

## MINUTES of 01/21/2016 ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

### ATTENDANCE

**Name**

**Representing**

**PRESENT**

William Lehtola	Spencer
Mark Binnall	Auburn
Kelly Burke	Northborough
John Ostrosky	Shrewsbury
Jacob Sanders	Worcester
Michael Ward	Clinton

**ABSENT**

Doug Belanger	Leicester
Jarrett Conner	Worcester
Alyssa Graveson	Douglas
Leon Gaumond Jr.	Sturbridge
Rudy Heller	Brookfield
Dennis Lipka	Holden
Nancy Lucier	West Boylston
Timothy McInerney	Grafton
Kevin Mizikar	Grafton
Daniel Morgado	Shrewsbury
Brian Palaia	Oxford
Michael Pantos	Rutland
David Schiller	Charlton
Robert Spain	Millbury
Luz Vega	Regional Ridership
Sharon Yager	Shrewsbury

1. Chairman Lehtola called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

2. **Attendance**

### 3. Acceptance of Minutes

- Mr. Lehtola asked for a motion to accept the minutes for December 17, 2015.
- **Motion: I move the board accept the minutes of December 17, 2015.** Mr. Sanders made the motion and Mr. Ostrosky seconded. All voted in favor and the motion was accepted.
- Ms. Burke entered the board meeting at 8:38 a.m.
- Mr. Ward entered the board meeting at 9:06 a.m.

### 4. Business from the Public

Mr. Lehtola called for any business from the public and no one responded.

### 5. Business from the Board

Mr. Binnall inquired when the new schedules would be available for the January 30, 2016 changes. Mr. Carney stated the universal change to the schedules would be made available on January 27, 2016. Notices would be posted on the buses, the website, and reminder announcements on the platform could be done. Mr. Binnall requested the lights on the platform be turned on earlier. Mr. Carney replied the lighting is not controlled manually but programmed one hour before sunset.

Mr. Lehtola requested that the administration update him when something happens so that he can update the board. Mr. Lehtola commented on the need to be informed in a timelier manner. Mr. Lehtola questioned the low numbers for Route 80 and the continuation of the route. Mr. Carney stated that the low numbers will be checked and any operator needed compliance will be adjusted. Mr. Carney stated that the numbers have been higher in general. Mr. Lehtola asked for the difference in the interest rates given that the WRTA was not awarded Full Faith and Credit of the Commonwealth. Mr. Coyne responded he did not have the figures but would get a report to him after the meeting.

Mr. Ostrosky inquired as to why the numbers did not correspond between revenue and ridership from FY`16 YTD and FY`15 YTD. Mr. Carney explained that due to the way the system calculates fares there is never a match between the two. Both Mr. Carney and Mr. Lehtola agreed that the system does not count all revenue the same. Mr. Carney stated the key component is the steady increase in ridership. Mr. Ostrosky requested consideration for expanding service to cover part of Route 9. He commented on the number of Route 15 riders that walk on to Route 9. Mr. Lehtola commented on how they continue to look for viable options for serving Route 9.

Mr. Ostrosky inquired about GPS scheduling regarding a route he recently took. The route posting was showing nine (9) minutes out then four (4) minutes out then it stopped completely

and changed to ten (10) minutes away. In the end, it was thirty (30) minutes to get on the bus. Mr. Carney explained the likely reason is a broken down bus. Mr. Carney encouraged Mr. Ostrosky to contact him when an issue like this comes up, so that he can have operations check through the issue. Mr. Carney stated an announcement is made at the scheduled arrival time that the bus will be late. This informs the hub ridership that the expected bus will not be arriving at its scheduled time. Mr. Carney commented that in the spring of 2016, Mr. Parker will be working to make the scheduling friendlier for drivers and riders. No other details were presented at this time. Mr. Lehtola asked for an update on the platform shed for the inspectors. Mr. Carney stated installation of the heated “custom made” shed should be completed in about two (2) to three (3) weeks. Mr. Lehtola commented he was disappointed in the late purchase and installation of the shed especially given the winter weather. Mr. Carney replied that capital money was used and the item was a custom order.

Mr. Sanders commented on the future need to address bus stop signage on parts of Main Street. It was discussed that bus stop signage would be considered in 2017, after any possible adjustments to the street scape had been completed. Mr. Sanders inquired about shelter installation and purchases. Mr. Sanders recommended implementing a more creative approach to getting shelters paid for and advertising options. Mr. Sanders inquired about any submissions for funding under the “TIGER” grant. Mr. Church explained that TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grants are competitive and originate from the U.S. DOT. The WRTA has applied for TIGER grants in the past but has not been awarded any of the grant monies. The two examples given for the grant’s use were major infrastructure projects, such as bridge, new transit lines (rail or bus) and intermodal facilities, as well as purchases of large fleets of buses. Mr. Sanders asked if there would be any impact from Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST Act). It was generally agreed that increases would provide more federal funding.

## **6. Administrator Report**

### Finance

The WRTA projects to be level funded for FY`17 as part of our share of the \$82 million. It has been projected the State will see a \$1 billion deficit for FY’17. The revised FY’16 budget will be reviewed next month. Mr. Coyne explained how the State’s current fiscal year budget has a \$320 million gap between projected spending and revenues. The governor has made \$50 million dollars in 9c cuts and none of which affect the RTA’s.

### Capital - M & O Facility

Mr. Coyne stated the entire building is now enclosed and showed pictures of some of the recent construction. The following list is an update on the construction process.

- Siding on building
- Interior Metal Studs
- Final concrete pour
- Dry Wall

The coal tar extraction continues and the budget shortfall is at \$3.080 million. Mr. Coyne will keep the board updated as the process continues.

Capital- Grove Street facility

The requested extension on Galaxy's due diligence period was up on January 8, 2016. Mr. Coyne informed the board that Galaxy was able to acquire a low interest loan. The WRTA is scheduled to close on the sale of Grove Street on the 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> of March 2016.

Other – Lt. Governor's visit to Grove Street

Mr. Coyne reported the Lt. Governor and MBTA representatives visited Grove Street to talk with CMTM about bus maintenance.

## 7. Adjournment

- Mr. Lehtola asked for a motion to adjourn.
- **Motion: I move the board adjourn. Mr. Binnall motion to adjourn and Mr. Sanders seconded.** All voted in favor and the motion to adjourn was accepted. The meeting adjourned at 9:22 a.m.

## 8. Next Meeting Date

The next board meeting will be on February 18, 2016 at 8:30 a.m., located at the hub 60 Foster Street, Worcester, MA 01608 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.