

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BAT ADVISORY BOARD

April 12, 2018

In Attendance:

Frank Hegarty, Town of Avon	Cathie Klabish, AFL-CIO Representative
Michael Dutton, Town of Bridgewater	Pat Ciaramella, Old Colony Planning Council
Darren Duarte, City of Brockton	Charles Kilmer, Old Colony Planning Council
Dottie Fulginitti, Town of Easton	Reinald G. Ledoux, Jr., Administrator
Allan Chiocca, Town of Rockland	Michael Lambert, Deputy Administrator
Eldon Moreira, Town of West Bridgewater	Kelly Forrester, Manager of Transit Operations
Frank Lynam, Town of Whitman	Linda Sacchetti, Chief Financial Officer
Richard Downs, Rider Representative	Kathy Riddell, BAT

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM by Mr. Hegarty. He welcomed everyone and asked for public comments. Mr. Allen Karon, from the town of Canton provided public comment on the proposed BAT fare increases and service reductions. Mr. Karon was advocating to implement the Stoughton service on a 45 minute pulse and implementation of some Sunday service in Stoughton. He stated that he also documented his suggestions in an email sent prior to the meeting.

Mr. Hegarty asked for a motion to approve the Advisory Board Minutes of January 18, 2018. A motion was made by Mr. Duarte and seconded by Mr. Chiocca. Mr. Chiocca. Motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Forrester gave the Board an overview of BAT's ridership reports and performance dashboard included in their packets. She noted that nationwide, agencies are experiencing a significant decrease in ridership. BAT has a slight decrease pointing out that Bridgewater State University's ridership has increased and thus improved BAT's overall numbers. DIAL-A-BAT has a slight decrease over the last year also. Ms. Forrester directed the Board's attention to the performance metrics and stated that all areas are within BAT's standards and goals.

Next, Ms. Sacchetti gave the Board a financial update. She stated that the budget was adjusted to reflect the downturn in revenues that are expected to continue through to the end of the year. Unfavorable revenues are mostly attributed to the number of storms this winter which negatively impacted ridership. Expense line items are currently favorable to budget; however, several items including increase in contractor's health insurance, labor contract wage increases and additional snow removal cost are expected to close the budget gap by year end. Mr. Ledoux stated that the new fixed route management contract expressly accelerated its request for management data from the 15th of the month prior to the 10th and wanted to recognize the contractor's Controller for her efforts in complying with the request. Mr. Ledoux directed the Board's attention to local assessments and stated that there were no dramatic changes in the numbers. He then described for the Board the progress of the state budget, including the give/take by several legislators. He distributed an additional budget with three scenarios, each based on different outcomes of the state budget. He noted that two transit systems are facing major challenges, in addition to those of the MBTA and stated that BAT was in much better shape than most agencies regardless of the outcome of the budget. The budgets are in draft format and more information will be available at the next Board meeting in May. Mr. Hegarty asked for a motion to accept the budget documents as presented. Mr. Lynam made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Dutton. All were in favor.

Mr. Ledoux directed the Board's attention to the Draft of Disparate Impact/Disproportionate Burden Policy. He explained the reasoning for adopting such a policy to determine if a fare increase or service reductions would place an undue burden on the economically disadvantaged and persons of color. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1965 prohibits discrimination in federally funded programs and requires that no person in the US be discriminated upon based on race, color or national origin. Additional federal laws and orders provide that no discrimination be based on age, sex, disability and low-income. Massachusetts law also prohibits discrimination based on gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, religion, creed, ancestry, veteran's status or background. Although not required, BAT's service area includes a large population of people of color and economically disadvantaged. It was determined that following the MBTA's robust process be modeled in developing BAT's policy, particularly in light of BAT's integration with the MBTA's commuter rail service, three bus routes and fixed route direct service to the Ashmont station in Dorchester.

Mr. Lambert gave the Board an overview of the legal regulations and how the Federal Transit Administration's larger transit agencies plan and work to ensure there is no undue burden when implementing a fare increase or service reduction on certain populations. The Old Colony Planning Council completed a study on proposed fare increases and is working on an analysis of the proposed service changes. BAT's policy goes over and above what is required. He also stated that the policy would make for better decision making. Mr. Ledoux offered his thanks to Mr. Lambert for his work in developing the policy and working to ensure that the analysis correctly reflects the proposed policy.

Mr. Hegarty asked for a motion to approve the Disparate Impact/Disproportionate Burden Policy as presented. Motion was made by Mr. Lynam and seconded by Mr. Duarte. The policy was unanimously approved for adoption.

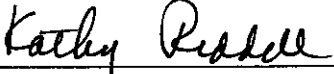
Mr. Ledoux noted that MassDOT Rail and Transit Administrator, Astrid Glynn, commended BAT on going through the process of adopting a rigorous Disparate Impact study and policy and taking steps to do an analysis of fare increase and service reduction impact on the region. He went on to describe the changes that are proposed and the comments that have been received at the Stoughton Town Hall and BAT Centre. There are two more scheduled public meetings, one in Rockland and another at the BAT Centre. BAT had several employees on hand to translate Mr. Ledoux's comments and accept responses from the groups. A press release will be sent to the Enterprise later today. Mr. Hegarty asked for a motion to authorize the Administrator to continue exploring fare increase and service reduction measures. Mr. Chiocca made the motion and Mr. Lynam seconded. All were in favor.

Mr. Kilmer informed the Board that OCPC conducted a fare analysis study for BAT. He distributed a copy of the document for review. Mr. Kilmer stated that the Title VI methodology was utilized to evaluate the surveys that were conducted on board the buses and via telephone for DIAL-A-BAT clients. Additionally, OCPC is conducting a Service Change Equity Analysis (environmental justice) to determine if the service changes would have an adverse effect on certain populations. A draft of the report should be ready at the end of the week and it is anticipated that, at least in aggregate, the impacted population will be under 20%. Mr. Hegarty asked for a motion to accept OCPC's Fare Analysis Report and their progress on the Service Change Equity Analysis report. Mr. Lynam made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Chiocca. All were in favor.

Mr. Ledoux provided the Board with the Administrator's Report. He distributed a communication from the state offering ICS 402 training. This training is offered to city/town elected officials, senior managers and agency administrators with policy responsibilities with regard to WMD/terrorism. Next, Mr. Ledoux informed the Board that the fixed route management company was replacing the General Manager and that would take place by the end of June. It is expected that there will be an amendment for RTA funding filed next week, Ms. Sacchetti will oversee any communications to inform legislators of the amendment. Next was a description of some service that may be provided between Bridgewater State University and Plymouth. There will probably be 2 – 4 trips provided per day to transport students involved in the project. Mr. Ledoux informed the Board of two individuals that are not paying their parking fees and BAT wants to place a "denver boot," on vehicles in an effort to collect fines. Lastly, the Board was informed that BAT will be taking delivery of 12 new buses at the end of June and will hold an unveiling event during the summer.

Next meetings would be held on May 24th and October 18th. There being no other Old/New Business, Mr. Chiocca made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Mr. Dutton. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathy Riddell

Documents Included in Advisory Board Package:

1. Meeting Agenda
2. Advisory Board Meeting Minutes – January 18, 2018
3. Fixed Route Ridership Comparison
4. DAB Ridership Comparison
5. BSU Ridership Comparison
6. Performance Dashboard FY18
7. FY18 Amended Budget
8. FY18 Budget Update
9. FY18 Estimated Assessments
10. FY19 Draft Budget
11. Draft Disparate Impact/Disproportionate Burden Policy
12. Public Meeting Notice for potential fare increases and service reductions
13. Table of potential service reductions
14. Table of potential fare increases
15. Memo describing ICS 402 MEMA training