



**May 21, 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

Vice Chair Mayor DeSimone called the meeting to order at 1:01PM. A roll call vote was taken.

The following board members were present:

Attleboro (5.51), Mayor Cathleen DeSimone (remote)
Carver (1.63), Connie Kelly (remote)
Dighton (1.16), Anabela Powell (remote)-arrived late
Duxbury (2.28), Joanne Moore (remote)
Franklin (3.63), Cobi Frongillo (remote)-arrived late
Hanover (1.98), Tammy Murray (remote)
Kingston (2.01), Patti Waitkevich (remote)
Lakeville (1.60), Lori Fahey (remote)
Mansfield (2.85), Kevin Dumas (remote)

Marshfield (3.10), Greg Guimond (remote)
Norfolk (2.27), Karen Edwards (remote)
North Attleboro (3.31), Tony Morabito (remote)
Pembroke (2.57), Diane Picot (remote)
Plainville (1.30), Brenda Watkinson
Plymouth (5.44), Lindsay Reik (remote)
Seekonk (2.14), Brittney Faria (remote)
Taunton (5.60), Gill Enos
Wareham (3.26), Alan Slavin
ADA Advocate (1.00), Michael Raymond (remote)

The following board members were absent:

Bellingham (2.63), Josie Dutil
Berkley (1.39), Krista Celia
Medway (1.98), Courtney Riley
Norton (2.14), Alec Rich
Plympton (1.19), Colleen Thompson
Raynham (2.08), Erin Medeiros

Foxborough (2.39), Catherine Feerick
Halifax (1.23), Cody Haddad
Middleboro (2.83), Mark Germain
Rehoboth (1.21), Elizabeth Doyle
Scituate (2.35), Linda Hayes
Wrentham (1.94), Janet Angelico

Also present:

Mary Ellen DeFrias, Dan Burgess, Kylie Araujo

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2. March 19, 2025 Open Session Minutes

Mayor DeSimone, Attleboro 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.

Kylie Araujo addressed that a Board member had brought it to GATRA's attention prior to the meeting that there was a typo in a name on page one of the minutes. This typo would be addressed before the minutes were posted.

A motion was made and 2nd to approve the March 19, 2025 Open Session Minutes, with the typo being fixed. A roll call vote was taken.

Attleboro (5.51), Mayor Cathleen DeSimone- aye
Carver (1.63), Connie Kelly- aye
Duxbury (2.28), Joanne Moore- aye
Franklin (3.63), Cobi Frongillo- aye
Hanover (1.98), Tammy Murray- aye
Kingston (2.01), Patti Waitkevich- aye
Lakeville (1.60), Lori Fahey- aye
Mansfield (2.85), Kevin Dumas- aye
Marshfield (3.10), Greg Guimond- aye

Norfolk (2.27), Karen Edwards- aye
North Attleboro (3.31), Tony Morabito- aye
Pembroke (2.57), Diane Picot- aye
Plainville (1.30), Brenda Watkinson- aye
Plymouth (5.44), Lindsay Reik- aye
Seekonk (2.14), Brittney Faria- aye
Taunton (5.60), Gill Enos- aye
Wareham (3.26), Alan Slavin- aye
ADA Advocate (1.00), Michael Raymond- aye

Motion to approve March 19, 2025 Open Session Minutes passed.

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

Mary Ellen DeFrias reviewed the May 2025 Civil Rights Report. She noted that there has been staff reduction at the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), including in the Civil Rights department. GATRA still has findings open from the previous Triennial Review three years ago. Mary Ellen is pushing for these to be closed soon, as GATRA is currently in Triennial again and still has old findings open.

Mary Ellen also reviewed the May 2025 Administrator Report. There is still a great level of uncertainty on the budget at the state and federal level. There is no clear guidance from FTA. As of June 2, there will be changes to the Route 8 bus to serve South Coast Rail. Overall, ridership has increased about 10%, with the biggest increase in Mircotransit. The interconnectivity bus between Fall River, Brockton, and Taunton has been awarded and is projected to begin service in July. GATRA is working with AECOM to update the Comprehensive Regional Transit Plan. As part of this process, AECOM may reach out to Board designees to provide feedback. Mary Ellen encouraged the Board to participate in these surveys as stakeholders of GATRA. The East Maintenance Facility in Wareham is moving along.

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Dan Burgess reviewed the May 2025 Financial Report. He reviewed that there are some variances, all of which will be addressed in the budget amendment planned for the June meeting. The variances are mainly in lines that are tied with one another where the expenses drive the revenue.

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

Attleboro (5.51), Mayor Cathleen
DeSimone- aye
Carver (1.63), Connie Kelly- aye
Duxbury (2.28), Joanne Moore- aye
Franklin (3.63), Cobi Frongillo- aye
Hanover (1.98), Tammy Murray- aye
Kingston (2.01), Patti Waitkevich- aye
Lakeville (1.60), Lori Fahey- aye
Mansfield (2.85), Kevin Dumas- abstain
Marshfield (3.10), Greg Guimond- aye

Norfolk (2.27), Karen Edwards- aye
North Attleboro (3.31), Tony Morabito- aye
Pembroke (2.57), Diane Picot- aye
Plainville (1.30), Brenda Watkinson- aye
Plymouth (5.44), Lindsay Reik- aye
Seekonk (2.14), Brittney Faria- aye
Taunton (5.60), Gill Enos- aye
Wareham (3.26), Alan Slavin- aye
ADA Advocate (1.00), Michael Raymond-
aye

Motion to approve the above-stated reports passed.

4. Fiscal Year (FY) 26 Budget Draft

Mary Ellen DeFrias reviewed the draft of the FY26 budget. This budget will be voted on by the Board at the June meeting. Given the uncertainty surrounding state and federal funding, GATRA is taking a conservative approach.

The Brokerage is level funded. This is the final year of the current Brokerage contract and funds will continue to be monitored.

Overall, GATRA is planning on a 4.8% budget increase from last fiscal year. This will provide a starting point to begin the fiscal year and then can be adjusted based on where state and federal budgets land. The budget draft presented includes an overview page as well as a breakdown of the four pillars of the budget: Administration, Kiessling of Attleboro (KOA) (fixed route, Dial-A-Ride, etc.), Microtransit and Councils on Aging, and Brokerage. When creating the budgets, a careful effort was made to distribute shared costs (like dispatch and accounting softwares) across multiple budgets where appropriate. Given that there is a new accounting software being implemented July 1, GATRA took care to ensure that the format of the budget would lend itself to easy, better reporting in the future using the new software.

The FY26 budget will be voted on by the Board at the June meeting.

5. Executive Compensation Committee (ECC) Recommendation

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Mayor DeSimone, Attleboro invited Kevin Dumas, Mansfield to speak on behalf of Executive Compensation Committee and present the Committee's recommendation to the Board for approval.

Kevin reviewed that the ECC met with Mary Ellen DeFrias on April 24, 2025 to discuss performance and changes to her compensation for the coming fiscal year. Mary Ellen's initial 3-year contract concludes in June, and Mary Ellen proposed to the ECC a few changes to her next 3-year contract, which will begin July 1, 2025.

After reviewing and discussing documents provided by Mary Ellen regarding her performance, goals, and other RTA Administrator compensation across the state, the ECC voted to bring the following to the full Board for approval:

- Increase Mary Ellen's annual salary by 5% for FY26
- Increase Mary Ellen's annual vacation accrual from 15 days to 20 days
- Increase Mary Ellen's severance pay from 3 months salary to 6 months salary

Mary Ellen's performance and salary will continue to be reviewed by the Executive Compensation Committee annually.

A motion was made and 2nd to approve the changes to the Administrator's contract and compensation as outlined above and recommended by the Executive Compensation Committee. A roll call vote was taken.

Attleboro (5.51), Mayor Cathleen DeSimone- aye
Carver (1.63), Connie Kelly- aye
Dighton (1.16), Anabela Powell- aye
Duxbury (2.28), Joanne Moore- aye
Franklin (3.63), Cobi Frongillo- aye
Hanover (1.98), Tammy Murray- aye
Kingston (2.01), Patti Waitkevich- aye
Lakeville (1.60), Lori Fahey- aye
Mansfield (2.85), Kevin Dumas- aye
Marshfield (3.10), Greg Guimond- aye

Norfolk (2.27), Karen Edwards- aye
North Attleboro (3.31), Tony Morabito- aye
Pembroke (2.57), Diane Picot- aye
Plainville (1.30), Brenda Watkinson- aye
Plymouth (5.44), Lindsay Reik- aye
Seekonk (2.14), Brittney Faria- aye
Taunton (5.60), Gill Enos- aye
Wareham (3.26), Alan Slavin- aye
ADA Advocate (1.00), Michael Raymond- aye

Motion to approve the Executive Compensation Committee recommendation as outlined above passed.

6. Adjournment

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

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Attleboro (5.51), Mayor Cathleen
DeSimone- aye
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Duxbury (2.28), Joanne Moore- aye
Franklin (3.63), Cobi Frongillo- aye
Hanover (1.98), Tammy Murray- aye
Kingston (2.01), Patti Waitkevich- aye
Lakeville (1.60), Lori Fahey- aye
Mansfield (2.85), Kevin Dumas- aye
Marshfield (3.10), Greg Guimond- aye

Norfolk (2.27), Karen Edwards- aye
North Attleboro (3.31), Tony Morabito- aye
Pembroke (2.57), Diane Picot- aye
Plainville (1.30), Brenda Watkinson- aye
Plymouth (5.44), Lindsay Reik- aye
Seekonk (2.14), Brittney Faria- aye
Taunton (5.60), Gill Enos- aye
Wareham (3.26), Alan Slavin- aye
ADA Advocate (1.00), Michael Raymond-
aye

Motion to adjourn passed. The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:19PM.

Documents & Exhibits Discussed in this Meeting:

- 5.21.25 GATRA Advisory Board Meeting Agenda
- 3.19.25 GATRA Advisory Board Open Session Minutes
- May 2025 Administrator's Report
- May 2025 Civil Rights Report
- May 2025 Financial Report
- FY26 Budget Draft

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