



**January 21st, 2026 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

Chair Mayor Shaunna O’Connell, Taunton called the meeting to order at 1:02PM. Mayor O’Connell welcomed three new board members: Mark Horsfall from Berkley, Morena Zelaya from Franklin, and Josh Reinke from Mansfield. A roll call vote was taken.

The following board members were present:

Berkley (1.39), Mark Horsfall (remote) - arrived at 1:19PM
Carver (1.63), Connie Kelly (remote)
Foxborough (2.39), Catherine Feerick
Franklin (3.63), Morena Zelaya (remote)
Halifax (1.23), Bill Smith (remote)
Hanover (1.98), Tammy Murray (remote)
Kingston (2.01), Patti Waitkevich (remote)
Lakeville (1.60), Lori Fahey (remote)
Marshfield (3.10), Greg Guimond (remote)
Medway (1.98), Cathy Cebrowski (remote)
Norfolk (2.27), Karen Edwards (remote)
ADA Advocate (1.00), Michael Raymond (remote)

North Attleboro (3.31), Tony Morabito
Plainville (1.30), Brenda Watkinson
Plymouth (5.44), Lindsay Reik (remote)
Plympton (1.19), Colleen Thompson
Rehoboth (1.21), Elizabeth Doyle (remote)
Scituate (2.35), Linda Hayes (remote) - arrived at 1:04PM
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 1:07PM

The following board members were absent:

Attleboro (5.51), Mayor Cathleen DeSimone
Bellingham (2.63), Josie Dutil
Dighton (1.16), Anabela Powell
Duxbury (2.28), Joanne Moore
Mansfield (2.85), Josh Reinke

Middleboro (2.83), Mark Germain
Norton (2.14), Alec Rich
Pembroke (2.57), Diane Picot
Raynham (2.08), Erin Medeiros

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Also present:

Mary Ellen DeFrias, Dan Burgess, Kylie Araujo

2. September 17, 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 September 17, 2025 Open Session Minutes. A roll call vote was taken.

Carver (1.63), Connie Kelly - aye
Foxborough (2.39), Catherine Feerick - aye
Franklin (3.63), Morena Zelaya - aye
Halifax (1.23), Bill Smith - aye
Hanover (1.98), Tammy Murray - aye
Kingston (2.01), Patti Waitkevich - aye
Lakeville (1.60), Lori Fahey - abstain
Marshfield (3.10), Greg Guimond - aye
Medway (1.98), Cathy Cebrowski - aye
Norfolk (2.27), Karen Edwards - aye
North Attleboro (3.31), Tony Morabito - aye

Plainville (1.30), Brenda Watkinson - aye
Plymouth (5.44), Lindsay Reik - aye
Plympton (1.19), Colleen Thompson - aye
Rehoboth (1.21), Elizabeth Doyle - aye
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 September 17, 2025 Open Session Minutes passed.

3. Administrator Report & Financial Report

Mary Ellen DeFrias reviewed the January 2026 Administrator Report. She reported that GATRA is still seeing encouragingly strong ridership numbers, and that the Gateway Link seems to really be catching on as an integral service connecting three transit areas. With the new year, GATRA will be running on holidays that it had previously not been able to run on, offering more service to communities. GATRA continues to work with MassDOT and the MBTA on planning World Cup 2026 transportation. Additionally, the roof replacement project in Attleboro is moving forward. Mary Ellen also informed the board that the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) is to be voted on during this meeting, highlighting that it is an important piece in getting necessary federal grants. The holiday season and recent snow in the area have slowed progress at the East Maintenance Facility, but the building is sealed up, drywall is being worked on, and the fuel island is in. Electric charging stations are also in the works.

Mary Ellen mentioned that the Civil Rights Reports have not changed since last month, but noted that there is a GATRA Public Meeting scheduled for January 22nd, 2026 for those interested.

Dan Burgess reviewed the January 2026 Financial Report. Dan began by pointing out a few items that may have jumped out to the board, including the expenses section, specifically the

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special services line. This is the new intercity program, which is a fully state funded program, and the revenue will eventually offset these expenses. Dan also pointed out that GATRA is running under budget on the farebox revenue, which is due to the current fare free program being run. This is something that GATRA is tracking.

Patti Waitkevich from Kingston asked if GATRA running under budget for farebox revenue would affect the fare free program, for example, cutting it short. Mary Ellen answered that the fare free program will run through June 30th, 2026, and from that point, fare free service will depend on legislative decisions. Mary Ellen noted that GATRA has not received its funding from the state for the fare free program yet, which has contributed to the low budget for farebox revenues.

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

Carver (1.63), Connie Kelly - aye	Plainville (1.30), Brenda Watkinson - aye
Foxborough (2.39), Catherine Feerick - aye	Plymouth (5.44), Lindsay Reik - aye
Franklin (3.63), Morena Zelaya - aye	Plympton (1.19), Colleen Thompson - aye
Halifax (1.23), Bill Smith - aye	Rehoboth (1.21), Elizabeth Doyle - aye
Hanover (1.98), Tammy Murray - aye	Scituate (2.35), Linda Hayes - aye
Kingston (2.01), Patti Waitkevich - aye	Seekonk (2.14), Brittney Faria - aye
Lakeville (1.60), Lori Fahey - aye	Taunton (5.60), Mayor Shaunna O'Connell - aye
Marshfield (3.10), Greg Guimond - aye	Wareham (3.26), Alan Slavin - aye
Medway (1.98), Cathy Cebrowski - aye	Wrentham (1.94), Janet Angelico - aye
Norfolk (2.27), Karen Edwards - aye	ADA Advocate (1.00), Michael Raymond - aye
North Attleboro (3.31), Tony Morabito - aye	

Motion to approve the above-stated reports passed.

4. Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP)

Mayor O'Connell, Taunton, introduced the discussion of the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) and handed it over to Mary Ellen DeFrias for elaboration. Mary Ellen noted that this document has been sent to the board members and that it is a required document for GATRA to move forward in operations. This document is something that the union, management company, and GATRA staff work on together. Mary Ellen proposed the plan to be voted on by the board in order for it to be uploaded and so that GATRA can move forward with grant applications.

A motion was made and 2nd to approve the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP). A roll call vote was taken.

Carver (1.63), Connie Kelly - aye	Franklin (3.63), Morena Zelaya - aye
Foxborough (2.39), Catherine Feerick - aye	Halifax (1.23), Bill Smith - aye

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Hanover (1.98), Tammy Murray - aye
Kingston (2.01), Patti Waitkevich - aye
Lakeville (1.60), Lori Fahey - aye
Marshfield (3.10), Greg Guimond - aye
Medway (1.98), Cathy Cebrowski - aye
Norfolk (2.27), Karen Edwards - aye
North Attleboro (3.31), Tony Morabito – aye
Plainville (1.30), Brenda Watkinson - aye
Plymouth (5.44), Lindsay Reik - aye

Plympton (1.19), Colleen Thompson – abstain
Rehoboth (1.21), Elizabeth Doyle – aye
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
Wrentham (1.94), Janet Angelico - aye
ADA Advocate (1.00), Michael Raymond – aye

Motion to approve the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) passed.

5. NTD Closeout

Mary Ellen reviewed that every year, GATRA is required to provide data to the federal government on topics such as ridership, which are then used to determine GATRA’s funding for formula funding. GATRA is happy to inform the board that GATRA and the FTA are in full agreement, and that GATRA has received its closeout letter with no issues.

6. Open Meeting Law & Conflict of Interest Reminder

Mary Ellen reviewed that all public employees are required to complete the Conflict of Interest Ethics training or acknowledgement and the Open Meeting Law which can be found in the orientation handbook. Kylie Araujo noted that she will be sending emails to those members who have not yet completed the Open Meeting Law as a reminder.

7. Adjournment

Briefly before adjournment, ADA Advocate, Michael Raymond, requested to share some information regarding his experience riding with GATRA GO services. He stated that he was very impressed with both the GATRA GO app and the professionalism of drivers. He was impressed with the drivers’ compassion and the level of service displayed while working with riders with disabilities. He did mention how the waiting times while waiting on riders to approach the vehicle could be troublesome for efficiency and fuel consumption. He suggested a feature that would allow drivers to directly contact riders on the GATRA GO app when the rider is running late rather than communicating through dispatch, which causes delays. He gave kudos to GATRA drivers and the stellar GATRA GO service.

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

Carver (1.63), Connie Kelly - aye
Foxborough (2.39), Catherine Feerick - aye
Franklin (3.63), Morena Zelaya - aye
Halifax (1.23), Bill Smith - aye

Hanover (1.98), Tammy Murray - aye
Kingston (2.01), Patti Waitkevich - aye
Lakeville (1.60), Lori Fahey - aye
Marshfield (3.10), Greg Guimond - aye

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Medway (1.98), Cathy Cebrowski - aye
Norfolk (2.27), Karen Edwards - aye
North Attleboro (3.31), Tony Morabito - aye
Plainville (1.30), Brenda Watkinson - aye
Plymouth (5.44), Lindsay Reik - aye
Plympton (1.19), Colleen Thompson - aye
Rehoboth (1.21), Elizabeth Doyle - aye
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
Wrentham (1.94), Janet Angelico - aye
ADA Advocate (1.00), Michael Raymond -
aye

Motion to adjourn passed. The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:20PM.

Documents & Exhibits Discussed in this Meeting:

- 1.21.26 GATRA Advisory Board Meeting Agenda
- 9.17.25 GATRA Advisory Board Open Session Minutes
- January 2026 Administrator's Report
- January 2026 Financial Report
- Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP)

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