

Berkshire Regional Transit Authority
Finance/Audit Committee

May 22, 2025

In Person

BRTA Boardroom, 2nd Floor, 1 Columbus Avenue, Pittsfield, MA

Berkshire Regional Transit Authority Finance/Audit Committee Members present:

Doug McNally, Windsor; Sandra Lamb, North Adams; and Brian O'Grady, Williamstown.

Also present: Robert Malnati, Kaylyn Hunkler and Sarah Vallieres, BRTA.

R. Malnati called the Finance/Audit Committee meeting to order at 2:31 PM.

1. Discussion Administrator Contract

R. Malnati asked the Finance Committee to enter Executive Session for the purpose of conducting strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel. D. McNally made the motion to move to Executive Session, was seconded by B. O'Grady, and was approved by all.

The Finance Committee meeting went into Executive Session at 2:32 PM.

The Finance Committee left executive session at 3:12 PM and resumed the open Finance Committee meeting at 3:12 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes for May 14, 2025-VOTE

The Finance Committee members reviewed the minutes of the May 14, 2025 meeting. D. McNally made the motion to accept the minutes, was seconded by B. O'Grady, with S. Lamb abstaining. The motion was approved.

3. Draft FY2026 Budget-VOTE

R. Malnati reviewed the Draft FY26 BRTA Budget and FY 26 BRTA Budget Assumptions document with the Finance Committee. 9 months of fares have been added to income, if there is no state fare free funding. If there is fare free funding, the Board can amend the budget later. For Fare Free, the Governor's budget has \$30M and the Senate's has \$40M, but includes the wording "shall" and "appropriation", removing the local advisory board control for fare setting. The RTAs are in opposition to this language. In the State supplemental FY 25 budget, BRTA should receive \$724K (3.1%). The 5307 Federal formula funds are \$2.5M, due to the US census and BRTA receives \$500K less each year. BRTA will have enough 5307 funds in FY26, but will use all saved allocations and there will be a deficit in FY27 given the reduced federal apportionment. This year's apportionment will be only for operating, no capital purchases. The independent auditor was briefed about this issue and confirmed the FY27 calculation. MassDOT was also briefed about the issue, as was noted in this year's Program Preview. The BRTA will be at a fiscal cliff next year without additional funding from MassDOT. Ridership may exceed 600,000 riders this year. The pension contribution is the same as last year. This budget includes a 3 month overlap for the new Administrator. The interest on the Note is 4.45% which was the average from the 2 RTAs that went out to borrowing already. The Collective Bargaining Agreement increased wages by \$1M. The Sheriff's Detail is working well and is included this year's budget. The calculation at the end of the year for this budget is 50% federal and 50% state. The LINK 413 grant is in the FY 26 budget. Administrative staff wages will increase 4%. The process of reducing administrative expenses in future years by lessening the work week to 35 or 37.5 hours has begun.

D. McNally made the motion to recommend the approval of BRTA's FY 26 Budget to the BRTA Advisory Board. B. O'Grady seconded the motion and was approved by all.

4. Next Meeting

TBD- June prior to Advisory Board Meeting

5. Adjournment

D. McNally made a motion to adjourn the Finance Committee meeting, was seconded by B. O'Grady, and was approved by all. The BRTA Finance Committee meeting was adjourned at 3:33 PM.

Meeting Materials

- **BRTA Finance/Audit Committee Agenda and Packet**
- **Draft FY26 BRTA Budget**
- **FY26 BRTA Budget Assumptions**

Town	1) Move to Executive Session	2) Minutes 5/14/25	3) Draft FY2026 Budget	5) Adjournment
North Adams	Yes	Abstained	Yes	Yes
Williamstown	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Windsor	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes