

BERKSHIRE REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

April 23, 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:

John Boyle, Dalton; Melanie Vicneire, Egremont (Virtual); Phillip Orenstein, Great Barrington; Mary Reilly, Lanesborough; Sherry Youngkin, New Ashford (Virtual); Stuart Lawrence, New Marlborough; Mayor Peter Marchetti, Pittsfield; Renee Wood, Sheffield; Jamie Minacci, Stockbridge (Left @ 4:53pm); Brian O'Grady, Williamstown; and Douglas McNally, Windsor.

Berkshire Regional Transit Authority Advisory Board Members Absent:

Sarah Fontaine, Adams; Charles Ketchen, Alford; Ray Killeen, Cheshire; Ron Boucher, Clarksburg ; Bill Elovirta, Becket; Joan Lewis, Florida; James Rodda, Hancock; Margaret Gregory, Hinsdale; Andrea Wadsworth, Lee; Mindy Morin, Lenox; Frank Abbott, Monterey; Keith Torrico, Mt. Washington; Sandra Lamb, North Adams; Brandi Page, Otis; Verne Leach, Peru; Alan Hanson, Richmond; Justin Kaczowski, Savoy; Andrea Wadsworth, Washington; Andrew Krouss, West Stockbridge. Anuja Koriola, BRPC
Also, present: Kathleen Lambert, Ben Hansen, and Julie Davine, BRTA; Jason Bullock, Kendra Hassan, Justin Rolland, and Mark Piacente, BTM; Britney Steele; iBerkshires, and Tara Monastesse, Berkshire Eagle; Patti Annechiarico, General public; Attending virtually: Cristin Tolen, TransDev and Clete Kus, AICP

Voting Shares Present

Adams 2.76 0.00

Alford 1.00 0.00

Becket 1.08 0.00

Cheshire 3.66 0.00

Clarksburg 1.00 0.00

Dalton 2.51 2.51

Egremont 1.02 1.02

Florida 1.00 0.00

Great Barrington 2.87 2.87

Hancock 1.00 0.00

Hinsdale 1.29 0.00

Lanesborough 2.29 2.36

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 1.00

North Adams 6.15 0.00

Otis 1.00 0.00

Peru 1.04 0.00

Pittsfield 21.61 21.61

Richmond 1.00 0.00

Savoy 1.00 0.00

Sheffield 1.04 1.04

Stockbridge 2.38 2.38

38.50 needed for quorum.

39.39 when called to order

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

1) ROLL CALL

D. McNally called the Advisory Board Meeting to order at 4:05 PM. Initial difficulty confirming quorum due to absences and technical issues. Quorum was eventually reached and the meeting proceeded. This meeting will be recorded for the purpose of the notes for the Board Minutes.

2) Approval of January 29, 2026 Board Minutes – VOTE

The January 29, 2026 Board Minutes were presented for approval. A motion to approve was made by J. Minacci and seconded by M. Reilly. R. Wood expressed concerns that the minutes appeared truncated and did not accurately reflect the full scope of the meeting discussions. She specifically noted that the minutes failed to adequately capture the Board’s discussion regarding the proposed service realignment, the 60-day public comment period, and Title VI considerations. R. Wood further stated that, in her view, an outside reader would not be able to fully understand what transpired during the meeting based on the current draft. The motion to approve carried by a majority vote.

3) Approval of March 4, 2026 Board Minutes - VOTE

The March 4, 2026 Board Minutes were presented for approval. A motion to approve was made by J. Minacci and seconded by M. Reilly. R. Wood again expressed concerns that the minutes appeared truncated and did not fully capture the substance of the Board’s discussion. During the discussion, there was some confusion regarding the specific meeting dates being referenced. The motion to approve carried by a majority vote..

4) Approval of March 26, 2026 Board Minutes - VOTE

The March 26, 2026 Board Minutes were presented for approval. A motion to approve was made by J. Boyle and seconded. R. Wood reiterated her concerns that the minutes appeared truncated and did not accurately reflect the substance of the meeting discussions. In response, S. Lawrence stated that meeting minutes are not required to capture every point of analysis, but rather to document the official actions and key elements of the meeting. The motion to approve carried by a majority vote.

5) Finance Committee replace member -VOTE

The Chair appointed P. Marchetti to fill the vacancy on the Finance Committee, replacing a departing member. As this is a Chair appointment, no vote was required.

6) Administrator’s Report – update on Transdev and Keolis transition

Administrator K. Lambert provided an overview of current ridership trends. It was noted that year-to-date ridership remains above prior year levels; however, recent data indicates a decline in fixed-route ridership. It was further stated that this decline appears to correlate with service disruptions and cancellations. Consequently, there has been an increase in paratransit utilization, attributed in part to riders seeking more reliable transportation options. Administrator K. Lambert reported ongoing challenges related to service delivery, including increased trip cancellations, impacts to specific routes with higher cancellation frequency, and operational strain resulting from driver shortages. Board members expressed concern regarding the effect of cancellations on public confidence, the potential long-term impact on ridership, and the need for timely communication to both the Board and the public.

An update was also provided on workforce levels, noting the continued difficulty in recruiting and retaining operators. Administrator K. Lambert stated that recent recruitment efforts have yielded limited success relative to operational needs. It was further noted that ongoing attrition and retirements are contributing to staffing gaps. Administrator K. Lambert also discussed ongoing work related to run cutting and schedule design, including the evaluation of alternative scheduling models intended to improve efficiency and reduce cancellations. This included a comparison between existing scheduling practices and 3 proposed models that incorporate more structured runs and built-in coverage for absences. Board members discussed the balance between operational efficiency and workforce preferences, as well as the role of seniority and day-off selection in current scheduling practices. It was further discussed that a revised system may improve overall service reliability. No formal action was taken; however, the Board acknowledged the importance of resolving scheduling inefficiencies. Also discussed during the Administrator's Report was the ongoing implementation and performance of the Link 413 service. Administrator K. Lambert provided a general update, including initial ridership performance, coordination with regional partners, and expectations for growth as the service matures. Board members raised concerns regarding the timing of the service launch and whether the addition of new service may be impacting the Authority's ability to maintain existing routes. The discussion emphasized the importance of ensuring that core service remains stable. The Board also discussed the process by which the Link 413 service was introduced, including the relationship between grant acceptance and service implementation. It was noted that Board members would benefit from additional documentation related to grant conditions, service planning assumptions, and any applicable regulatory requirements.

7) Ridership YTD

Year-to-date (YTD) ridership was discussed during the Administrator's Report. While overall YTD totals remain higher than the previous year, it was noted that month-to-month fixed-route ridership has been declining.

8) Ridership by route metrics

Ridership by route metrics for the month of March were included in the Board packet and were briefly discussed during the meeting.

9) Cancellations

Cancellations dating back from July FY 25 were shown to the board highlighting the ongoing issue of cancellations from previous months. It was noted by K. Lambert that the BRTA was having a meeting with members of Keolis, Teamsters, and Transdev the following afternoon to discuss alignment in the new run cut to mitigate some of the constant cancellations on a daily basis.

10) Year to Date Budget and Cash Report

Administrator K. Lambert provided a brief update on the Budget and Cash Report. It was stated that the budget remains on track overall, and that BRTA is awaiting grant reimbursements to balance accounts.

11) Public Comments

There were no public comments

12) Next Meeting Date/Time, Mayor's Request to change the meeting date.

P. Marchetti stated that the date did not need to be changed for next month's Advisory Board meeting. Chairman D. McNally acknowledged that the next Advisory Board Meeting will be held on the 21st of May.

13) ADJOURNMENT

B. O'Grady made a motion to adjourn. The motion was not seconded or voted on as we lost our quorum when J.Minacci from Stockbridge left at 4:53PM. 4

Town	2) January 29th, 2026 Board Minutes	3) March 4, 2026 Board Minutes	4) March 26, 2026 Board Minutes
Dalton	Yes	Yes	Yes
Egremont	Yes	abstained	abstained
Great Barrington	Yes	abstained	Yes
Lanesborough	Yes	Yes	Yes
New Ashford	Yes	Yes	Yes
New Marlborough	Yes	Yes	abstained
Pittsfield	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sheffield	No	abstained	No
Stockbridge	Yes	Yes	abstained
Williamstown	Yes	Yes	Yes
Windsor	Yes	Yes	Yes

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