus Network focus with the Board, questioning whether the process should focus on redesigning the whole network or focus only on low productivity routes and new controls. The Board concurred an examination of the whole network was needed with the understanding many routes

would stay in place and analyze low performing routes based on existing productivity. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Hamwey continued with the bus network redesign process and Phase I: Development of Network Level Goals and Metrics. Mr. Hamwey was seeking feedback from the Board regarding Phase 2: Corridor Analysis, Development and Evaluation of concepts: would the Board prefer to issue a RFI or RFP? The Board unanimously agreed to issue an RFP to move this process forward. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Hamwey concluded discussing Phase 1: Development of Network Level Goals and Metrics. The Board requested a summary of options for the public to decide, as set forth in the attached document labeled, "Bus Network Redesign Update, September 24, 2018." Discussion ensued,

Mr. Gonneville began the final portion of the bus presentation – Performance Metrics. Mr. Gonneville provided updates on FMLA and the Dropped Trips Task Force, noting that since early June, dropped trips have been reduced by 46% and said that Bus Operations will continue to work with Superintendents and Supervisors to reduce dropped trips across the bus network. Discussion ensued,

Ms. Casey concluded with an HASTUS overview – an Operations management tool that will modernize the MBTA's systems for planning, tracking and managing work assignments for heavy rail, light rail and bus operations and the

benefits of the HASTUS related to dropped trips, as set forth in the attached document labeled “Bus Improvement – Update, September 24, 2018.” Discussion ensued.

Next, Vice Chair Poftak called upon Assistant General Manager Bonnie Haase to present Agenda Item H – Human Resources Update. Ms. Haase first discussed the programmed Hiring dashboard. Ms. Haase responded to Director Tibbits-Nutt questions on critical hires and request for an updated organization chart. Discussion ensued

Ms. Haase continued to update the Board on programmed hiring, leave management, critical hires, key performance indicators, compensation MAPC funding, as set forth in the attached document labeled “Human Resources Update, September 24, 2018.” Discussion ensued.

The Vice Chair next called upon Executive Director of Commuter Rail Daniel Grabauskas to present Agenda Item I, an update on Commuter Rail. Mr. Grabauskas presented an update of the recent performance of commuter rail as well as a preview of some schedule changes upcoming this Fall, as set forth in the attached documents labeled “FMCB Commuter Rail Update, September 24, 2018” and “Schedule Changes Over 5 minutes for October 22, 2018.” Discussion ensued. David Scorrey, General Manager of Keolis contributed to the presentation.

Mr. Gonneville noted that at the request of the Board the team analyzed increasing the late evening service on the Old Colony/Middleboro, Greenbush and Kingston/Plymouth commuter rail lines that would cost \$150,000 to \$200,000. The team is prepared to begin outreach to solicit feedback from the communities if the Board wishes.

On motion duly and seconded, it was:

VOTED: to adjourn at 3:26 pm.

Documents relied upon for this meeting:

Minutes of September 10, 2018
General Manager's Remarks, September 24, 2018
Deputy GM Remarks, September 24, 2018
FMCB Calendar, September 24, 2018
FMCB Commuter Rail Update, September 24, 2018
Schedule Changes Over 5 minutes for October 22, 2018
Human resources Update, September 24, 2018
Bus Improvement –Update, September 24, 2018
Better Bus Project – Update, September 24, 2018
Bus Fleet and Facility Program, September 24, 2018
Bus Fleet and Facility Program, September 24, 2018
Commuter Rail Positive Train Control (PTC) Program Update, September 24, 2018