



Thursday, September 4, 2025

ADVISORY BOARD

MERRIMACK VALLEY REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Board Members Attending:

Amesbury: Cassandra Gove	Andover: Jacki Byerley
Boxford: Matt Coogan	Groveland: Rebecca Oldham
Lawrence: Myra Ortiz	Merrimac: Mitch Kostoulakos
Methuen: Kathleen Colwell	Newbury: Kristen Grubbs
Newburyport: Christian Cyr	North Reading: Lillian Hartman
West Newbury: Amanada Haggstrom	
Riders' Representative: Ms. Jessica Ramos	
Disabled Riders' Representative: Gerald Boucher (on the phone)	

Ms. Gove, as Chair of the Advisory Board, called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

1. **Welcome & Introductions:** Ms. Gove welcomed the Board members and everyone in attendance and invited them to introduce themselves.
2. **Approval of Minutes of the Meeting of June 5, 2025:** Ms. Gove called for a motion to approve the minutes of the Advisory Board meeting of June 5, 2025. Ms. Hartman asked for an Amendment to Item 6, regarding the Administrator Performance and Compensation Committee setting the performance goals for the year, noting that she had requested that goals be reported out by the Committee by the December meeting. Ms. Gove called for a motion to approve the minutes with the proposed amendment. So moved by Ms. Grubbs of Newbury, seconded by Mr. Kostoulakos of Merrimac; vote to approve: Unanimous, with one abstention.
3. **Governance:**
 - a. **Election of MeVa Advisory Board Officers:** Ms. Gove asked for a motion to re-elect the current Board Officers: Mayor Cassandra Gove, Amesbury, Chair; Ms. Myra Ortiz, Lawrence, Vice Chair; Kathleen Colwell, Methuen, Secretary and Andrew Shapiro, North Andover, Treasurer. So moved by Ms. Hartman of North Reading, seconded by Ms. Grubbs of Newbury. Vote to re-elect the current officers: Unanimous.
 - b. **Approval of Riders' Representative:** Mr. Berger presented designee Ms. Jessica Ramos of Haverhill, who works at Groundwork Lawrence as a community organizer, to be the Board's Riders' Representative. Ms. Gove asked for a motion

to approve the appointment. So moved by Ms. Colwell of Methuen, seconded by Ms. Oldham of Groveland. Vote to approve: Unanimous.

c. Overview of Advisory Board Committees:

- i. Finance & Audit Committee had no report.
- ii. Paratransit Service Committee had no report.
- iii. Fixed Route Service Committee had no report.
- iv. Ferry Service Committee had no report.
- v. Ad Hoc McGovern Station Committee had no report.
- vi. Administrator Performance & Compensation Committee had no report.

4. **Comprehensive Regional Transit Plan (CRTA):** Mr. Berger related that all 15 RTAs must update their Regional Transit Plans every five years. He introduced Mr. Price Armstrong, the overall project manager for AECOM, who is managing all fifteen of the Regional Transit Agencies' Transit Plan Updates. Mr. Price reviewed the 2020 CRTP and then presented the plans for the 2025 CRTP.
5. **Administrator's Report:** Mr. Berger briefly updated the members on the subjects of Administration, Operations, Finance, Planning and Outreach. Please refer to his Administrator's Report dated September 4, 2025 for the details.
6. **Update from MVPC:** Elizabeth Maldari from MVPC updated the members on current activities. For planning updates, please see their website at www.mvpc.org
7. **Confirm Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 6, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. at the McGovern Station Community Room, where the Board will hold its Annual "Retreat."
8. **Adjournment:** Ms. Gove asked for a motion to adjourn at 10:20 a.m. So moved by Mr. Coogan of Boxford; seconded by Mr. Cyr of Newburyport; Vote to adjourn: Unanimous.