

BERKSHIRE REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

March 27, 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; Phillip Orenstein, Great Barrington; Mary Reilly, Lanesborough; Mindy Morin, Lenox; Sandra Lamb, North Adams; Mayor Peter Marchetti, Pittsfield; Renee Wood, Sheffield; Brian O’Grady, Williamstown; and Douglas McNally, Windsor.

Berkshire Regional Transit Authority Advisory Board Members Absent:

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

Also, present: Robert Malnati, Kathleen Lambert, Ben Hansen, and Julie Davine, BRTA; Tom Herrmann, Accem Scott, Jason Bullock, Kendra Hassan, and Mark Piacente, BTM; Britney Steele; iBerkshires, and Tara Monastesse, Berkshire Eagle; Patti Annechiarico, Clete Kus, AICP; Brittany Ebeling, BEAT; Holly Bullock, General public; Attending virtually: Omar Oliveros, Keolis; Francis Julian, Keolis; Jacob Fitz, Keolis; Cristin Tolen, TransDev.

	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	49.58 when called to order
Egremont	1.02	0.00	
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	4.42	
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	2.95	0.00	
Washington	1.00	0.00	
West Stockbridge	1.00	0.00	

Williamstown	2.52	2.52
Windsor	1.04	1.04
Rider Representative	1.00	0.00
Disability Community	1.00	0.00

1) ROLL CALL

D. McNally called the Advisory Board Meeting to order at 4:02 PM. This meeting will be recorded for the purpose of the notes for the Board Minutes.

2) ROUTE ALIGNMENTS – REVIEW

K. Lambert presented an update regarding the Route Alignments Proposal and current operations. It was reported that the Route Realignment project was being discontinued after working with the new operating vendor to develop run cuts that allow service to be maintained with available personnel, including supervisors. A revised schedule is expected to be implemented in approximately three weeks. Until that time, temporary cancellations may continue due to staffing limitations. There was a discussion regarding service reliability, communication of schedule changes, timing of cancellation postings, and the impact of staffing shortages on service delivery.

3) ROUTE ALIGNMENT - VOTE

R. Wood made a motion to discontinue the Route Alignments Proposal. R. Kileen seconded the motion. All stated aye and the Route Alignments Proposal was discontinued.

3a.) LINK 413 – DISCUSSION

There was discussion regarding the Link 413 service and its relationship to the Route Realignment Proposal. R. Wood asserted that because Link 413 information was included in the meeting packet, it should be considered part of the realignment proposal and therefore subject to the vote to discontinue the proposal. Several members expressed concern that this interpretation could extend the scope of the vote beyond what had been presented. Administrator Kathleen Lambert stated that the inclusion of Link 413 materials in the packet was for informational purposes only and that the service was not part of the Route Realignment Proposal. She reiterated that Link 413 is a separate service and was not included in the proposed service changes being voted on. Further discussion among Board members indicated that several members were unaware that the initial vote to discontinue the Route Realignment Proposal could be interpreted as affecting Link 413 service. Members stated their understanding that the vote applied only to the proposed route realignment and not to Link 413. R. Wood subsequently made a motion to authorize the Administrator to negotiate a temporary suspension of Link 413 service, citing its operational impact and its inclusion in the meeting materials. R. Killeen seconded the motion. Following discussion regarding Open Meeting Law and the scope of the posted agenda, concerns were raised about whether such action was properly before the Board. R. Wood and R. Killeen then withdrew their motion and the second.

3b.) RECONSIDERATION OF ROUTE ALIGNMENTS – VOTE

P. Marchetti made a motion to reconsider the previous vote regarding the Route Alignments Proposal. M Reilly seconded the motion. The motion passed with one opposing vote (R. Wood).

3c.) ROUTE ALIGNMENTS / LINK 413 – FINAL VOTE

P. Marchetti made a motion to deny implementation of the Route Alignments Proposal, maintain Link 413 service until the next meeting, and request a report from the Administrator regarding cancellations and Link 413 operations. S. Fontaine seconded the motion. All stated aye and the motion passed.

4) ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

R. Malnati provided the Administrator's Report, which included updates on the Governor's proposed transportation funding, legislative outreach, and current ridership trends. Fixed route ridership showed recent monthly declines but remains above prior-year levels overall, while paratransit ridership continues to exceed prior-year levels. Additional updates included staffing and recruitment efforts, transition to a new operating company, Finance Committee membership changes, and recently awarded Community Transit Grants.

5) BRTA PENSION TRUSTEE REPLACEMENT – REVIEW

The Board addressed the replacement of the BRTA pension trustee position, specifically transitioning the role from Robert Malnati to Kathleen Lambert.

6) BRTA PENSION TRUSTEE REPLACEMENT – VOTE

A motion was made to appoint the Administrator as Pension Trustee. The motion was seconded. All stated aye and the motion passed.

7) BRTA FY26 BUDGET AMENDMENT – DISCUSSION

B. Malnati presented the FY26 budget amendment, highlighting adjustments to reflect the continuation of the fare-free program, updated revenues, and revised expense projections. Key changes included reductions in fare revenue, increases in state funding and interest income, and minor adjustments to operating expenses such as IT upgrades and professional services. The amendment was described as balanced and necessary to align the budget with current financial conditions. The Board discussed the updates and had no major concerns.

8) FY26 BUDGET AMENDMENT - VOTE

R. Wood made a motion to approve the FY26 Budget Amendment. M. Morin seconded the motion. All stated aye and the motion passed.

9) CASH REPORTS JANUARY & FEBRUARY 26 - VOTE

S. Fontaine made a motion to accept the Cash Reports. M. Morin seconded the motion. All stated aye and the motion passed.

10) RIDERSHIP YTD

Ridership data was reviewed.

11) NEXT MEETING DATE/TIME

R. Malnati set the next meeting date for Thursday, April 23, 2026

12) ADJOURNMENT

B. O'Grady made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded. All in favor stated aye and the meeting adjourned.

Town	3)Discontinue Route Realignment VOTE	3b.) Reconsider of Route Realignments - VOTE	3c.) Route Realignments/ Link-413 final VOTE	6) BRTA Trustee Replacement VOTE	8)FY26 Budget Amendment VOTE	9)Cash Reports Jan&Feb 26 VOTE
Adams	X	X	X	X	X	X
Cheshire	X	X	X	X	X	X
Great Barrington	X	X	X	X	X	X
Lanesborough	X	X	X	X	X	X
Lenox	X	X	X	X	X	X
North Adams	X	X	X	X	X	X
Pittsfield	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sheffield	X	NO	X	X	X	X
Williamstown	X	X	X	X	X	X
Windsor	X	X	X	X	X	X

MEETING MATERIAL

BRTA Advisory Board Packet