



**September 20, 2023
Open Session Minutes**

**Greater Attleboro Taunton Regional Transit Authority (GATRA)
Advisory Board Meeting
Taunton City Hall
Mayor's Conference Room, 4th Floor
15 Summer Street, Taunton, MA 02780
and
Zoom**

1. Call to Order

Mayor O'Connell called the meeting to order at 1:03PM.

A roll call attendance was taken.

The following board members were present:

Bellingham (2.59), Josie Dutil (remote)
Berkley (1.38), Dean Larabee (remote)
Carver (1.61), Connie Kelly (remote)
Dighton (1.15), Anabela Powell (remote)-
arrived at 1:09PM
Duxbury (2.25), Joanne Moore (remote)
Franklin (2.35), Cobi Frongillo (remote)
Hanover (3.57), Tammy Murray (remote)
Mansfield (2.80), Kevin Dumas (remote)
Marshfield (3.04), Greg Guimond (remote)-
arrived at 1:05PM
Medway (1.96), Courtney Riley (remote)

Norfolk (2.24), Karen Edwards (remote)
Plainville (1.29), Brenda Watkinson
Plymouth (5.33), Derek Brindisi (remote)
Raynham (2.06), Erin Medeiros (remote)-
arrived at 1:13PM
Rehoboth (1.21), Richard Panofsky (remote)
Scituate (2.32), Linda Hayes (remote)
Seekonk (2.11), Brittany Faria (remote)
Taunton (5.49), Mayor Shaunna O'Connell
Wareham (3.20), Alan Slavin
ADA Advocate (1.00), Michael Raymond
(remote)

The following board members were absent:

Attleboro (5.40), Mayor DeSimone
Foxborough (1.98), Marc Craig
Kingston (1.96), Patti Waitkevich
Lakeville (1.59), Christina Cotsoridis
Middleboro (2.79), Mark Germain

North Attleboro (3.26), Tony Morabito
Norton (2.11), Michael Toole
Pembroke (2.53), Gretchen Emmets
Plympton (1.00), Colleen Thompson
Wrentham (1.92), Janet Angelico

Also present:

Mary Ellen DeFrias, Dan Burgess, Kylie Araujo

2. June 21, 2023 Advisory Board Open Session Minutes

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A motion was made and 2nd to approve the open session meeting minutes from June 21, 2023. A roll call vote was taken.

Bellingham (2.59), Josie Dutil- aye
Berkley (1.38), Dean Larabee- abstain
Carver (1.61), Connie Kelly- aye
Duxbury (2.25), Joanne Moore- aye
Franklin (2.35), Cobi Frongillo- aye
Hanover (3.57), Tammy Murray- aye
Mansfield (2.80), Kevin Dumas- aye
Marshfield (3.04), Greg Guimond- aye
Medway (1.96), Courtney Riley- aye
Norfolk (2.24), Karen Edwards- aye

Plainville (1.29), Brenda Watkinson- aye
Plymouth (5.33), Derek Brindisi- aye
Rehoboth (1.21), Richard Panofsky- aye
Scituate (2.32), Linda Hayes- aye
Seekonk (2.11), Brittany Faria- aye
Taunton (5.49), Mayor Shaunna O'Connell- aye
Wareham (3.20), Alan Slavin- aye
ADA Advocate (1.00), Michael Raymond- aye

Motion to approve June 21, 2023 Minutes passed.

3. Administrator's Report, Civil Rights Report, & Financial Report

Mary Ellen DeFrias reviewed the Administrator's Report and Civil Rights Report. Mary Ellen reviewed that GATRA is down to one open Triennial finding and that finding is being actively worked on being resolved with the Federal Transit Authority (FTA) as it is complex. On the Operations side, the Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs) in Massachusetts received additional funding. This amount is not reflected in the budget yet as the contract with the state for the funding is not yet signed. With this additional funding, GATRA plans to implement Sunday Service. At this time, finding drivers is the biggest hurdle. Sunday Service will be rolled out on a modified basis, beginning with few routes in Taunton, Attleboro, Plymouth, and Wareham. As more drivers are hired, additional service will be added on Sundays until Sunday Service matches Saturday Service. Automatic Vehicle Locators (AVL) will be rolled out soon as well and will be able to provide more real time ridership data.

Mayor O'Connell, Taunton, asked how GATRA was recruiting drivers. Mary Ellen shared that currently GATRA is offering a recruitment bonus to current drivers to referring their friends as drivers. GATRA is also recruiting non-CDL (Commercial Driver's License) drivers with the intention to provide the education for CDL to some of them as well. The state is also doing a state-wide recruitment campaign. This is an industry shortage.

Josie Dutil, Bellingham, asked about on-bus marketing campaigns. Mary Ellen shared that we would need to work with the contracted advertisement company to see what we can do about using advertising space for this purpose. Mary Ellen also shared that part of the state's campaign involves billboards and radio campaigns.

Dan Burgess shared the Financial Report. He reviewed that numbers in the budget have shifted slightly, which is expected. Additionally, with the audit, he anticipates additional minor shifting. Dan also reviewed July 2023 (start of Fiscal Year (FY) 24) spending. Each month, another

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month year-to-date will be shared with the Board. Dan also mentioned that there will need to be a budget amendment once the additional, above-mentioned funding contract is signed.

A motion was made and 2nd to approve the Administrator's Report, Civil Rights Report, and Financial Report. A roll call vote was taken.

Bellingham (2.59), Josie Dutil- aye
Berkley (1.38), Dean Larabee- aye
Carver (1.61), Connie Kelly- aye
Duxbury (2.25), Joanne Moore- aye
Franklin (2.35), Cobi Frongillo- aye
Hanover (3.57), Tammy Murray- aye
Mansfield (2.80), Kevin Dumas- aye
Marshfield (3.04), Greg Guimond- aye
Medway (1.96), Courtney Riley- aye
Norfolk (2.24), Karen Edwards- aye
Plainville (1.29), Brenda Watkinson- aye

Plymouth (5.33), Derek Brindisi- aye
Raynham (2.06), Erin Medeiros- abstain
Rehoboth (1.21), Richard Panofsky- aye
Scituate (2.32), Linda Hayes- aye
Seekonk (2.11), Brittany Faria- aye
Taunton (5.49), Mayor Shaunna O'Connell-
aye
Wareham (3.20), Alan Slavin- aye
ADA Advocate (1.00), Michael Raymond-
aye

Motion to approve the above-state items passed.

4. FY24 Advisory Board Orientation

Mary Ellen reviewed that each year moving forward, GATRA will conduct an Advisory Board Orientation for all Board members. Previously, the FTA found that Board members were not clear on their role as Board members. First, Mary Ellen provided an overview of GATRA, including the service area and types of transportation provided. She also reviewed the differences between the GATRA Administrative office and Brokerage office and gave an overview of each department. Mary Ellen then reviewed funding sources and revenue GATRA receives. Mary Ellen then reviewed the Advisory Board, including how Board members are appointed or designated, bylaws, committees, quorum, and the weighted vote. Mary Ellen then reviewed Open Meeting Law and how GATRA and the Advisory Board comply with the law. Lastly, Mary Ellen reviewed next steps for Board members, including sending updated Conflict of Interest and Open Meeting Law certificate to GATRA for recordkeeping purposes.

Mayor O'Connell, Taunton asked about the Conflict of Interest training certificate and if it needed to specifically be for GATRA. Mary Ellen confirmed it can be one that was completed for another role the Board member may hold, as long as it is up to date.

No vote is needed as this was a presentation only.

5. Adjournment

A motion was made and 2nd to adjourn the meeting. A roll call vote was taken.

Bellingham (2.59), Josie Dutil- aye

Berkley (1.38), Dean Larabee- aye

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Carver (1.61), Connie Kelly- aye
Dighton (1.61), Anabela Powell- aye
Duxbury (2.25), Joanne Moore- aye
Franklin (2.35), Cobi Frongillo- aye
Hanover (3.57), Tammy Murray- aye
Mansfield (2.80), Kevin Dumas- aye
Marshfield (3.04), Greg Guimond- aye
Medway (1.96), Courtney Riley- aye
Norfolk (2.24), Karen Edwards- aye
Plainville (1.29), Brenda Watkinson- aye

Plymouth (5.33), Derek Brindisi- aye
Raynham (2.06), Erin Medeiros- aye
Rehoboth (1.21), Richard Panofsky- aye
Scituate (2.32), Linda Hayes- aye
Seekonk (2.11), Brittany Faria- aye
Taunton (5.49), Mayor Shaunna O'Connell-
aye
Wareham (3.20), Alan Slavin- aye
ADA Advocate (1.00), Michael Raymond-
aye

Motion to adjourn passed. Open session adjourned at 1:30PM time.

Documents & Exhibits Discussed in this Meeting:

- September 20th, 2023 Meeting Agenda
- June 21, 2023 Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
- September 2023 Administrator Report
- September 2023 Civil Rights Report
- September 2023 Financial Report
- FY24 Advisory Board Orientation Manual
- FY24 Advisory Board Orientation PowerPoint

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