



Charles D. Baker, Governor
Karyn E. Polito, Lieutenant Governor
Stephanie Pollack, MassDOT Secretary & CEO
Steve Poftak, General Manager



Fiscal and Management Control Board
Transportation Board Room
10 Park Plaza
May 6, 2019 #166
12:00 Noon
MEETING MINUTES

Present: Chair Joseph Aiello, Director Monica Tibbits-Nutt,
Director Chrystal Kornegay and Director Brian Lang

Quorum Present: Yes

Others Present: Secretary Stephanie Pollack, General Manager Steve Poftak, Nathan Peyton, Owen Kane, Marie Breen, Michelle Kalowski, Joanna Aalto, Laurel Paget-Seekins, Kat Benesh, Scott Hamwey, Jeff Cook, Mike Muller

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

Chair Aiello opened up the public comment period for items appearing on the agenda.

Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority

Ten Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116

www.mbta.com

The first speaker was Paul Regan, Executive Director of the MBTA Advisory Board who commented on later evening commuter rail service on the Old Colony line for South Shore commuters.

Next, Louis Baxter from TRU commented on the Better Bus Project, specifically Bus Routes 9 and 11.

Next, Marilyn McNabb commented on paratransit service and the Downtown Crossing accessible entrance,

Next, Richard Prone, the Advisory Board representative from Duxbury commented on later evening commuter rail service on the Old Colony line on the South Shore and the Rail Vision Plan.

Next, Alice Brown, Director of Planning from Boston Harbor Now commented on the transit pilot policy and the ferry contract.

Next, Mela Miles from the Greater Four Corners Action Coalition commented on the Better Bus Project, local community engagement and fare policy changes.

Next, Matt Moran from the Boston Transportation Department commented on the transit pilot policy.

Lastly, Sara Levy from Green Roots commented on the Better Bus Project and issues with construction projects in Chelsea.

Public comment period concluded at 12:30 p.m.

Next was the approval of the minutes of the April 29, 2019 meeting.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was:

VOTED: to approve the minutes of May 6, 2019.

Director Tibbits-Nutt abstained from voting.

Chair Aiello continued with the agenda and called upon General Manager Steve Poftak to present the Report of the General Manager, Agenda Item D. Mr. Poftak discussed the launch of the energy efficiency partnership that would reduce electricity use by 7%, the announcement of a low vision technology pilot with Aira, an app that connects blind and low vision customers to trained agents, the 2017-2019 Lead Program completion hosted by the MBTA, Dudley Station; Love Your Block/Station Brightening efforts and the delivery of the first of five battery-powered buses that will go into service – the “LoNo” Emission Vehicle Deployment Program, as set forth in the attached document labeled, “General Manager’s Remarks, May 6, 2019.” Discussion ensued.

Next, MassDOT’s Deputy Chief of Staff Nathan Peyton presented 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, May 6, 2019.” Discussion ensued. Chair Aiello requested the General Manager to provide the Board with an update of upcoming real estate transactions and Director Tibbits-Nutt requested an update of Quality of Life before July.

Chair Aiello noted that Agenda Item F, the Capital Needs Assessment presentation would be rescheduled to a future date.

Next, General Manager Poftak updated the Board on his review of Capital Delivery and Long Term Capital Spending Plan. Mr. Poftak reviewed and discussed his eight major findings: MBTA needs to add capacity; current CIP programming appears infeasible to execute and counter to long term goal of 15 year burndown of backlog; current CIP programming appears infeasible to execute and counter to long-term goal of 15 year burndown of backlog with a rebaselined long-term capital plan consistent with FMCB goals; near-term expansion projects could mask shortcomings in reliability and modernization spending; process improvements will improve execution and an explanation of utility of projects to customers in plain language. Mr. Poftak concluded with a summary of long-term capital plan rebaselined spending that would meet the backlog within 15 years by 2032, as set forth in the attached document labeled, "Capital Review and Long Term Plan, May 6, 2019." Discussion ensued.

Next, Chair Aiello called on Capital Director Joanna Aalto to present Agenda Item G, the Q3 Capital Update. Ms. Aalto provided the Board with Capital Program goals; FY19 performance vs. FY19 key performance indicators (KPIs); initiatives to improve accountability and reporting and a look ahead to FY19 Q4, as set forth in the attached document labeled, "FY19 Q3 Capital Program Update, May 6, 2019." Discussion ensued.

Chairman Aiello next called on Assistant General Manager of Policy Laurel Paget-Seekins to present Agenda Item H, the Pilot Policy Update. Ms. Paget-Seekins provided the Board with a background of what a pilot consisted of and reviewed the multiple ways of adding or changing services. She noted the existing pilot policy was adopted by the FMCB on March 27, 2017 and three pilots have been approved since, namely Early Morning Bus, Late Night Bus and Foxboro Commuter Rail. Ms. Paget-Seekins continued with lessons learned from the first iteration of the external pilot process.

Ms. Paget-Seekins concluded with a proposed timeline for external pilots in FY21, as set forth in the attached document labeled, "External Pilot Policy Update, Process for FY21, May 6, 2019." After a lengthy discussion, the Board requested staff to return in June with a staffing plan, revised timeline and intake process for further conversation and direction.

Next, Kat Benesh, Chief of Operations Strategy, Policy and Oversight was called upon to present Agenda Item I, an update of Bus Service and Planning (Better Bus Project). Ms. Benesh noted the goal of this meeting was to seek the Board's acceptance of findings, review, discuss Key Performance metrics, and review the process for incorporating additional public feedback. Ms. Benesh continued to discuss the Equity Analysis findings and requested the Board's acceptance of the Equity Analysis outcome for Near-Term proposals and 45 additional operators. Discussion ensued.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was:

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (the “Authority”) created the Better Bus Project to improve bus service in the Authority’s bus network by developing a package of near-term changes to the Authority’s bus routes; and

WHEREAS, the Better Bus Project evaluated existing bus routes and, based on its analysis and feedback from the public, proposed implementing changes to several bus routes in the Authority’s network and the hiring of additional full-time bus operators to improve off-peak services on high volume routes and to improve reliability (“the Proposals”); and

WHEREAS, the Authority has engaged in a public process and has conducted public meetings with respect to the Proposals; and

WHEREAS, the Proposals are considered a major service change pursuant to the Federal Transit Administrator (FTA) Title VI Circular 4702.1B, triggering a Service Equity Analysis (the “Equity Analysis”) to determine whether the implementation of the Proposals will result in disparate impacts to minority populations or disproportionate burdens to low-income populations; and

WHEREAS, such Equity Analysis has been completed in accordance with MBTA’s Disproportionate Impact/Disproportionate Burden Policy; and

WHEREAS, the results of the Equity Analysis indicate that the implementation of the Proposals will not result in disparate impacts to minority populations, disparate benefits to nonminority populations, disproportionate burdens to low-income populations, or disproportionate benefits to non-low-income populations; and

WHEREAS, the FMCB is aware of and has considered the Equity Analysis for the Better Bus Project; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT VOTED by the members of the FMCB, as follows: The FMCB hereby approves the Title VI Service Equity Analysis and directs the Authority, through the General Manager to take all steps necessary to

provide notice of such acceptance to all interested parties, including the Federal Transit Administration.

Ms. Benesh reviewed and discussed key performance metrics for monitoring impact and success of Better Bus Project proposals and reviewed the process for incorporating additional public feedback into future quarterly changes and/or network redesign and key next steps, as set forth in the attached document labeled “Better Bus Project Update, May 6, 2019.” Scott Hamwey, Manager of Long Range Planning contributed to the presentation, and discussion ensued.

Next, Chair Aiello called on Jeff Cook, Chief Procurement and Contract Administrator to present Agenda Item J, an update on the Ferry Contract. Mr. Cook provided an overview of the current water transportation operations – ferries, routes, and ridership and reviewed the procurement process. The Board had previously requested staff to look into ways of increasing competition for bidding of water transportation services when only Boston Harbor Cruises bid to run the ferry service contract last year, increasing costs for the MBTA. Mr. Cook concluded with recommendations for future procurement strategies for ferry operations and RFP considerations, as set forth in the attached document labeled, “Water Transportation Service – Post RFP Review, May 6, 2019.” Discussion ensued. The Chair requested further discussion on this topic in June.

Lastly, Chair Aiello called upon Manager of Long Range Planning Scott Hamwey to present Agenda Item K, an update on the Commuter Rail Vision. Mr.

Hamway provided a status update of the Rail Vision Program. He continued with an outreach update and reviewed the seven service alternatives, concluding with an identification of investment needs, key results and timeline, as set forth in the attached document labeled, "Rail Vision, Briefing to FMCB, May 6, 2019." Discussion ensued. The Chair requested Mr. Hamway ask a representative from the Toronto Transit Commission to appear before the Board and discuss their rail transformation program and process.

The Chair announced the Board would not be entering into Executive Session.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was:

VOTED: to adjourn the meeting at 3:01 p.m.

Documents relied upon for this meeting:

- Minutes of April 29, 2019
- General Manager's Remarks, May 6, 2019
- FMCB Public Meeting Schedule, May 6, 2019
- Capital Review and Long Term Plan, May 6, 2019
- FY19 Q3 Capital Program Update, May 6, 2019
- External Pilot Policy Update, Process for FY21, May 6, 2019
- Better Bus Project Update, May 6, 2019
- Water Transportation Service – Post RFP Review, May 6, 2019
- Rail Vision Briefing to the FMCB, May 6, 2019