



Worcester Regional Transit Authority

Moving Our Region Forward

Union Station Hub 60 Foster Street Worcester, MA 01608

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**Worcester Regional Transit Authority  
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes  
March 21, 2019**

**Chairperson Lehtola called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.**

AB MEMBERS ATTENDANCE

Present: Mark Binnall - Auburn, Kristen Las -- Shrewsbury, Barbara Connelly -- Grafton, Michael Suprenant -- Sturbridge, Ron San Angelo -- Southbridge, Jacob Sanders -- Worcester, Doug Belanger -- Leicester, and William Lehtola - Spencer. Brian Bullock -- Holden (8:40 am) Candria Grey -- Worcester Rider (8:45)

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

**Motion: To accept the minutes for January 17, 2019 amended and February 27, 2019.**

**By: Jacob Sanders. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Mark Binnall.**

**Vote: All in favor (8 in favor 0 opposed).**

BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC

Public comment was made regarding the position of the representative of the disabled commuter population. Mr. Lipka stated that there was no response from their recent inquires. Doug Belanger spoke about outreach efforts in the town of Leicester and those efforts would be reported to the board sometime this Spring.

Mr. Adam Thielker asked why Route 24 could not return to making the loop towards the old Worcester State Hospital grounds. Mr. Lipka informed the board that they are working with the recovery hospital to review possible future options (like a shuttle service) should the need for sustainable ridership develop. Mr. Lipka commented on the low ridership numbers to that specific area and the late runs that were occurring.

BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD

Board members discussed possible dates for the next Audit and Finance committee. No final date was accepted at this time. Chairperson Lehtola discussed expanding the Personnel Committee members due to recent inquiries. The existing members are: Ms. Las, Mr. Sanders, Mr. Spain, Mr. Belanger- Chair, and Mr. Lehtola. The three members to appoint are Mark Binnall, Michael Suprenant and Ron San Angelo. Doug Belanger recommended that an alternative be agreed upon to allow for an odd numbered committee. Ron San Angelo agreed to be the alternative member of the committee.

**Communities Served:**

Auburn	Brimfield	Douglas	Grafton	Millbury	North	Paxton	Southbridge	Wales	West Boylston
Barre	Brookfield	Dudley	Holden	New Braintree	Brookfield	Princeton	Spencer	Warren	West
Berlin	Charlton	East	Holland	Northborough	Oakham	Rutland	Sturbridge	Webster	Brookfield
Boylston	Clinton	Brookfield	Leicester	Northbridge	Oxford	Shrewsbury	Sutton	Westborough	Worcester

**Motion: To expand the Personnel Committee members to 8 persons with Ron San Angelo as the alternative. By: Doug Belanger 2<sup>nd</sup>: Mark Binnall.**

**Voted: All in favor (10 in favor 0 opposed)**

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Lipka updated the board on the Route 5 extension to Broad Meadow Brook Sanctuary and the forthcoming promotions they would be working on. Jacob Sanders thanked Mr. Lipka and Mr. Parker for their efforts regarding Councilor Russell's constituent issue concerning idling buses on Massasoit Road.

#### BUDGET 2020

Mr. Lipka informed the board members that the WRTA would base its budget on \$88 million. The WRTA share of this would be \$12.1 million. In FY'19 we made some budgetary adjustments with a budget at \$11.3 million. Discussion occurred regarding what a final figure might be and how prior allocating of the funding affected the WRTA. Board members discussed capital spending pertaining to the bus fleet and electric bus upgrades.

#### UPDATE ON LEGISLATIVE TASKFORCE

Mr. Lipka stated that the taskforce is wrapping up its sessions and has recommended in its draft report \$90.5 million for the RTA's.

#### UPDATE ON GRANTS AWARDED

Mr. Lipka stated that State Grant money can be spent over both FY'19 and FY'20 given the current timeframe of its release. The WRTA has grant applications for SCM Elderbus and improvements in paratransit services.

#### MARKETING PRESENTATION

Ms. Lyver gave a brief presentation on the marketing efforts of the WRTA. Ms. Lyver spoke about updating the 5 year plan, expanding vehicle advertising, mapping by route for outreach locations, researching mobile collection systems, outside committee involvement, and targeted promotional events.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Motion: To Adjourn at 9:43a.m. By: Doug Belanger,  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Jacob Sanders

Vote: All in favor (10 in favor 0 opposed)

#### NEXT MEETING DATE

The next WRTA Advisory Board Meeting will be on April 18, 2019 at 8:30 a.m., located at the Hub, 60 Foster Street, Worcester, MA 01608 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.