



**September 17, 2025 at 1PM
Open Session Minutes**

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

1. Open Session Convenes

Chair Mayor Shaunna O'Connell, Taunton called the meeting to order at 1:03PM. A roll call vote was taken.

The following board members were present:

Bellingham (2.63), Josie Dutil (remote)
Carver (1.63), Connie Kelly (remote)
Dighton (1.16), Anabela Powell (remote)
Foxborough (2.39), Catherine Feerick (remote)
Franklin (3.63), Cobi Frongillo (remote)
Halifax (1.23), Bill Smith (remote)
Hanover (1.98), Tammy Murray (remote)
Kingston (2.01), Patti Waitkevich (remote)
Middleboro (2.83), Mark Germain (remote)
Pembroke (2.57), Diane Picot (remote)
ADA Advocate (1.00), Michael Raymond (remote)

Plainville (1.30), Brenda Watkinson
Plymouth (5.44), Lindsay Reik (remote)
Raynham (2.08), Erin Medeiros (remote)-arrived at 1:10PM
Rehoboth (1.21), Elizabeth Doyle (remote)
Seekonk (2.14), Brittney Faria (remote)
Taunton (5.60), Mayor Shaunna O'Connell
Wareham (3.26), Alan Slavin (remote)
Wrentham (1.94), Janet Angelico (remote)-arrived at 1:08PM

The following board members were absent:

Attleboro (5.51), Mayor Cathleen DeSimone
Berkley (1.39), Krista Celia
Duxbury (2.28), Joanne Moore
Lakeville (1.60), Lori Fahey
Mansfield (2.85), Kevin Dumas
Marshfield (3.10), Greg Guimond

Medway (1.98), Cathy Cebrowski
Norfolk (2.27), Karen Edwards
North Attleboro (3.31), Tony Morabito
Norton (2.14), Alec Rich
Plympton (1.19), Colleen Thompson
Scituate (2.35), Linda Hayes

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Also present:

Mary Ellen DeFrias, Dan Burgess, Kylie Araujo

2. June 18, 2025 Open Session Minutes

Mayor O'Connell, Taunton reminded the group that even if they were not at the meeting, they can still vote on the minutes if they have reviewed them.

A motion was made and 2nd to approve June 18, 2025 Open Session Minutes. A roll call vote was taken.

Bellingham (2.63), Josie Dutil- aye
Carver (1.63), Connie Kelly- aye
Dighton (1.16), Anabela Powell- aye
Foxborough (2.39), Catherine Feerick- aye
Franklin (3.63), Cobi Frongillo- aye
Halifax (1.23), Bill Smith- aye
Hanover (1.98), Tammy Murray- aye
Kingston (2.01), Patti Waitkevich- aye
Middleboro (2.83), Mark Germain- aye
Pembroke (2.57), Diane Picot- aye

Plainville (1.30), Brenda Watkinson- aye
Plymouth (5.44), Lindsay Reik- aye
Rehoboth (1.21), Elizabeth Doyle- aye
Seekonk (2.14), Brittney Faria- aye
Taunton (5.60), Mayor Shaunna O'Connell- aye
Wareham (3.26), Alan Slavin- aye
ADA Advocate (1.00), Michael Raymond - aye

Motion to approve June 18, 2025 Open Session Minutes passed.

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

Mary Ellen DeFrias reviewed the September 2025 Civil Rights Report. She reported that GATRA had finally cleared all 2022 Triennial findings and that the 2025 Triennial had no Civil Rights findings. Due to this, this section of the Civil Rights Report would be removed moving forward.

Mary Ellen DeFrias also reviewed the September 2025 Administrator Report. She shared that she recently presented at a national transit conference on the new Gateway Link that connects Taunton, Brockton, and Fall River. She also shared that the service has been highly utilized, with 1,068 riders in the first month of service. GATRA will be looking into future grants to keep the service running beyond the current slated grant funding.

Mary Ellen DeFrias also shared that GATRA had received the draft report of the 2025 Triennial. There is one finding in how GATRA documents how different expenses are allocated. The resolution is due by mid-November, and will be submitted by the deadline.

Mary Ellen DeFrias read a statement regarding the current Union negotiations. She outlined that a best and final offer was provided by the Operator to the Union and the two parties are not aligned. The Union has indicated they will strike but have not provided a date for when a strike

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will commence. The Operator and the Union are set to meet again later this week. Mary Ellen said she cannot speak further on this topic with the Board at this time due to ongoing negotiations between the Operator and Union.

Patti Waitkevich, Kingston asked about vehicle maintenance logistics once the new Wareham facility opens. Mary Ellen DeFrias confirmed that all maintenance for GATRA's southern region will happen out of the new Wareham maintenance facility.

Dan Burgess reviewed the September 2025 Financial Report. The report only shows one month of the new fiscal year, so it is hard to gleam much insight at this time. Dan Burgess also shared that the new financial software system transition occurred over the summer and the finance team is working out the speed bumps, but is hopeful of the features available to GATRA once the new system is settled.

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

Bellingham (2.63), Josie Dutil- aye
Carver (1.63), Connie Kelly- aye
Dighton (1.16), Anabela Powell- aye
Foxborough (2.39), Catherine Feerick- aye
Franklin (3.63), Cobi Frongillo- aye
Halifax (1.23), Bill Smith- aye
Hanover (1.98), Tammy Murray- aye
Kingston (2.01), Patti Waitkevich- aye
Middleboro (2.83), Mark Germain- aye
Pembroke (2.57), Diane Picot- aye
ADA Advocate (1.00), Michael Raymond - aye

Plainville (1.30), Brenda Watkinson- aye
Plymouth (5.44), Lindsay Reik- aye
Raynham (2.08), Erin Medeiros- aye
Rehoboth (1.21), Elizabeth Doyle- aye
Seekonk (2.14), Brittney Faria- aye
Taunton (5.60), Mayor Shaunna O'Connell- aye
Wareham (3.26), Alan Slavin- aye
Wrentham (1.94), Janet Angelico- aye

Motion to approve the above-stated reports passed.

4. Confirm Board Officers

Mayor O'Connell, Taunton reviewed that annually the Board Officers are confirmed. She reviewed the below slate of Officers:

- Chair- Mayor Shaunna O'Connell (Taunton)
- Vice Chair- Mayor Cathleen DeSimone (Attleboro)
- Clerk- Mark Germain (Middleboro)

A motion was made and 2nd to approve the GATRA Advisory Board Officers as outlined above. A roll call vote was taken.

Bellingham (2.63), Josie Dutil- aye

Carver (1.63), Connie Kelly- aye

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Dighton (1.16), Anabela Powell- aye
Foxborough (2.39), Catherine Feerick- aye
Franklin (3.63), Cobi Frongillo- aye
Halifax (1.23), Bill Smith- aye
Hanover (1.98), Tammy Murray- aye
Kingston (2.01), Patti Waitkevich- aye
Middleboro (2.83), Mark Germain- aye
Pembroke (2.57), Diane Picot- aye
Plainville (1.30), Brenda Watkinson- aye
ADA Advocate (1.00), Michael Raymond - aye

Plymouth (5.44), Lindsay Reik- aye
Raynham (2.08), Erin Medeiros- aye
Rehoboth (1.21), Elizabeth Doyle- aye
Seekonk (2.14), Brittney Faria- aye
Taunton (5.60), Mayor Shaunna O'Connell- aye
Wareham (3.26), Alan Slavin- aye
Wrentham (1.94), Janet Angelico- aye

Motion to approve the GATRA Advisory Board Officers passed.

5. Confirm Audit & Finance Committee

Mayor O'Connell, Taunton reviewed that the Audit & Finance Committee is also reviewed and confirmed annually. This Committee reviews the annual financial audit and makes recommendations to the larger Board if it should be accepted by the Board. She outlined the below slate of Committee members:

- Josie Dutil (Bellingham)
- Catherine Feerick (Foxborough)
- Greg Guimond (Marshfield)
- Brittney Faria (Seekonk)
- Mayor Shaunna O'Connell (Taunton)

A motion was made and 2nd to approve the Audit & Finance Committee as outlined above. A roll call vote was taken.

Bellingham (2.63), Josie Dutil- aye
Carver (1.63), Connie Kelly- aye
Dighton (1.16), Anabela Powell- aye
Foxborough (2.39), Catherine Feerick- aye
Franklin (3.63), Cobi Frongillo- aye
Halifax (1.23), Bill Smith- aye
Hanover (1.98), Tammy Murray- aye
Kingston (2.01), Patti Waitkevich- aye
Middleboro (2.83), Mark Germain- aye
Pembroke (2.57), Diane Picot- aye
ADA Advocate (1.00), Michael Raymond - aye

Plainville (1.30), Brenda Watkinson- aye
Plymouth (5.44), Lindsay Reik- aye
Raynham (2.08), Erin Medeiros- aye
Rehoboth (1.21), Elizabeth Doyle- aye
Seekonk (2.14), Brittney Faria- aye
Taunton (5.60), Mayor Shaunna O'Connell- aye
Wareham (3.26), Alan Slavin- aye
Wrentham (1.94), Janet Angelico- aye

Motion to approve the Audit & Finance Committee passed.

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6. FY26 Board Orientation

Mary Ellen reviewed the annual GATRA Advisory Board Orientation. Orientation includes an overview of GATRA, the GATRA service area, services provided, a funding overview, an overview of the Advisory Board, quorum and weighted vote, and Board bylaws. Mary Ellen outlined that following this meeting, Board members should send in their Conflict of Interest and Open Meeting Law Certificates to GATRA for record-keeping purposes.

7. Adjournment

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

Bellingham (2.63), Josie Dutil- aye
Carver (1.63), Connie Kelly- aye
Dighton (1.16), Anabela Powell- aye
Foxborough (2.39), Catherine Feerick- aye
Franklin (3.63), Cobi Frongillo- aye
Halifax (1.23), Bill Smith- aye
Hanover (1.98), Tammy Murray- aye
Kingston (2.01), Patti Waitkevich- aye
Middleboro (2.83), Mark Germain- aye
Pembroke (2.57), Diane Picot- aye
ADA Advocate (1.00), Michael Raymond - aye

Plainville (1.30), Brenda Watkinson- aye
Plymouth (5.44), Lindsay Reik- aye
Raynham (2.08), Erin Medeiros- aye
Rehoboth (1.21), Elizabeth Doyle- aye
Seekonk (2.14), Brittney Faria- aye
Taunton (5.60), Mayor Shaunna O'Connell- aye
Wareham (3.26), Alan Slavin- aye
Wrentham (1.94), Janet Angelico- aye

Motion to adjourn passed. The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:28PM.

Documents & Exhibits Discussed in this Meeting:

- 9.17.25 GATRA Advisory Board Meeting Agenda
- 6.18.25 GATRA Advisory Board Open Session Minutes
- September 2025 Administrator's Report
- September 2025 Civil Rights Report
- September 2025 Financial Report
- FY26 Orientation Manual
- FY26 Orientation Slide Show

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