



GATRA Advisory Board Meeting May 21, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm by Mayor Thomas Hoye, GATRA Advisory Board Chairman, in Norton, MA.

Those in attendance were:

Francis J. Gay, Administrator, GATRA
Mayor Paul Heroux, Attleboro Rep.
Alice Souza, Dighton Rep.
Tammy Murray, Hanover Rep.
Kevin J. Dumas, Mansfield Rep.
Greg Guimond, Marshfield Rep.
Scott Bragdon, Norfolk Rep.
Joseph Ryan, Pembroke Rep.
Janet Angelico, Wrentham Rep.
Carole Julius, Carver Rep.
Brittney Faria, Seekonk Rep.
Kim Catania, Admin Secretary, GATRA
***Denotes New Designee for the Meeting**

Mayor Thomas Hoye, Taunton Rep.
Richard Leitch, Norton Rep.
Heather Martin-Sterling, Berkley Rep.*
Paula Rossi-Clapp, Kingston Rep.
Bradley Marshall, Rehoboth Rep.
Andrea Priest, Middleboro Rep.
Joseph Collins, N. Attleboro Rep.
Sandra Slavin, Wareham Rep.
Josie Dutil, Bellingham Rep.
Linda Hayes, Scituate Rep.
Michael Raymond, ADA Delegate*
Sherry Norman, Norfolk COA Director

1. Introductions were made by those present.
2. **Approval of November 20, 2018 Minutes:** The Minutes of the November 20, 2018 GATRA Advisory Board meeting were distributed to the Advisory Board for approval.

MOTION by Greg Guimond to approve the Minutes of the November 20, 2018 GATRA Advisory Board meeting as circulated.

SECONDED by Mayor Heroux and **passed** by the Advisory Board.

3. **Capital Projects:** Mr. Gay gave an update on Capital Projects as follows:

Vehicles: GATRA has two new 35' Gillig transit buses which will be delivered in early June as replacement vehicles for the older fleet. GATRA also received 4 mini-buses which will be put into service for some of the smaller fixed routes provided in Wareham and Plymouth. Four mini buses and 7 vans will be coming in the next month and will be used for the demand response systems by the various Councils on Aging.

Eastern Area Facility: GATRA is still working on finding a site in the Plymouth/Wareham area for a maintenance garage. As of now, a suitable site has not been found. There is a possible site in Plymouth but there are environmental issues which need to be worked out with the Town of Plymouth.

Taunton Terminal Project: Improvements are moving along at the Taunton Bus Terminal. The office spaces have been finished on the first floor; the coffee shop has reopened after being renovated;

nothing has come back in writing from MassDOT. Mr. Gay and Mayor Hoyer did discuss sending a letter to Secretary Pollack from the Board stating this concern and that by statute GATRA should be receiving the 50/50 split. Mr. Gay has held off sending the letter due to the fact the Senate version of the budget includes funding to make up this deficit for both MWRTA and GATRA, which are the only 2 RTAs which are underfunded. If this language gets through the Senate version and then through the House conference committee, this may be a way for GATRA to get this money. If not, the FY20 budget will reflect this deficit. GATRA's auditor says it can carry this amount for a couple more years but at some point it will need to pay off this money. Mr. Gay's recommendation to the Board is to wait and see what happens with the Senate version of the budget and what the final budget will be. If the language is not in final version, Mr. Gay recommending preparing a letter from Mayor Hoyer as Chairman of the Board or have all 28 communities sign a letter. Depending on the final state budget and the RTAs do not get \$90.5 million, then the deficit will increase. Once the state budget is finalized, Mr. Gay may ask the communities to write to the legislature to push for language to remain for the 50/50 split.

The FY2019 Budget Revision 2 remains the same except the last line item for Demand Response Transportation (page 4) under Long Distance Transportation. This amount was originally \$25,000 but a grant was received from the Commonwealth for GATRA's MedWheels transportation and it is anticipated by end of FY2019 GATRA will spend an additional \$135,000. This line item reflects that additional money. The other revision is under the Human Service Transportation, which is the brokerage work GATRA does for the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS). This work continues to grow and it is anticipated GATRA will spend another \$2.5 million by the end of June 2019. This line item has been adjusted to reflect this increase. On the revenue side, GATRA raised fares for both fixed route and demand response and has seen a small increase in the revenue amount for fixed route which is reflected in the budget. Again, the human service transportation revenue received from the Commonwealth is up significantly. Also, the MedWheels funds received from the United Way have been added under revenue. Overall, the net budget hasn't changed for the local communities and the state share. The total operating budget has gone up approximately \$2 million.

MOTION by Kevin Dumas to approve the FY2019 Budget Revision 2 as circulated.

SECONDED by Greg Guimond and **passed** by the Advisory Board.

FY2020 Budget: For the FY2020 Budget, Mr. Gay recommended to the Board to level fund everything from the Revision 2 version of the FY2019 Budget which was just passed. The only addition would be under Demand Response Transportation (page 4). GATRA received approval of a state grant for the Micro Transit Pilot for \$300,000 and this was added to the line item. Also, the Micro Transit Pilot was added to the revenue section. Mr. Gay suggested the Board meet again once the state budget has been determined and make adjustments accordingly.

MOTION by Greg Guimond to approve the FY2020 Budget as circulated.

SECONDED by Tammy Murray and **passed** by the Advisory Board.

- 6. Service Changes & Public Hearings:** GATRA has been working with the Plainridge Casino for several years since it began the initial permitting process. Plainridge claimed in their permitting they would provide some kind of fixed route service to the casino. GATRA is proposing to add a new route to the Plainridge area and the cost to run this service would be approximately \$200,000. GATRA has yet to hear back from Plainridge since the proposal was made including the cost. The

9. DBE Program: Mr. Gay informed the Board that originally he thought the Board would have to make a resolution on the DBE Program as well. But this is not the case, so no action was taken in this regard.

10. SRPEDD Programs/Issues: There were no updates from SRPEDD at this time.

With no further business to discuss;

MOTION by Greg Guimond was made to adjourn the meeting.

SECONDED by Joseph Collins and **passed** by the Advisory Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:04 PM.