



**November 20th, 2024
Open Session Minutes**

**Greater Attleboro Taunton Regional Transit Authority (GATRA)
Advisory Board Meeting
Taunton City Hall
Silver City Conference Room, 2nd Floor
15 Summer Street, Taunton, MA 02780
and
Zoom**

1. Open Session Convenes

Mayor O'Connell called the meeting to order at 1:02PM. A roll call attendance was taken. The following board members were present:

Attleboro (5.55), Mayor Cathleen DeSimone (remote)
Bellingham (2.65), Josie Dutil (remote)
Berkley (1.40), Tabitha McCrohan (remote)-
arrived at 1:04PM
Carver (1.63), Connie Kelly (remote)
Dighton (1.16), Anabela Powell (remote)
Duxbury (2.30), Joanne Moore (remote)
Franklin (3.66), Cobi Frongillo (remote)
Halifax (1.00), Cody Haddad (remote)
Hanover (1.99), Tammy Murray (remote)
Kingston (2.01), Patti Waitkevich (remote)

Lakeville (1.61), Lori Fahey (remote)
Marshfield (3.11), Greg Guimond (remote)
Medway (1.99), Courtney Riley (remote)
Middleboro (2.85), Mark Germain (remote)
Norfolk (2.28), Karen Edwards (remote)
North Attleboro (3.33), Tony Morabito (remote)
Pembroke (2.59), Marie Vitale (remote)
Plainville (1.30), Brenda Watkinson
Scituate (2.37), Linda Hayes (remote)
Seekonk (2.15), Brittney Faria (remote)
Taunton (5.64), Mayor Shaunna O'Connell

The following board members were absent:

Foxborough (2.39), Marc Craig
Mansfield (2.87), Kevin Dumas
Norton (2.15), Alec Rich
Plymouth (5.48), Derek Brindisi
Plympton (1.00), Colleen Thompson

Raynham (2.09), Erin Medeiros
Rehoboth (1.21), Elizabeth Doyle
Wareham (3.28), Alan Slavin
Wrentham (1.95), Janet Angelico
ADA Advocate (1.00), Michael Raymond

Also present:

Mary Ellen DeFrias, Dan Burgess, Kylie Araujo

2. September 18th, 2024 Open Session Minutes

Mayor O'Connell, Taunton reminded the Board that even if they were not present at the September 18th, 2024 meeting, they could still vote on them if they reviewed them.

10 Oak Street, 2nd Floor, Taunton, MA 02780-3950
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A motion was made and 2nd to approve the September 18th, 2024 Open Session Minutes. A roll call vote was taken.

Attleboro (5.55), Mayor Cathleen DeSimone- aye
Bellingham (2.65), Josie Dutil- aye
Carver (1.63), Connie Kelly- aye
Dighton (1.16), Anabela Powell- aye
Duxbury (2.30), Joanne Moore- aye
Franklin (3.66), Cobi Frongillo- aye
Halifax (1.00), Cody Haddad- aye
Hanover (1.99), Tammy Murray- aye
Kingston (2.01), Patti Waitkevich- aye
Lakeville (1.61), Lori Fahey- aye

Marshfield (3.11), Greg Guimond- aye
Medway (1.99), Courtney Riley- aye
Middleboro (2.85), Mark Germain- aye
Norfolk (2.28), Karen Edwards- aye
North Attleboro (3.33), Tony Morabito- aye
Pembroke (2.59), Marie Vitale- aye
Plainville (1.30), Brenda Watkinson- aye
Scituate (2.37), Linda Hayes- aye
Seekonk (2.15), Brittney Faria- aye
Taunton (5.64), Mayor Shaunna O’Connell- aye

Motion to approve September 18th, 2024 Open Session Minutes passed.

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

Mary Ellen DeFrias reviewed the Administrator Report. She reviewed that this holiday season from Black Friday to New Year’s Eve, GATRA fixed route and complementary ADA Paratransit services would be fare free. She also shared that beginning mid-December, GATRA would be rolling out evening service and would continue to add service as possible with staffing. Mary Ellen also reviewed that the Transit App is now available, free of charge, to all GATRA riders. The Transit App provides real-time information on where fixed route buses are located and real-time arrival/departure times. GATRA currently has two grants in to the Community Transit Grants Program (CTGP) that would allow for the Medwheels program to continue, as well as for long distance medical transportation. GATRA is hoping to provide transportation to Boston for medical trips in the form of a shuttle/regular service in the future. Mary Ellen shared that the Director of Transit Operations spoke at a conference recently about the Wareham-New Bedford connection route and how GATRA would be using lessons learned from that experience to shape the future Taunton-Fall River-Brockton interconnectivity service. Mary Ellen shared that a bid was awarded for contractors for the East Maintenance Facility in Wareham and that shovels were expected in the ground in January 2025.

In the Civil Rights Report, Mary Ellen shared that current Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goals were submitted on time for the December 1st deadline. GATRA also received feedback on outstanding triennial findings and would be providing the requested information to close out the findings.

Mayor O’Connell, Taunton, asked about the process for awarding the bids for the East Maintenance Facility. Mary Ellen shared that it was a combination of responsive and responsible factors, not just the lowest bidder.

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Several Board members asked for clarification on the services available under Try Transit. Mary Ellen clarified that it was only applicable to fixed route and complementary ADA Paratransit. A flyer would be sent to the Board after the meeting to share with their communities.

Dan Burgess reviewed the financials. Dan noted that there were several lines in red that he had flagged due to being significantly over or under budget. These areas generally offset one another, including special services and Brokerage services. He also noted that a budget amendment would be likely in January 2025.

There were no further questions from the Board.

A motion was made and 2nd to approve the above-stated reports. A roll call vote was taken.

Attleboro (5.55), Mayor Cathleen DeSimone- aye
Bellingham (2.65), Josie Dutil- aye
Berkley (1.40), Tabitha McCrohan-aye
Carver (1.63), Connie Kelly- aye
Dighton (1.16), Anabela Powell- aye
Duxbury (2.30), Joanne Moore- aye
Franklin (3.66), Cobi Frongillo- aye
Halifax (1.00), Cody Haddad- aye
Hanover (1.99), Tammy Murray- aye
Kingston (2.01), Patti Waitkevich- aye
Lakeville (1.61), Lori Fahey- aye

Marshfield (3.11), Greg Guimond- aye
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Middleboro (2.85), Mark Germain- aye
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North Attleboro (3.33), Tony Morabito- aye
Pembroke (2.59), Marie Vitale- aye
Plainville (1.30), Brenda Watkinson- aye
Scituate (2.37), Linda Hayes- aye
Seekonk (2.15), Brittney Faria- aye
Taunton (5.64), Mayor Shaunna O'Connell- aye

Motion to approve the above-stated reports passed.

4. OML Reminder

Mary Ellen DeFrias reminded the Board to submit their Open Meeting Law and Conflict of Interest certificates in to Kylie Araujo for record-keeping purposes.

5. Adjournment

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

Attleboro (5.55), Mayor Cathleen DeSimone- aye
Bellingham (2.65), Josie Dutil- aye
Berkley (1.40), Tabitha McCrohan- aye
Carver (1.63), Connie Kelly- aye
Dighton (1.16), Anabela Powell- aye
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Lakeville (1.61), Lori Fahey- aye
Marshfield (3.11), Greg Guimond- aye
Medway (1.99), Courtney Riley- aye

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Middleboro (2.85), Mark Germain- aye
Norfolk (2.28), Karen Edwards- aye
North Attleboro (3.33), Tony Morabito- aye
Pembroke (2.59), Marie Vitale- aye
Plainville (1.30), Brenda Watkinson- aye

Scituate (2.37), Linda Hayes- aye
Seekonk (2.15), Brittney Faria- aye
Taunton (5.64), Mayor Shaunna O'Connell-
aye

Motion to adjourn the meeting passed.

Open session adjourned at approximately 1:20PM.

Documents & Exhibits Discussed in this Meeting:

- 11.20.24 GATRA Advisory Board Meeting Agenda
- 9.18.24 GATRA Advisory Board Open Session Minutes
- November 2024 Administrator's Report
- November 2024 Civil Rights Report
- November 2024 Financial Report

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