

MERRIMACK VALLEY REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
(a component Unit of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation)

Auditors' Report as Required by the Uniform Guidance and  
Government Auditing Standards and Related Information

Year Ended June 30, 2024

MERRIMACK VALLEY REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
(a Component Unit of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation)  
For Year Ended June 30, 2024

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# Bruce D. Norling, CPA, P.C.

## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON COMPLIANCE FOR EACH MAJOR PROGRAM AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE REQUIRED BY THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE

The Advisory Board  
Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority  
Haverhill, Massachusetts

### **Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program *Opinion on Each Major Program***

We have audited the Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority's (the Authority) compliance with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the *OMB Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of the Authority's major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2024. The Authority's major federal programs are identified in the summary of auditors' results section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs.

In our opinion, the Authority complied, in all material respects with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2024.

### ***Basis for Opinion on Each Major Federal Program***

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Our responsibilities under those standards and the Uniform Guidance are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section of our report.

We are required to be independent of the Authority and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion on compliance for each major federal program. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of the Authority's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

### ***Responsibilities of Management for Compliance***

Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements referred to above and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, statutes, regulations, rules, and provisions of contracts or grant agreements applicable to the Authority's federal programs.

## ***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on the Authority's compliance based on our audit. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance will always detect material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for that resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about the Authority's compliance with the requirements of each major federal program as a whole.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the Authority's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.
- Obtain an understanding of the Authority's internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control over compliance that we identified during the audit.

### **Report on Internal Control over Compliance**

*A deficiency in internal control over compliance* exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. *A material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. *A significant deficiency*

*in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance may exist that were not identified.

Our audit was not designed for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

***Bruce D. Norling, CPA, P.C.***

Sudbury, Massachusetts  
March 6, 2025

**MERRIMACK VALLEY REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY**  
(A Component Unit of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation)

Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards

For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

|  | <u>Assistance<br/>Listing<br/>Number</u> | <u>Pass-through<br/>Entity<br/>Identifying<br/>Number</u> | <u>Passed<br/>through to<br/>Subrecipients</u> | <u>Federal<br/>Expenditures</u> |
|--|--|---|--|---------------------------------|
| <u>U.S. Department of Transportation</u>                     |  |   |  |                                 |
| Federal Transit Cluster                                      |  |   |  |                                 |
| Direct programs:   |  |   |  |                                 |
| Federal Transit - Formula Grants - Operating                 | 20.507                                   |   | \$ -   | \$ 4,668,251                    |
| Federal Transit - Formula Grants - Capital                   | 20.507                                   | 23-24   | 27,336   | 9,522,214                       |
| Federal Transit - Cares Act                                  | 20.507                                   |   | -  | 342,704                         |
| Federal Transit - ARPA                                       | 20.507                                   |   | -  | 252,027                         |
| Bus and Bus Facilities Formula and<br>Discretionary Programs | 20.526                                   |   | <u>-</u>                                       | <u>16,923</u>                   |
| Total Federal Transit Cluster                                |  |   | <u>27,336</u>                                  | <u>14,802,119</u>               |
| Total expenditures of federal awards                         |  |   | <u>\$ 27,336</u>                               | <u>\$ 14,802,119</u>            |

# MERRIMACK VALLEY REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

(A Component Unit of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation)

## Notes to Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards

For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

### Note 1 - Entity

The Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority (the Authority) is a component unit of Massachusetts Department of Transportation and political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (the Commonwealth) formed pursuant to Commonwealth law to, among other things, hold and manage mass transportation facilities and equipment, and to enter into agreements for its operation, construction and use.

### Note 2 - Basis of Presentation

The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards (the schedule) has been prepared using the accrual basis of accounting and includes federal, state, and local expenditures. The schedule includes the federal award activity of the Authority under programs of the federal government for the year ended June 30, 2024. The information in this schedule is presented in accordance with the requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Because the schedule presents only a selected portion of the operations of the Authority, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position, changes in net assets, or cash flows of the Authority.

Under its grant contracts with the federal government, the Authority is reimbursed for a fixed percentage of eligible project costs. The Authority funds the expenditures in excess of the federal share through funds received from the Commonwealth and local sources.

### Note 3 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Expenditures reported on the schedule are reported on the accrual basis of accounting. Such expenditures are recognized following the cost principles contained in the Uniform Guidance, wherein certain types of expenditures are not allowable or are limited as to reimbursement. Negative amounts shown on the schedule represent adjustments or credits made in the normal course of business to amounts reported as expenditures in prior years.

### Note 4 – Indirect Cost Rates

The Authority has not elected to use the 10 percent *de minimis* indirect cost rate as allowed under the Uniform Guidance.

### Note 5 - Approved Federal Grant Programs

The Authority's Federal Transit – Formula Grants for the year ended June 30, 2022 consisted primarily of capital grants under contracts with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). These grants provide for the acquisition of land and equipment, the construction of service extensions, stations, and maintenance facilities, and the improvement of facilities and equipment.

**MERRIMACK VALLEY REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

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Notes to Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards

For the Year Ended June 30, 2022

According to the terms of the FTA contracts, the Authority will be reimbursed from 80% to 100% of the allowable project costs as defined in the grant agreement. The terms of those federal grant contracts require the Authority to, in part, utilize the equipment and facilities for the purpose specified in the grant agreement, maintain these items in operation for a specified time period, which normally approximates the useful life of the equipment, and comply with the Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action programs as required by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.



# Bruce D. Norling, CPA, P.C.

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS***

The Advisory Board  
Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority  
Haverhill, Massachusetts

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the business-type activities of Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority (the Authority), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Authority's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated March 6, 2025.

### **Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Authority's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements, on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or, significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that

we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

### **Report on Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Authority's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

### **Purpose of this Report**

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Authority's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

***Bruce D. Norling, CPA, P.C.***

Sudbury, Massachusetts  
March 6, 2025

MERRIMACK VALLEY REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
(a Component Unit of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation)

Summary Schedule of Prior Audit Findings  
Year Ended June 30, 2024

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (Federal Transit Administration)

None.

MERRIMACK VALLEY REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
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Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs  
Year Ended June 30, 2024

A. SUMMARY OF AUDITORS' RESULTS

1. The auditors' report expresses an unmodified opinion on the basic financial statements of the Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority (the Authority).
2. No significant deficiencies relating to the audit of the financial statements are reported in the Independent Auditors' Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.
3. No instances of noncompliance material to the basic financial statements of the Authority were disclosed during the audit.
4. No significant deficiencies relating to the audit of the major federal award programs are reported in the Independent Auditors' Report on Compliance for Each Major Program and on Internal Control over Compliance Required by the Uniform Guidance and the Report on Expenditures of Federal Awards Required by the Uniform Guidance.
5. The auditors' report on compliance for the major federal award programs for the Authority expresses an unmodified opinion on all major federal programs.
6. Audit findings that are required to be reported in accordance with the Uniform Guidance are reported in Part C of this Schedule.
7. The Federal Transit Cluster which includes Federal Transit Formula Grants (CFDA No. 20.507) and Bus and Bus Facilities Formula Grants (CFDA No. 20.526).
8. The threshold for distinguishing Type A and B programs was \$750,000. Type A programs are those that exceed \$750,000.
9. The Authority was determined to be a low-risk auditee.

B. FINDINGS - FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AUDIT - NONE

C. FINDINGS - MAJOR FEDERAL AWARDS PROGRAMS AUDIT - NONE