

**MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY (MART)
MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 30, 2017
MART MAINTENANCE FACILITY
1427R WATER STREET
FITCHBURG, MA 01420**

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:37 a.m.

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: (constituting a quorum)

Mayor Mark Hawke	Gardner
Mayor Dean Mazzarella	Leominster
Mayor Stephen DiNatale	Fitchburg
Selina Shaw (representing Selectmen)	Boxborough
Selectperson Phyllis Luck	Lunenburg
Kenneth F. Troup (representing Selectmen)	Bolton
Keith Bergman (representing Selectmen)	Littleton

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Selectperson Heather Billings	Westminster
Robert Pontbriand (representing Selectman)	Ayer
Alexandra Turner (representing Selectmen)	Lancaster
Raeanne Siegel (representing Selectmen)	Hubbardston
Laura Alger (representing Selectmen)	Royalston
Selectperson Leo Janssens	Ashburnham
Alyson Toole (representing Selectmen)	Stow
Laura McIntye (representing Selectmen)	Hardwick
Richard Hatch (representing Selectmen)	Shirley
Carter Terenzini (representing Selectman)	Templeton
Greg Dumass (representing Selectmen)	Sterling
Pauline Clark	Rider to Board
Shaun Suhoski (representing Selectmen)	Athol
Selectman Austin Cyganiewicz	Winchendon
Tim Bragan (representing Selectman)	Harvard
No Representative	Ashby

STAFF PRESENT:

Mohammed Khan, Bruno Fisher, James Sluss, Bonnie Mahoney, Jessica Lashua, Benilda Martinez, Adam Gromelski, and Keary Connors

GUESTS PRESENT:

Jim RePass	Transit X
Mike Stanley	Transit X
Heather Lemieux	Lunenburg
Phil Rocca	Management of Transportation Service
George Kahale	Montachusett Regional Planning Commission

II. General Comments

A. Transit X Presentation

Mike Stanley from Transit X did a presentation on Transit X. Transit X is a solar powered shared mobility network to supplement buses, trains, cars trucks and short flights. A demonstration system will be ready in 2017 and pilot programs will begin in 2018.

III. Approval of Minutes

A. February 28, 2017

RESOLUTION- Mayor Dean Mazzarella of Leominster moved that the Advisory Board of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority approves the February 28, 2017 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

IV. Financial Matters

A. Status of State Funding:

1. FY2018 State Budget Allocations for RTA

M. Khan stated that the State is struggling with the budget, the Governor has reduced the Transit Authorities budget by \$2 million over all. This year's funding was \$82 million. Senator Gobi put in an amendment to the budget \$86 million for all RTA's.

2. FY2017 Earmark for Athol/Orange

M. Khan informed the Board MART still doesn't have the FY2017 earmark for Athol/Orange services.

Mayor DiNatale informed the Board that Senator Rosenberg said the \$400,000 for Athol will happen this year but next year is still up in the air.

3. FY2018 Earmark Request for Athol/Orange

B. Status of Federal Funding

C. Financial Update through February 2017

J. Sluss informed the Board that on the Transit side MART will break even by the end of the year, on the Brokerage side there could be a deficit of \$225,000 but MART is still working with HST to have this number resolved by the end of the year. MART is also working with HST to have a fixed management fee for next year.

D. Budget and Expenditures Report – FY2017 Eight Months

E. Selection of New Auditor-Bruce D. Norling, CPA, P.C.

V. Administrative Matters

A. COA Transportation Contract Status

Selina Shaw of Boxborough stated that the communities were not notified about the new reimbursement rules for transportation. Boxborough hasn't received reimbursement for Council on Aging transportation since September 2016. The rules should not have been changed mid fiscal year after town budgets have already been done.

Bruno stated MART plans on putting out 1 agreement for all communities. A typical management fee is 15% and MART is going to over double the management fee for all communities to 33%. Most communities are billing 100% for management fee. MART shouldn't be paying any cost that is not directly related to transportation. Council on Aging Director's do more than just transit but some communities are charging 100% of the Director's salary to transit. MART will pay all of the invoices in full for FY2017 and FY2018 we will use the new agreement. MART will have a meeting with all the communities to go over the changes and the new agreement. A draft of the agreement should go out to all the communities later this week.

J. Sluss informed the Board that per the Audit we have to have a contract with the Council on Aging in order to pay their bills.

Selina Shaw of Boxborough asked what the communities can use their MBTA assessment for.

M. Khan informed the Board that communities can only use their MBTA assessment for new service that is being run by a Regional Transit Authority, in the community, for the community.

B. Fisher informed the Board MART maybe looking for a MART annex building to the east of Fitchburg. This is still in the very beginning planning stages. We will send out specifications further down the line to all interested communities.

B. Status/Update on Ayer Commuter Rail Parking Facility and Depot Square Improvements

B. Fisher informed the Board that the design has been chosen for Ayer. Ayer will be using the Rail Trail lot with a parking deck above it. There will be about 180 spaces and should be ready in the spring of 2018.

C. Status/Update on Fixed Route Services to Devens Area

M. Khan informed the Board that the ridership is low for the new Devens Area routes. There are about 30-45 riders a week using the route.

D. FTA ADA Audit - Findings and MART's Response

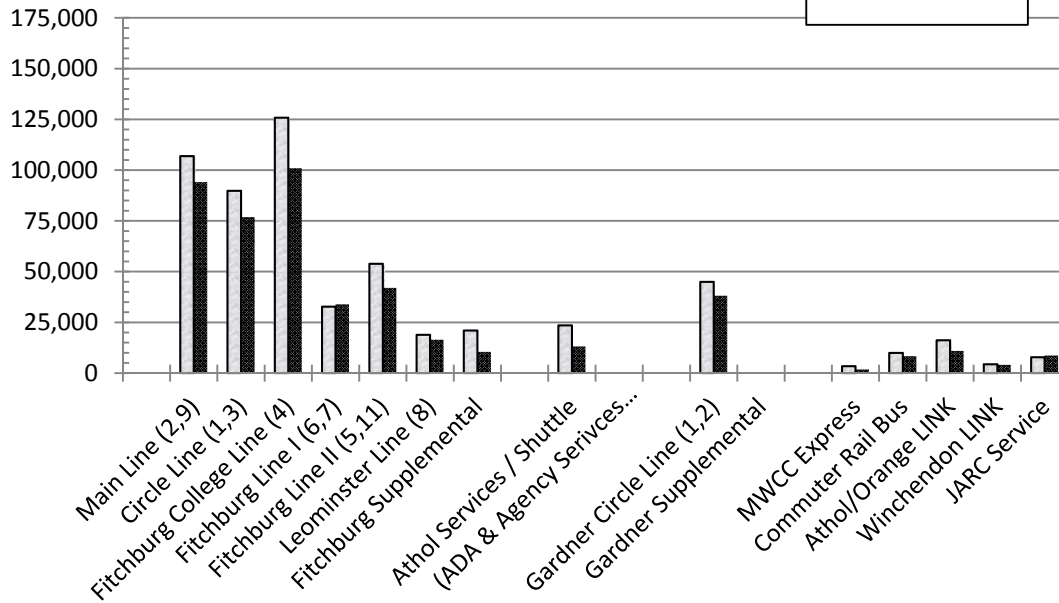
K. Connors informed the Board that MART had an ADA Compliance Review Audit in June 2016, FTA issued its final report in December 2016. MART had 60 days to address the 17 findings in the final report. MART sent in the response in February 2016. FTA issued a second report in May 2017 13 of the 17 finding were resolved. There are 4 more that FTA needs more information to resolve, MART will be sending the additional information in July 2017.

VI.

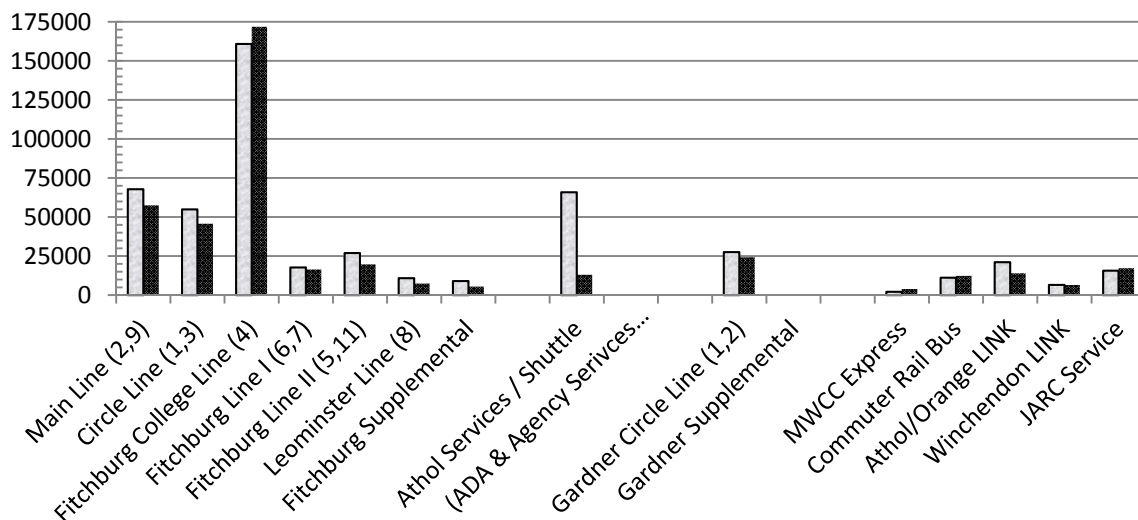
Operational Services

A. MART Operation Status on Revenue and Ridership – 9 Month Review

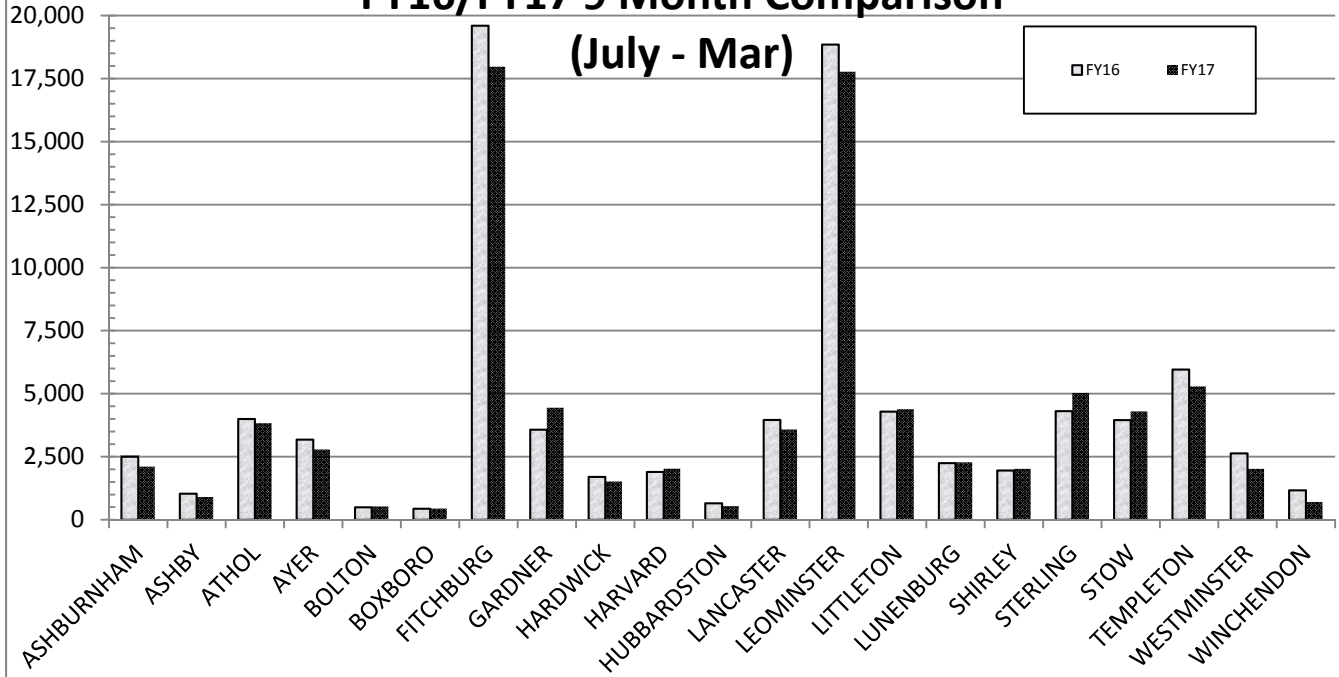
Fixed Route Ridership FY16/FY17 9 Month Comparison (July - Mar)



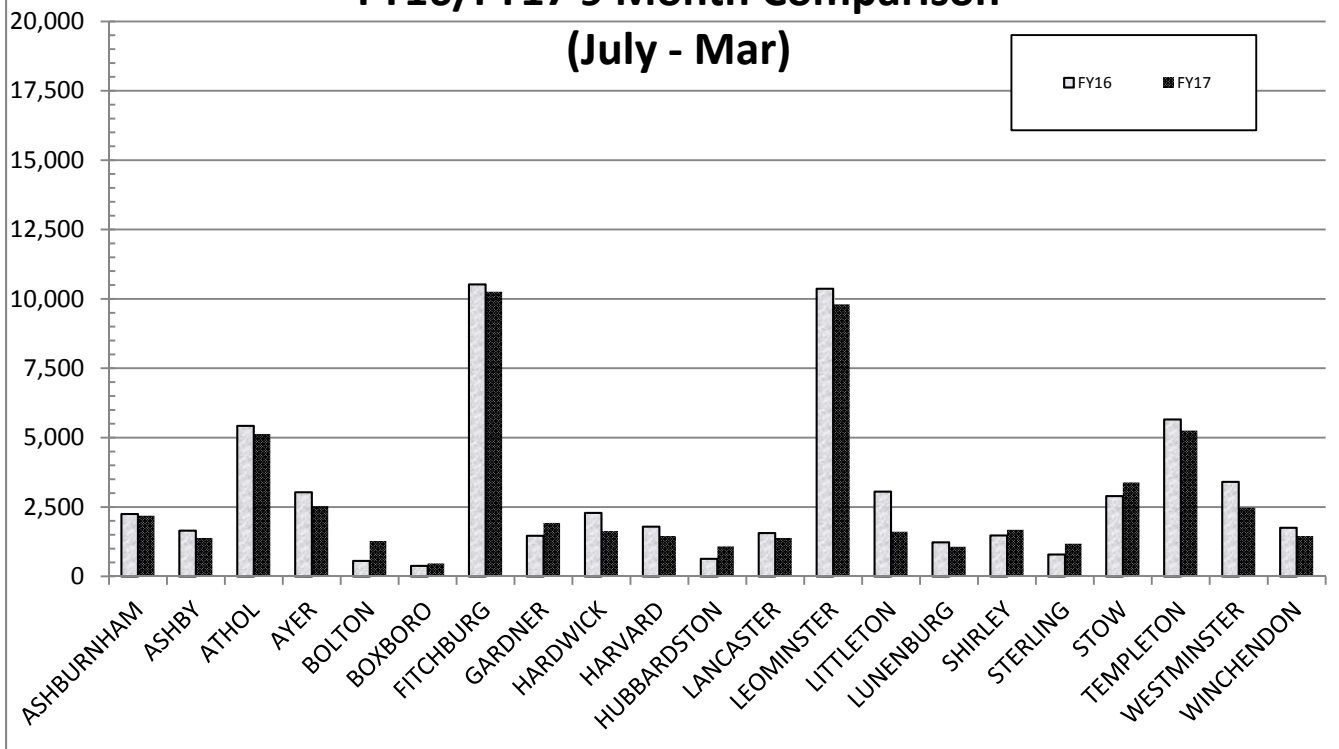
Fixed Route Revenue FY16/FY17 9 Month Comparison (July - Mar)



Council On Aging Ridership FY16/FY17 9 Month Comparison (July - Mar)



Council On Aging Revenue FY16/FY17 9 Month Comparison (July - Mar)



- B.** HST Brokerage Operation: Management and Operational Reorganization
MART continues to provide broker transportation services for the Department of Developmental Services. MART provides services in the Pioneer Valley area, Central/West region which includes North and South Central areas, Metro Boston region including the North and South Shore areas.

MART is currently transporting approximately 6000 consumers to 175 various day programs across the above mentions areas using 63 vendors.

Department of Mental Health

MART is currently providing DMH services for five regions across the state. We utilize 16 contractors to transport approximately 500 clients to 14 various DMH clubhouses.

Department of Public Health EI Program

MART continues to manage transportation services for the Department of Public Health (DPH) Early Intervention Program (EIP) in the Pioneer Valley, North and South Central, and the Greater Boston areas. MART is currently managing transportation for approximately 1300 children from birth to age three to 91 active EIP Programs with the majority of the service being provided in the Greater Boston Area. This is accomplished through contract with 17 private transportation companies.

Mass Health Transportation Program

MART continues to provide brokerage services for the Mass Health transportation for the Greater Metro Boston, Pioneer Valley, North Central and the South Central areas.

MART currently services the transportation needs of the Mass Health consumers in two hundred and twenty-three (223) cities and towns. Transportation averages approximately 8000 one-way trips per day with the highest volume in the Metro Boston area.

MART is currently contracted with approximately 200 transportation providers for the above mentioned areas and assigns work via a low cost bid system.

In October 2013, MART started providing transportation services for a new program called Integrated Care Options (ICO) this service is for dual enrolled Medicaid recipients whereas the member is able to choose to change their insurance coverage from MassHealth to an ICO. Under MART's HST Brokerage contract we are required to provide a 90 day continuity of care period for the members choosing this option and bill transportation cost to the appropriate ICO. There are currently two major companies for the members to choose from Commonwealth Care Alliance and Network Health. MART utilizes our MassHealth transportation providers and assigns the trips via the bid system

MART also provides brokerage services on a smaller scale for the Mass Rehab Commission and the Mass Commission for the Blind, this is primarily a demand response service with transportation requested being processed by the agency through the HST Office and MART then bids out the trips via a low cost bid system.

B Fisher informed the Board that MART has restructured the Brokerage Operation to help reduce costs. Management staff was reduced by about a third. Also the per trip cost has almost drop \$2.00 per trip.

VII. Other Business

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:13 p.m.