

BERKSHIRE REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

March 4, 2026

4:00 PM

BRTA Intermodal Transportation Center, Second Floor Board Room, 1 Columbus Avenue, Pittsfield, MA 01201

ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Berkshire Regional Transit Authority Advisory Board Members Present:

Sarah Fontaine, Adams; Ray Killeen, Cheshire; Tate Coleman, Great. Barrington; Mary Reilly, Lanesborough; Sherry Youngkin, New Ashford; Sandra Lamb, North Adams; Mayor Peter Marchetti, Pittsfield; Renee Wood, Sheffield; Jamie Minacci, Stockbridge; Brian O’Grady, Williamstown; and Douglas McNally, Windsor.

Berkshire Regional Transit Authority Advisory Board Members Absent:

Charles Ketchen, Alford; Bill Elovirta, Becket; Ron Boucher, Clarksburg; John Boyle, Dalton; Melanie Vicneire, Egremont; Joan Lewis, Florida; James Rodda, Hancock; Margaret Gregory, Hinsdale; Andrea Wadsworth, Lee; Mindi Morin, Lenox; Frank Abbott, Monterey; Keith Torrico, Mt. Washington; Stuart Lawrence, New Marlborough; Brandi Page, Otis; Verne Leach, Peru; Alan Hanson, Richmond; Justin Kaczowski, Savoy; Andrea Wadsworth, Washington; and Andrew Krouss, W. Stockbridge.

Also, present: Robert Malnati, Kathleen Lambert, and Ben Hansen, BRTA; Anuja Koirola, BRPC; Breanna Steele, iBerkshires; Tara Monastesse, Berkshire Eagle; Roberto Quintos, Accem Scott, BTM; Brittany Ebeling, BEAT; Cristin Tolen, TransDev; Ghannelle Butrbe, Keolis; and Patti Annechiarico.

Voting Shares Present

- Adams 2.76 2.76
- Alford 1.00 0.00
- Becket 1.08 0.00
- Cheshire 3.66 3.66
- Clarksburg 1.00 0.00 38.50 needed for quorum.
- Dalton 2.47 0.00 56.63 when called to order
- Egremont 1.02 0.00 57.68 after R. Wood arrived
- Florida 1.00 0.00
- Great Barrington 3.69 3.69
- Hancock 1.00 0.00
- Hinsdale 1.29 0.00
- Lanesborough 2.29 2.29
- Lee 3.55 0.00
- Lenox 4.42 0.00
- Monterey 1.02 0.00
- Mt. Washington 1.00 0.00
- New Ashford 1.07 1.07
- New Marlborough 1.00 0.00
- North Adams 6.15 6.15
- Otis 1.00 0.00
- Peru 1.04 0.00
- Pittsfield 20.93 20.93
- Richmond 1.00 0.00
- Savoy 1.00 0.00
- Sheffield 1.05 1.05
- Stockbridge 2.38 2.38

Washington 1.00 0.00
West Stockbridge 1.00 0.00
Williamstown 2.50 2.50
Windsor 1.03 1.03 2
Representative 1.00 0.00
Disability Community 1.00 0.00

Rider

1) ROLL CALL

D. McNally called the Advisory Board Meeting to order at 4:00 PM. This meeting will be recorded for the purpose of the notes for the Board Minutes.

2) DISCUSSION ON ROUTE REALIGNMENT AND COMMENTS RECEIVED

The topic for today is the discussion of route realignment and comments. K. Lambert reminds everyone of the issue with not having enough drivers and making a choice of continuing cancellation of routes or coming up with a solution. K. Lambert introduced Ben Hansen as our new Deputy Administrator who will start his position on Monday but has also been working with Kathleen on this new route realignment. Ben is currently operations manager and well versed in our current problems and they have been working on this project together. This is not a permanent solution rather than something that we can work with for the time being until a permanent solution has been found.

The Berkshire Regional Transit Authority is proposing targeted service adjustments to stabilize daily operations and reduce service cancellations. This proposal aligns service levels with current staffing availability while preserving core mobility and introducing mitigation strategies to maintain countywide connectivity.

The RTA currently operates 36 weekday runs with 26 available drivers resulting in 10-13 open runs each day. Proposed plan is to have 30 runs with 26 drivers which will result in 5 open runs which is more manageable. We propose route 21 and 921 evening service reduction using ridership data to make driven decisions. We used an average of 3 months of data October-December evaluated ridership per hour, per route.

We propose the following: Elimination of route 14 but extending route 12. Route 12 ends at 5:00pm at Walmart in Pittsfield instead of ending at the garage at Downing. Route 21 will operate all day south county loop and extend hours until 8:25pm. Route 34 concludes service at 8:15pm with last inbound trip to Pittsfield. We would like to extend hours further into the evening towards Williams College and housing projects on route 2 ending at the ITC instead of Allendale. It is important to get customers back to their home base instead of Allendale.

BRTA will introduce the Route 999 with limited stops through North Adams, Adams, Cheshire, Lenox, Lee and Great Barrington. Route 1 will operate every 2 hours. With these reductions the 999 will supplement every other hour operating from 6:30am – 8:30pm.

R. Wood requested a copy of the presentation instead of note taking. K. Lambert did state this can be found on BRTA's website with last revision dated February 19, 2026.

Route 2, similar to route 1, will operate every other hour leaving ITC 6:30am-8:30pm being supplemented by route 999 express. Route 11 will run a little later into the evening because of Berkshire Community College needing service. Route 11 has a demand for later bus with class ending at 9pm having students take 9:15pm to get back to ITC. All BRTA service is going to end roughly 9:30pm. If you get a ride back to ITC you have more opportunities to grab a taxi or Uber.

Similar to route 15 heading out to West Pittsfield with eliminating that portion of route 14. Route 14 is very similar to the 12 except it runs in opposite directions at the time when people get out of work in Pittsfield. Our ridership typically ends up going to 555 Hubbard Ave or out to April Lane, those are really big stops for us on route 12.

Route 21 as stated before is going to extend an additional 2 hours from what it currently operates, however we will only be operating route 21 throughout the day in south county connecting with 999 at Barrington Plaza and Lee Premium Outlets. Route 34 is the only big difference as previously stated it will finish little earlier. We do not have a lot of ridership after 8:30pm. We do want to make sure we pick MCLA and Williams College because they are a big piece of our ridership. Route 34 would go out to Williamstown returning along route 7 and finish at the ITC. Route 3 actually hasn't been touched except that piece of coverage from route 34 heading southbound. Route 5 Lanesborough is not being touched. Route 4 remains the same. R. Malnati announced 413 started January 28, 2026. It has been operating for 24 service days having 156 riders to date, 98 with BRTA, 38 PVTA and 20 Franklin County.

3) ROUTE REALIGNMENT – VOTE

A motion to call the question was made, Rene Wood moved and Mary Reilly seconded. A motion was made to adopt the Route Realignment proposal, not seconded. Mayor Marchetti suggested that there was not enough information to vote on the proposal because several communities were unsure about what is being offered. He offered more community outreach was required. Administrator Lambert said she would spend the time visiting other communities, specifically North Adams and Great Barrington were to be targeted as mentioned by Board members.

4) NEXT MEETING DATE/TIME

March 26, 2026 was agreed as the next meeting date.

5) ADJOURNMENT

. Town	5) Adjournment
Adams	Yes
Cheshire	Yes
Great Barrington	Yes
Lanesborough	Yes
New Ashford	Yes
North Adams	Yes
Pittsfield	Yes
Sheffield	Yes
Williamstown	Yes
Windsor	Yes