



**June 18, 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

Clerk Kevin Dumas called the meeting to order in place of Chair Shaunna O'Connell at 1:04PM. A roll call vote was taken.

The following board members were present:

Bellingham (2.63), Josie Dutil (remote)
Berkley (1.39), Krista Celia (remote)
Carver (1.63), Connie Kelly (remote)
Dighton (1.16), Anabela Powell (remote)
Duxbury (2.28), Joanne Moore (remote)
Foxborough (2.39), Catherine Feerick (remote)
Franklin (3.63), Cobi Frongillo (remote)
Halifax (1.23), Bill Smith (remote)
Lakeville (1.60), Lori Fahey (remote)
Mansfield (2.85), Kevin Dumas (remote)- arrived at 1:0PM
Medway (1.98), Cathy Cebrowski (remote)
Middleboro (2.83), Mark Germain (remote)

Pembroke (2.57), Diane Picot (remote)
Plainville (1.30), Brenda Watkinson
Plymouth (5.44), Lindsay Reik (remote)
Raynham (2.08), Erin Medeiros (remote)- arrived at 1:12PM
Rehoboth (1.21), Elizabeth Doyle (remote)
Scituate (2.35), Linda Hayes (remote)
Seekonk (2.14), Brittney Faria (remote)
Taunton (5.60), Mayor Shaunna O'Connell- arrived at 1:06PM
Wareham (3.26), Alan Slavin (remote)
ADA Advocate (1.00), Michael Raymond (remote)- arrived at 1:10PM

The following board members were absent:

Attleboro (5.51), Mayor Cathleen DeSimone
Hanover (1.98), Tammy Murray
Kingston (2.01), Patti Waitkevich
Marshfield (3.10), Greg Guimond
Norfolk (2.27), Karen Edwards

North Attleboro (3.31), Tony Morabito
Norton (2.14), Alec Rich
Plympton (1.19), Colleen Thompson
Wrentham (1.94), Janet Angelico

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Also present:

Mary Ellen DeFrias, Dan Burgess, Kylie Araujo

Mary Ellen DeFrias noted that this is the last meeting for Brenda Watkinson, Plainville, and thanked her for her time. Mary Ellen DeFrias also welcomed two new members of the Advisory Board: Bill Smith, Halifax, and Cathy Cebrowski, Medway.

2. May 21, 2025 Open Session Minutes

A motion was made and 2nd to approve May 21, 2025 Open Session Minutes. A roll call vote was taken.

Bellingham (2.63), Josie Dutil- abstain
Berkley (1.39), Krista Celia- aye
Carver (1.63), Connie Kelly- aye
Dighton (1.16), Anabela Powell- aye
Duxbury (2.28), Joanne Moore- aye
Foxborough (2.39), Catherine Feerick- aye
Franklin (3.63), Cobi Frongillo- aye
Halifax (1.23), Bill Smith- abstain
Lakeville (1.60), Lori Fahey- aye
Mansfield (2.85), Kevin Dumas- aye
Medway (1.98), Cathy Cebrowski- aye

Middleboro (2.83), Mark Germain- abstain
Pembroke (2.57), Diane Picot- aye
Plainville (1.30), Brenda Watkinson- aye
Plymouth (5.44), Lindsay Reik- aye
Rehoboth (1.21), Elizabeth Doyle- abstain
Scituate (2.35), Linda Hayes- aye
Seekonk (2.14), Brittney Faria- aye
Taunton (5.60), Mayor Shaunna O'Connell- aye
Wareham (3.26), Alan Slavin- aye

Motion to approve May 21, 2025 Open Session Minutes passed.

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

Mary Ellen DeFrias reviewed the June 2025 Civil Rights Report. She reported that GATRA submitted their DBE goals on time, maintaining their track record. Mary Ellen noted that there were no further changes to the Civil Rights Report since the last meeting, but that she has met with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), who are still dealing with staff reductions. With this, there are still major delays regarding everything coming out of the FTA. The FTA will reach back out to GATRA when they are fully staffed in their Civil Rights Office.

Mary Ellen also reviewed the June 2025 Administrator Report. There is still a great level of uncertainty on the budget at the state and federal level. GATRA is still waiting on budget numbers with the hope that the House and Senate will start budget reconciliation soon. Mary Ellen also noted that GATRA has seen decreases in some federal funding which are coming in late from last year, and that GATRA is monitoring where they stand with FTA funds going forward. There is still no clear guidance from FTA. The East Maintenance Facility in Wareham is moving along with foundation walls going in as well as utility work starting within the following weeks. GATRA has officially adjusted the Route 8 bus, which now serves the East Taunton Commuter Rail Station.

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Dan Burgess reviewed the June 2025 Financial Report. He reviewed that the differences are consistent with what GATRA has seen in the prior months, apart from the Microtransit/COA expenses, where the variance has grown since the March report. This variance is related to the significant number of invoices for Microtransit and COA services that came in over the last month. Dan noted that these differences would be further addressed in the next piece, the FY25 Budget Amendment.

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

Bellingham (2.63), Josie Dutil- aye
Berkley (1.39), Krista Celia- aye
Carver (1.63), Connie Kelly- aye
Dighton (1.16), Anabela Powell- aye
Duxbury (2.28), Joanne Moore- abstain
Foxborough (2.39), Catherine Feerick- aye
Franklin (3.63), Cobi Frongillo- aye
Halifax (1.23), Bill Smith- aye
Lakeville (1.60), Lori Fahey- aye
Mansfield (2.85), Kevin Dumas- aye
Medway (1.98), Cathy Cebrowski- 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
Raynham (2.08), Erin Medeiros- abstain
Rehoboth (1.21), Elizabeth Doyle- abstain
Scituate (2.35), Linda Hayes- 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 the above-stated reports passed.

4. Fiscal Year (FY) 25 Budget Amendment

Dan Burgess reviewed the FY25 Budget Amendment, pointing out four specific areas with changes. The first change is in the Blue Apple Special Services Area. This program did not consume anywhere near as much of the available funds, therefore, the revenue and expense for that area has been reduced. The second area changed in the amendment is for transit expense in revenue, where the total transit expense increased by about \$400,000 to come in line with actuals for the year. Additionally, farebox revenues increased by about \$10,000. The third change regards a minor adjustment in administration expense and revenue, where administration expense increased by about \$36,000 and administration revenue decreased by about \$12,000. The last component regards the brokerage operations, where there is an increase of about \$7.6 million in expense, as well as a \$7.6 million increase in contract service income from the state, offsetting each other. Additionally, there was a \$300,000 increase in brokerage administration expenses and a \$300,000 increase in the management fee.

A motion was made and 2nd to approve the FY25 Budget Amendment. A roll call vote was taken.

Bellingham (2.63), Josie Dutil- aye
Berkley (1.39), Krista Celia- aye
Carver (1.63), Connie Kelly- aye
Dighton (1.16), Anabela Powell- aye
Duxbury (2.28), Joanne Moore- aye

Foxborough (2.39), Catherine Feerick- aye
Franklin (3.63), Cobi Frongillo- aye
Halifax (1.23), Bill Smith- aye
Lakeville (1.60), Lori Fahey- aye
Mansfield (2.85), Kevin Dumas- aye

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Medway (1.98), Cathy Cebrowski- 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
Raynham (2.08), Erin Medeiros- aye
Rehoboth (1.21), Elizabeth Doyle- abstain

Scituate (2.35), Linda Hayes- 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 the FY25 Budget Amendment passed.

5. Final Fiscal Year (FY) 26 Budget

Mary Ellen DeFrias began the review of the final FY26 Budget by providing some context on GATRA's unique operations for new members of the Advisory Board. She explained that along with the overall budget sheet, as well as four individual parts of GATRA's budget: the administration budget, the operating budget for KOA, the Microtransit and COA budget, and the brokerage budget. Mary Ellen reviewed that the brokerage has a separate contract under which GATRA manages healthcare transportation for about a third of the state. She also reviewed that although the brokerage has a separate staff and that the line between budgets for GATRA administration and the brokerage are kept separate, that both Dan and she are still responsible for managing brokerage budgets.

Dan Burgess then reviewed the actual final FY26 Budget, including some minor changes made since the last time the draft was reviewed. For the overall budget, the Microtransit/COA line increased by about \$200,000 as a result of breaking out small programs through a deep analysis in preparation for a load-up of the budget in GATRA's new accounting system. This change is offset by an approximate \$180,000 increase in Microtransit/COA passenger revenue, and an approximate \$20,000 increase in federal operating assistance. Dan also clarified a line regarding a new program, the bus line connecting Brockton to Fall River. GATRA has received a grant to run this line, but will be charging fares, explaining the low proposed farebox revenue budget in relation to it being a new service with uncertainty.

A motion was made and 2nd to approve the Final FY26 Budget. A roll call vote was taken.

Bellingham (2.63), Josie Dutil- aye
Berkley (1.39), Krista Celia- aye
Carver (1.63), Connie Kelly- aye
Dighton (1.16), Anabela Powell- aye
Duxbury (2.28), Joanne Moore- aye
Foxborough (2.39), Catherine Feerick- aye
Franklin (3.63), Cobi Frongillo- aye
Halifax (1.23), Bill Smith- aye
Lakeville (1.60), Lori Fahey- aye
Mansfield (2.85), Kevin Dumas- aye
Medway (1.98), Cathy Cebrowski- 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
Raynham (2.08), Erin Medeiros- aye
Rehoboth (1.21), Elizabeth Doyle- abstain
Scituate (2.35), Linda Hayes- 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

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Motion to approve the Final FY26 Budget passed.

6. Meeting Dates for Fiscal Year (FY) 26 and Fiscal Year (FY) 26 Orientation

Mary Ellen DeFrias reviewed that the Advisory Board will not meet in the summer, although they still receive materials monthly via email. The next meeting will be September 17, 2025. According to the current FY26 Meeting Dates, scheduled board meetings listed in bold font will be confirmed dates, but board meetings listed in default font will be tentative as backup dates. The annual Advisory Board Orientation will be held at the September 17, 2025 meeting.

7. Adjournment

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

Bellingham (2.63), Josie Dutil- aye
Berkley (1.39), Krista Celia- aye
Carver (1.63), Connie Kelly- aye
Dighton (1.16), Anabela Powell- aye
Duxbury (2.28), Joanne Moore- aye
Foxborough (2.39), Catherine Feerick- aye
Franklin (3.63), Cobi Frongillo- aye
Halifax (1.23), Bill Smith- aye
Lakeville (1.60), Lori Fahey- aye
Mansfield (2.85), Kevin Dumas- abstain
Medway (1.98), Cathy Cebrowski- 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
Raynham (2.08), Erin Medeiros- aye
Rehoboth (1.21), Elizabeth Doyle- abstain
Scituate (2.35), Linda Hayes- 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 adjourn passed. The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:29PM.

Documents & Exhibits Discussed in this Meeting:

- 6.18.25 GATRA Advisory Board Meeting Agenda
- 5.21.25 GATRA Advisory Board Open Session Minutes
- June 2025 Administrator's Report
- June 2025 Civil Rights Report
- June 2025 Financial Report
- FY25 Budget Amendment
- Final FY26 Budget
- Meeting Dates for FY26

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