



**January 15, 2025 at 1PM
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) – arrived late
Bellingham (2.65), Josie Dutil (remote)
Berkley (1.40), Krista Celia (remote)
Foxborough (2.39), Catherine Feerick (remote)
Franklin (3.66), Cobi Frongillo (remote)
Halifax (1.00), Cody Haddad (remote)
Kingston (2.01), Patti Waitkevich (remote)-arrived late
Lakeville (1.61), Lori Fahey (remote)
Mansfield (2.87), Kevin Dumas
Marshfield (3.11), Greg Guimond (remote)
Medway (1.99), Courtney Riley (remote)

Norfolk (2.28), Karen Edwards (remote)
North Attleboro (3.33), Tony Morabito (remote)
Plainville (1.30), Brenda Watkinson
Plympton (1.00), Colleen Thompson (remote)
Raynham (2.09), Erin Medeiros (remote)
Rehoboth (1.21), Elizabeth Doyle (remote)
Scituate (2.37), Linda Hayes (remote)
Seekonk (2.15), Brittney Faria (remote)
Taunton (5.64), Mayor Shaunna O'Connell
ADA Advocate (1.00), Michael Raymond (remote)

The following board members were absent:

Carver (1.63), Connie Kelly
Dighton (1.16), Anabela Powell
Duxbury (2.30), Joanne Moore
Hanover (1.99), Tammy Murray
Middleboro (2.85), Mark Germain
Norton (2.15), Alec Rich
Pembroke (2.59), Marie Vitale
Plymouth (5.48), Derek Brindisi
Wareham (3.28), Alan Slavin
Wrentham (1.95), Janet Angelico

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Also present:

Mary Ellen DeFrias, Dan Burgess, Kylie Araujo, Attorney Michele Randazzo

2. November 20, 2024 Open Session Minutes

Brenda Watkinson, Plainville noted a small typo on the minutes. This error will be fixed prior to the minutes being posted.

Mayor O'Connell, Taunton reminded the Board that they can still vote on the minutes even if they were not present for the meeting as long as they have reviewed them.

A motion was made and 2nd to approve the November 20, 2024 Open Session Minutes. A roll call vote was taken.

Bellingham (2.65), Josie Dutil- aye
Berkley (1.40), Krista Celia- abstain
Foxborough (2.39), Catherine Feerick-
abstain
Franklin (3.66), Cobi Frongillo- aye
Halifax (1.00), Cody Haddad- aye
Hanover (1.99), Tammy Murray- aye
Lakeville (1.61), Lori Fahey- aye
Mansfield (2.87), Kevin Dumas- aye
Marshfield (3.11), Greg Guimond- aye
Medway (1.99), Courtney Riley- aye
Norfolk (2.28), Karen Edwards- aye

North Attleboro (3.33), Tony Morabito- aye
Plainville (1.30), Brenda Watkinson- aye
Plympton (1.00), Colleen Thompson- aye
Raynham (2.09), Erin Medeiros- aye
Rehoboth (1.21), Elizabeth Doyle- aye
Scituate (2.37), Linda Hayes- aye
Seekonk (2.15), Brittney Faria- aye
Taunton (5.64), Mayor Shaunna O'Connell-
aye
ADA Advocate (1.00), Michael Raymond -
aye

Motion to approve November 20, 2024 Open Session Minutes passed.

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

Mary Ellen DeFrias reviewed the January 2025 Administrator's Report. She noted that some routes are being realigned to better match demand and to align better with MBTA schedules. Evening service is also being added to some routes. The Spare Dial-A-Ride dispatch system has also continued to be an asset in providing date and streamlining the Dial-A-Ride process. The new eJest vehicles are on site. They will eventually be used for service in the Wareham area when the new facility is operational, but for now they may be used to service other areas. When they are registered and ready for the road, Mary Ellen is planning to have a press conference. The construction of the Wareham maintenance facility is also ongoing. GATRA has also been involved in World Cup planning conversations.

Mary Ellen also reviewed the January 2025 Civil Rights Report. GATRA is current on all submissions. There is a Regional Public Meeting next week for service changes that would go into effect in March. GATRA is also beginning 2025 Triennial Review.

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Cobi Frongillo, Franklin asked Mary Ellen if there are plans to increase service in Franklin and other communities surrounding Gillette Stadium for the World Cup and if there would be changes to the current service during that time. Mary Ellen said that at this point, anything is on the table. The planning committee is working under the assumption that many people will be staying in Providence and Boston because of the airports, but given the estimated attendance, it is likely people will be all over the state. The committee involves multiple agencies from across the state and there are many unknowns still at this point in time, but she will continue to update the Advisory Board as plans are made.

Dan Burgess presented the January 2025 Financial Report. He reviewed that budget lines are all within expectations. He noted that the funding for the airport shuttle is winding down. Brokerage Operations revenues and expenses are both higher than the budgeted numbers and will need to be adjusted in a future budget adjustment.

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), Krista Celia- aye
Foxborough (2.39), Catherine Feerick- 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
Mansfield (2.87), Kevin Dumas- aye
Marshfield (3.11), Greg Guimond- aye
Medway (1.99), Courtney Riley- aye

Norfolk (2.28), Karen Edwards- aye
North Attleboro (3.33), Tony Morabito- aye
Plainville (1.30), Brenda Watkinson- aye
Plympton (1.00), Colleen Thompson- aye
Raynham (2.09), Erin Medeiros- aye
Rehoboth (1.21), Elizabeth Doyle- aye
Scituate (2.37), Linda Hayes- aye
Seekonk (2.15), Brittney Faria- aye
Taunton (5.64), Mayor Shaunna O'Connell- aye
ADA Advocate (1.00), Michael Raymond - aye

Motion to approve the above-stated reports passed.

4. State Audit Review

Mary Ellen DeFrias reviewed that a State Audit Report was issued on GATRA's electric bus program. GATRA was given the opportunity to respond to their findings, and did so, but the entirety of the response was not included in the final report. Mary Ellen reviewed each finding and gave the Board more context in each area. She emphasized that the electric buses in GATRA's fleet are all well-maintained and well cared for at GATRA. Additionally, despite one of the findings regarding cash collecting procedures being resolved before the auditors left the site, it was still noted as a finding.



Mayor O’Connell, Taunton thanked Mary Ellen for the overview and explanations. There were no further questions from the Board.

5. FY (Fiscal Year) 24 Financial Audit

Mayor O’Connell, Taunton reviewed that the Audit & Finance Committee met on January 9, 2025 to review the FY24 Audited Financials: FY24 Financial Statements, FY24 Single Audit Report, and FY24 MBTA Report. At that meeting, the Committee was able to ask questions to GATRA and to the Auditor directly with and without GATRA leadership present. At the conclusion of the meeting, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the above-stated reports and bring them to the full Board for approval.

Dan Burgess reviewed that there were no findings in the audit reports, meaning there were no issues or concerns from the auditors. Additionally, the audits found that GATRA was compliant with all the applicable requirements. There were no further questions.

A motion was made and 2nd to approve the above-stated FY24 Audited Financials. A roll call vote was taken.

Attleboro (5.55), Mayor Cathleen DeSimone- aye
Bellingham (2.65), Josie Dutil- aye
Berkley (1.40), Krista Celia- aye
Foxborough (2.39), Catherine Feerick- 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
Mansfield (2.87), Kevin Dumas- aye
Marshfield (3.11), Greg Guimond- aye
Medway (1.99), Courtney Riley- aye

Norfolk (2.28), Karen Edwards- aye
North Attleboro (3.33), Tony Morabito- aye
Plainville (1.30), Brenda Watkinson- aye
Plympton (1.00), Colleen Thompson- aye
Raynham (2.09), Erin Medeiros- aye
Rehoboth (1.21), Elizabeth Doyle- aye
Scituate (2.37), Linda Hayes- aye
Seekonk (2.15), Brittney Faria- aye
Taunton (5.64), Mayor Shaunna O’Connell- aye
ADA Advocate (1.00), Michael Raymond - aye

Motion to approve the above-stated FY24 financial reports passed.

6. Weighted Vote

Dan Burgess presented the revised weighted vote based on the FY24 Financial Statements that include most updated local assessments. The calculation is done based on local assessments per community.

Josie Dutil, Bellingham asked a clarifying question about the calculation and Dan referred to the weighted vote formula in Chapter 161B, the MA governing law that Transit Authorities were founded under. He clarified that the votes are points, not percentages out of 100, so the total of all the points is not meant to be equal to 100.

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A motion was made and 2nd to revise the weighted vote based FY24 Assessments. A roll call vote was taken.

Attleboro (5.55), Mayor Cathleen DeSimone- aye
Bellingham (2.65), Josie Dutil- aye
Berkley (1.40), Krista Celia- aye
Foxborough (2.39), Catherine Feerick- 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
Mansfield (2.87), Kevin Dumas- aye
Marshfield (3.11), Greg Guimond- aye
Medway (1.99), Courtney Riley- aye

Norfolk (2.28), Karen Edwards- aye
North Attleboro (3.33), Tony Morabito- aye
Plainville (1.30), Brenda Watkinson- aye
Plympton (1.00), Colleen Thompson- aye
Raynham (2.09), Erin Medeiros- aye
Rehoboth (1.21), Elizabeth Doyle- aye
Scituate (2.37), Linda Hayes- aye
Seekonk (2.15), Brittney Faria- aye
Taunton (5.64), Mayor Shaunna O'Connell- aye
ADA Advocate (1.00), Michael Raymond - aye

Motion to revise the weighted vote passed.

7. Move to Executive Session

A motion was made by Clerk Kevin Dumas, Mansfield to move to Executive Session pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, §21(a):

- a) Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(7), to comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special laws or federal grant-in-aid requirements (G.L. c. 30A, §22): approving minutes of November 15, 2023 Executive Session
- b) Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(3), to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the Authority's bargaining or litigating position, and the chair so declares.

And to invite Mary Ellen DeFrias, Dan Burgess, Kylie Araujo, and Attorney Michele Randazzo to join Executive Session.

And to adjourn the meeting from Executive Session and not return to Open Session.

The motion was 2nd. A roll call vote was taken.

Attleboro (5.55), Mayor Cathleen DeSimone- aye
Bellingham (2.65), Josie Dutil- aye
Berkley (1.40), Krista Celia- aye
Foxborough (2.39), Catherine Feerick- 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

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Mansfield (2.87), Kevin Dumas- aye
Marshfield (3.11), Greg Guimond- aye
Medway (1.99), Courtney Riley- aye
Norfolk (2.28), Karen Edwards- aye
North Attleboro (3.33), Tony Morabito- aye
Plainville (1.30), Brenda Watkinson- aye
Plympton (1.00), Colleen Thompson- aye
Raynham (2.09), Erin Medeiros- aye

Rehoboth (1.21), Elizabeth Doyle- aye
Scituate (2.37), Linda Hayes- aye
Seekonk (2.15), Brittney Faria- aye
Taunton (5.64), Mayor Shaunna O'Connell-
aye
ADA Advocate (1.00), Michael Raymond -
aye

Motion to move to Executive Session passed.

Open session adjourned at approximately 1:30PM.

Documents & Exhibits Discussed in this Meeting:

- 1.15.25 GATRA Advisory Board Meeting Agenda
- 11.20.24 GATRA Advisory Board Open Session Minutes
- January 2025 Administrator's Report
- January 2025 Civil Rights Report
- January 2025 Financial Report
- State Audit Report
- FY24 Audited Financial Statements
- FY24 Single Audit Report
- FY24 Audited MBTA Report
- FY24 Revised Weighted Vote

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