

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 September 13, 2018 at the John W. Olver Transit Center, 12 Olive St., Greenfield, MA 01301.

1. INTRODUCTIONS:

Present were the following TAC Members:

Kate Bavelock, Jasper Lapienski, Elizabeth Quirk, and Deb Wilson.

Also present were:

Rachel Fichtenbaum, Megan Rhodes, Peter Kuusisto, Jeff Singleton, Carol Letson, Molly Morin; FTM General Manager, Ron Andronaco; FTM Safety and Training Manager, and Michael Perreault; FRTA Assistant Administrator.

Michael Perreault called the meeting to order at 1:00pm and it was noted that a quorum **was** present to hold a meeting. If anyone is interested in becoming a committee member, or knows someone that may be interested, please email Michael Perreault at michael@frta.org.

Jasper Lapienski made a **motion** to appoint Elizabeth Quirk as Chair pro tem. Kate Bavelock seconded, the vote was unanimous, and the **motion** carried.

2. REVIEW MEETING MINUTES FROM MARCH 9, 2017 AND MEETING NOTES FROM JULY 12, 2018:

Kate Bavelock made a **motion** to accept the meeting minutes from March 9, 2017. Jasper Lapienski seconded, the vote was unanimous, and the **motion** carried.

There was no discussion on the meeting notes from July 12, 2018.

3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

There was discussion from members of the Committee and their interest in holding officer positions. Jasper Lapienski made a **motion** to elect George Touloumtzis as Chair

and Elizabeth Quirk as Vice-Chair. Kate Bavelock seconded, the vote was unanimous, and the **motion** carried. The position of Secretary to the Committee remains vacant.

4. UPDATE AND DISCUSSION ON FY19 FUNDING:

Michael Perreault handed out an email with attached PowerPoint presentation from Mary McClintock, the Community Collaboration Coordinator at Community Action Pioneer Valley. In August the Franklin County Resource Network's Public Policy Task Force hosted a workshop on State and Federal Government, how a bill becomes a law, and what to say to get your voice heard. Then at the beginning of September the Franklin County Resource Network had Community Action's Executive Director give a presentation on how the State Budget is created and about the budget process timeline. This was the second event in a three-part series in helping people to better understand the State budget process. The final part will be held in October at the Franklin County Resource Network's Legislative Breakfast event.

Michael Perreault handed out an email from Russ Fisher requesting consideration from MassDOT to be the representative from an organization that advocates for RTAs on the statewide regional transit authority task force. Russ Fisher is a bus driver, founder of Transportation Justice Franklin County, and an advocate for weekend and evening service for FRTA.

Michael Perreault handed out a two-page document with information out of the state budget line items for FY19 for all of the RTAs. The state budget for FY19 was approved with a total of \$88 million for all of the Regional Transit Authorities which is broken out into three pieces; \$82 million to be distributed out to all RTAs, \$2 million set aside for RTAs operating with a deficit, and \$4 million set aside for RTAs that execute a MOU with MassDOT agreeing to best practices and to initiate, maintain or expand service to a priority population established by the statewide regional transit authority task force.

There was much discussion about what the makeup of the task force will be, what will come out of the task force as part of the MOU, and how the additional \$4 million in funding will be distributed to the RTAs. As of now there is no information on who is on the task force, when or where the task force meetings will be, or how the money will be allocated to the RTAs that sign onto the MOU. Michael Perreault will email more information about the task force out to the committee as it becomes available.

Jasper Lapienski made a **motion** to send a letter to the task force requesting they make a priority for all regional transit authorities to have weekend fixed route service. Deb Wilson seconded, the vote was unanimous, and the **motion** carried. Michael Perreault will draft the letter to send to the task force.

5. REVIEW TAC BY-LAWS:

Michael Perreault stated that in speaking with George Touloumtzis prior to the meeting it was important to review the by-laws to make sure they are up to date and reflect current

practices. Jasper Lapienski made a **motion** to hold meetings on February, March, April, May, September, October, and November and to move the election of officers to the September meeting. Kate Bavelock seconded, and discussion followed. Jasper Lapienski stated that by having monthly meetings in the spring and fall and moving the start times to the meetings to 3:00pm instead of 1:00pm there would be a better chance of having more participation at these meetings. Michael Perreault commented that he is happy to see a change that would encourage more participation at these meetings but cautioned that he would need more help from members taking minutes if there are going to be additional meetings. Deb Wilson suggested that she may be interested taking minutes. There was continued discussions on the appropriate number of meetings to gain more attendance and not burn out committee members. Jeff Singleton suggested that the TAC meetings follow the FRTA Advisory Board meeting schedule which meets in March, May, September, and November. Jasper Lapienski amended his **motion** to hold meetings on March, May, September, and November and to move the election of officers to the September meeting. Kate Bavelock seconded, the vote was unanimous, and the **motion** carried.

Jasper Lapienski made a **motion** to set the meeting start times at 3:00pm. Deb Wilson seconded, the vote was unanimous, and the **motion** carried.

Elizabeth Quirk noted a grammatical error on page 2, Article III., Section 2; the last sentence should read “If in the event a quorum is reached, or a quorum becomes absent,…”.

Elizabeth Quirk noted that at the last TAC meeting there was discussion about possibly adding wording to the by-laws regarding removing members. Michael Perreault stated that it was an idea that was discussed with George Touloumtzis, but no language has yet been drafted.

At 1:55pm Jasper Lapienski made a **motion** to extend the meeting by 15 minutes. Kate Bavelock seconded, the vote was unanimous, and the **motion** carried.

Jasper Lapienski made a **motion** to change the wording on page 2, Article II., Section 4 from “FRTA customers” to “FRTA riders or potential riders”. Kate Bavelock seconded, the vote was unanimous, and the **motion** carried.

6. DISCUSSION ON AFL-CIO FY19 RIDER COMMUNITY REP:

Michael Perreault again explained that each town on the FRTA Advisory Board, on a rotating basis, has a position on its board for a Rider Community Representative to the AFL-CIO. To date Michael Perreault has received interest from Megan Rhodes, current Rider Community Representative, Jasper Lapienski, and George Touloumtzis for consideration. Michael Perreault stated that he will continue to take names of people interested in this position until the end of September, at which time he will then continue the process for selection. Anyone interested in being considered or looking for additional information on this position please contact Michael Perreault at michael@frta.org.

7. MASSRIDES PRESENTATION:

Peter Kuusisto made a presentation providing information on the following MassRides programs:

- Provide outreach to local employers to find ways to decrease single occupancy vehicles commuting to work; including public transit, walking, biking, and carpooling to work.
- Provide parking lot surveys.
- Hosts a webpage, Baystate Commute, that connects people looking to carpool to work. Riders that use Baystate Commute can also track their trips to receive discounts to retailers.
- Provide information and assistance on starting vanpools. MassRides also hosts a listing online of current vanpools in operation.
- Sponsors the Clean Commute Challenge to encourage people to use alternative transportation to work. The next Clean Commute Challenge will be on September 21st.
- Provide Emergency Ride Home program which reimburses employees for the cost of transportation (either from taxi, Uber, etc.) if they have an emergency that forces them to leave work early or stay late.

Carol Letson asked what local companies are currently involved with MassRides. Peter Kuusisto stated that C&S Wholesale is currently a partner with MassRides and that he's in discussions with Yankee Candle and Lightlife Foods. There was discussion that there is a listing of companies that are current partners with MassRides online at <https://commute.com/>.

8. REGIONAL COORDINATING COUNCIL TOPICS:

Rachel Fichtenbaum provided the following information to the group:

- In Berkshire County, Age Friendly Berkshires is holding a workshop on local transportation advocacy. This project is grant funded through AARP and coordinated with Transportation 4 America.
- MassMobility is helping volunteer driver programs connect with each other and recently held a forum to discuss volunteer driver programs and share some of the successes with others interested in starting their own programs.
- MassDOT in partnership with the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission recently held a ride-hailing forum on how organizations can partner with companies, such as Uber and Lyft, to increase access to transportation.

9. BRAINSTORMING ON PUBLIC AWARENESS:

As the meeting was running over the allotted time, this topic was tabled until the next meeting.

**10. PUBLIC COMMENTS, TRANSPORTATION QUESTIONS, OR
SUGGESTIONS FOR AGENDA TOPICS:**

There were no public comments. Michael Perreault stated that if anyone has agenda topics at an upcoming meeting can send them to michael@frta.org.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 8, 2018. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30pm.