



Charles D. Baker, Governor
Karyn E. Polito, Lieutenant Governor
Stephanie Pollack, MassDOT Secretary & CEO
Steve Poftak, General Manager



**Fiscal and Management Control Board
Transportation Board Room**

10 Park Plaza

May 4, 2020

12:00 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

Present Remotely: Chair Joseph Aiello, Director Monica Tibbits-Nutt, Director Chrystal Kornegay, Director Brian Shortsleeve and Director Brian Lang

Quorum Present: Yes

Others Present:: Secretary Stephanie Pollack, General Manager Steven Poftak, Owen Kane, David Panagore, Hope Patterson

At the call of Chair Joseph Aiello, a meeting (virtual) of the Fiscal and Management Control Board (FMCB) was called to order at 12:01 p.m. at the State Transportation Building, Transportation Board Room, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, Massachusetts.

Board Counsel Owen Kane called a roll call of the FMCB Directors to ensure a quorum:

Director Kornegay Yes

Director Lang Yes

Director Tibbits-Nutt Yes

Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority

Ten Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116

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Director Shortsleeve Yes

Chair Aiello Yes

Chair Aiello reviewed the procedures to be followed during this meeting due to the COVID-19 virus and the current public comment process.

Chairman Aiello opened up the public comment period for items appearing on the agenda.

First, Staci Rubin from CLF, by voicemail, commented on the General Manager's Report concerning distribution of PPE safety equipment and the FY20/21 budget.

Next, Mela Miles from the TRU, by voicemail, commented on the MBTA workforce and their safety and requested the discount fare passes be included in the upcoming budget.

Next, Adam Castiglione, by voicemail, commented on the governance of the FMCB.

Next, Naftali Poritz, through Webinar, commented on commuter rail vehicle design and procurement.

Chair Aiello closed the public comment session at 12:11 p.m.

Chairman Aiello called on General Manager Steven Poftak to present Agenda Item C, the Report from the General Manager. Mr. Poftak updated the FMCB on COVID-19 employee statistics – cases, testing, and temperature checks. Mr. Poftak further discussed daily sanitizing regimes on vehicles and facilities, rear boarding, and the upcoming face covering order effective on Wednesday, May 6, 2020, benefiting all riders and employees.

Mr. Poftak continued with ridership statistics and planning for the future with the formation of a transition group to discuss MBTA strategy going forward.

Mr. Poftak concluded with a preface to the following budget presentation noting it was based on a plausible and pessimistic revenue scenario. Discussion ensued on the transition group's opening plan and effect on budget, budget submission timing and face covering exemptions. Director Lang requested the Board be briefed on the re-opening plan the transition group decided upon, noting the Governor's plan to re-open businesses was due May 18.

Chair Aiello next called on Deputy Director for Stakeholder Engagement Hope Patterson to present Agenda Item D, the FMCB Public Schedule. Ms. Patterson reviewed upcoming agenda items with the Board, as set forth in the attached document labeled, "FMCB Public Schedule, May 4 2020." Discussion ensued on commuter rail contract options, timing, and the Federal Program budget assistance.

Next, Chair Aiello called upon David Panagore, Chief Administrative Officer to present Agenda Item E, the FY21 Revised Operating Budget. Mr. Panagore first provided an overview of the FY21 Budget.

Mr. Panagore noted that the overall objective for FY21 was for the budget to support full FY20 services levels even while assuming substantially lower ridership, thus ensuring that social distancing could be sustained. He said that while prioritization decisions needed to be made now and over the course of the coming fiscal year, CARES funding would allow the MBTA to support FY20 services levels, although the safety headcount would be phased in depending on revenue availability.

Mr. Panagore continued stating that no budget scenario requested any increase in fares and all supported elimination of cash/Charlie Ticket surcharge (and transfers on the Fairmount Line) as part of stage 1 and stage 2 of fare transformation, helping riders who now pay separately for each trip rather than using passes of stored value on Charlie Cards. The budget scenarios and recommendations are for an initial budget which would be revisited quarterly and/or as events transpire.

Mr. Panagore next discussed the approach based on current assumptions; proposed revised operating budget timeline; April and May revenue, ridership and

fare assumptions; updated ridership/fare revenue models and assumptions; and, historical fare revenue vs. projected fare revenue.

Mr. Panagore continued next discussing specific operating budget scenarios each supporting a full return to FY20 service levels and pay-go/lockbox assumptions.

Chair Aiello suggested staff seek legislative approval of a proposal that would allow the MBTA to use bond funds to pay for the salaries of employees working on capital projects, which would free up an estimated \$66 million. The Chair noted that with a focus now on a one-year CIP, real estate and projects could keep things moving when capital funds become available.

Next, Mr. Panagore discussed four scenarios the FY21 budget, FY21 initiative prioritization sequence, and concluded with next steps, as set forth in the attached document labeled, "FY21 Revised Operating Budget, May 4, 2020."

Discussion ensued on the specific scenarios, concerns on safety initiatives, future budgets and structural concerns lock box funds and hiring levels.

Mr. Panagore will return at the next meeting scheduled for May 11, 2020 for a vote on a revised FY21 itemized draft budget to be forwarded to the MBTA Advisory Board for review.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was by roll call:

Director Lang	Yes
Director Tibbits-Nutt	Yes
Director Shortsleeve	Yes
Director Kornegay	Yes
Chair Aiello	Yes

VOTED: To adjourn at 1:40 p.m.

Documents relied upon for this meeting:

FMCB Public Schedule, May 4 2020

FY21 Revised Operating Budget, May 4, 2020

****Notes regarding Public Comment: In an effort to provide effective opportunities for public comment and engagement while protecting the health and safety of the public and staff, this meeting of the FMCB will be held virtually. Public comment will be taken (1) in writing by email or mail, (2) by voice message, and (3) by live public comment through conference call.***

(1) Written comments may be submitted by email to publiccomment@dot.state.ma.us or mail to:

***MassDOT Board of Directors and/or Fiscal and Management Control
Board
C/O Owen Kane
10 Park Plaza - Suite 3510
Boston, MA 02116***

For written comments received by mail or email at least one hour before the start of the FMCB meeting, the commenter's name and affiliation (if stated), along with the subject line of the message will be shared in the meeting and on the Livestream. Mailed and emailed comments will be compiled and distributed to all Board Members in advance of the meeting.

(2) Voice message comments may be submitted by calling 857-368-1655 and leaving a message at least one hour before the start of the FMCB meeting. Voice messages will be played aloud during the public comment portion of the board meeting and captured in the livestream video. Messages must be limited to two minutes per commenter, or up to four minutes for comments submitted on behalf of an organization or elected official and at the discretion of the Board Chair.

(3) Public comment may be provided in real-time during the public comment portion of the meeting by telephone conference call. To provide a comment live by telephone, you must email publiccomment@dot.state.ma.us at least one hour before the start of the meeting with your name and affiliation (if applicable) and item(s) for which you will provide comments. Participants will be sent a conference call number by email about 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting. Participants will be called by the Board Chair to provide comments in the order they have signed up. At the end of the public comment period, participants who have offered comments may observe the FMCB meeting using the livestream video available at mbta.com. Members of the public who would like to watch the meeting but are not interested in providing comments should also use the livestream video available at mbta.com.