

## MEETING NOTES

Pursuant to written notice sent to Committee Members and pursuant to notice posted at least forty-eight hours prior to the meeting, copies of said notice having been sent to the FRTA's 41-member towns, the meeting of the Transit Advisory Committee of the Franklin Regional Transit Authority was held on July 13, 2017 at the John W. Olver Transit Center, 12 Olive St., Greenfield, MA 01301.

### **1. INTRODUCTIONS:**

Present were the following TAC Members:

Josh McElhone, and Deb Wilson.

Also present were:

Rob Broussard, Jeff Singleton, Jasper Lapienski, Amanda Smith, Rachel Fichtenbaum, Megan Rhodes, Molly Morin, FTM General Manager, Rauley Caine, FTM Assistant General Manager, Ron Andronaco, FTM Safety and Training Manager, and Michael Perreault, FRTA Assistant Administrator.

Michael Perreault called the meeting to order at 1:05pm and it was noted that a quorum **was not** present to hold a meeting.

### **2. REVIEW MEETING MINUTES FROM MARCH 9, 2017 AND MEETING NOTES FROM MAY 11, 2017:**

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

### **3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FY18:**

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

### **4. DISCUSSION ON RIDER COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE TO AFL-CIO FOR FY18:**

Michael Perreault indicated that last year was this first time FRTA has gone through this process in selecting a Rider Community Representative. Michael Perreault is working with the TAC to come up with a list of interested individuals to serve in this position on the FRTA Advisory Board. If anyone is interested, or knows of someone that may be interested, please contact Michael Perreault for more information. For FY18 the Rider

Community Representative will be representing the Town of Phillipson, but they do not have to be a resident of Phillipston. Jasper Lapienski asked if the representative needed to be a union member. Michael Perreault stated that the Mass General Law does not specifically call for the representative to be a member of any union.

## **5. DISCUSSION ON UPCOMING FIXED ROUTE CHANGES:**

At the last meeting in May, the FRTA Advisory Board approved changes to the fixed route system which will go into effect in September. FRTA is finalizing a list of meeting dates and times to hold information sessions between now and September to provide information and answer questions regarding the changes. Once the list is completed Michael Perreault will send out the information to the committee. The intention is to have open ‘drop-in’ sessions where people can come and stay as long as they need to get information and ask questions regarding the changes. FRTA will include information on schedules and maps, but also have available information on RouteMatch and Google Transit, applications for the different FRTA services, and the new Go-Card, FRTA’s new reloadable electronic fare card. Michael Perreault asked for some general feedback from the committee on this type of set up for public information sessions and if there are specific locations we should hold information sessions. Jasper Lapienski asked if FRTA is planning to hold an information session at GCC, as there is a large percentage of students that use the FRTA. Michael Perreault stated that these information sessions are to provide information prior to the implementation of the new changes. FRTA does set up an information table at GCC during the fall semester of the school year, but this would be after the changes go into effect.

Deb Wilson asked where people could find information about the route changes. Michael Perreault passed out copies of the route changes and stated that the information can also be found on the FRTA’s home page. There are two links with information for time tables and maps. Jasper Lapienski suggested that the FRTA add text above the links to indicate that there are two links or that additional information is also provided in a second link. Michael Perreault stated that FRTA is looking to keep the design of the new schedules similar to the current schedule design. Megan Rhodes asked if there is a list of all locations that keep FRTA bus schedules on hand for customers and clients. Michael Perreault stated that FRTA recently started keeping a written list of known locations and trying to keep it as up to date as possible. Prior to the route schedules FRTA will be delivering new bus schedules to those known locations and at the launch of the new schedules in September FRTA staff will be on hand at the transit center to assist in answering questions and helping people navigate the new changes.

Jasper Lapienski commented about that having the Route 21 travelling in the same direction may have a negative impact on GCC students living at Leyden Woods returning home in the afternoon as it would take 13 minutes to get to GCC but 47 minutes to return to Leyden Woods.

Deb Wilson asked about the bus stop at Elm Terrace and Foster’s Market on Elm St. Rauley Caine explained that the bus will no longer travel along Conway St past Foster’s

Market or travel through Elm Terrace, but instead will stay on Elm St between Greenfield Gardens and Leyden Woods and now also servicing Oak Courts. Molly Morin explained that by keeping the bus on the main streets through Greenfield there were enough time efficiencies gained to allow for more trips per day on the Route 20 and 21 versus the current Route 21. The new bus stop serving both Foster's Market and Elm Terrace will be located near the intersection of Elm St and Allen St. Deb Wilson suggested that the intersection of Elm St and Allen St is an unsafe area as cars tend to travel over the speed limit in that area. Rauley Caine responded that he has been working with the Town of Greenfield Parking and Traffic Commission and the Town Engineer in finding a safe location for a bus stop in that vicinity. Michael Perreault added that the FRTA's Demand Response and ADA paratransit service will still travel into Elm Terrace for riders that are unable to use the fixed route bus.

Jeff Singleton spoke about some issues regarding the route changes. There were concerns that the initial proposal released in March was different than the proposed changes presented to the Advisory Board meeting in May. The final changes were sent to the Advisory Board members ten days prior to the meeting and there were no further public hearings or public discussions on the final changes. While the FRTA Advisory Board did vote to approve the final changes, Jeff Singleton stated that he does not like the process. Jeff Singleton would like to see more service on the Route 23 to connect people to UMass and does not like the Route 22 as the FRTA should be servicing schools or the industrial park. Michael Perreault stated that the FRTA made a request to the Advisory Board at the March meeting to go out to public hearings/public discussions based on a set of changes presented. Throughout April FRTA held public meetings to present the proposed changes and solicited feedback. Based directly on the feedback received, FRTA made modifications to the original proposal which was sent to the Advisory Board for the meeting in May. The FRTA Advisory Board by-laws state that all meeting information must be sent to board members ten days prior to the meeting, which FRTA followed. Included within the proposed changes was a listing of all public comments FRTA received on the original proposal. FRTA was aware that Jeff Singleton had some concerns about the final changes and FRTA and Town of Montague officials met to discuss those concerns prior to the Advisory Board meeting. Michael Perreault suggested to Jeff Singleton that if he is unhappy with the process then he should take up the issue at the next Advisory Board meeting.

Rachel Fichtenbaum announced that the Fitchburg area will be launching a new travel training program very soon. Individuals that qualify for Statewide Access Pass and apply through the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority can get referrals to the travel training program.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2017. The meeting was adjourned at 2:00pm.