



Thursday, November 06, 2025

ADVISORY BOARD

MERRIMACK VALLEY REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Board Members Attending:

Amesbury: Cassandra Gove

Boxford: Matt Coogan

Methuen: Kathleen Colwell

Newburyport: Christian Cyr

Rowley: Bob Snow

Riders' Representative: Jessica Ramos

Andover: Paul Materazzo/ Monica Gregoire

Lawrence: Myra Ortiz

Newbury: Kristen Grubbs

North Reading: Lillian Hartman

Salisbury: Adrienne Linell

Disability Representative: Gerard Boucher
(via telephone)

1. **Welcome & Introductions:** Ms. Gove welcomed the Board members, panelists, and everyone in attendance and invited them to introduce themselves.
2. **Approval of Minutes of the Meeting of September 4, 2025:** Ms. Gove called for a motion to approve the minutes of the Advisory Board meeting of September 4, 2025. So moved by Ms. Colwell of Methuen, seconded by Mr. Cyr of Newburyport; vote to approve: Unanimous.
3. **Retreat & Onboarding Session:**

Mr. Berger began by reminding attendees about the origins of the MeVa Advisory Board retreat, now in its fourth year, which is intended as an opportunity to guide new board members and offering more seasoned members an opportunity to reflect on the duties and responsibilities of serving on a public board and how to be effective in that role. It is also an opportunity for MeVa staff to best understand how to assist the board in performing at its best. He first outlined what the statutory powers of the board are, as spelled out in our enabling legislation, MGL 161B. He then introduced a panel of subject matter experts who were selected to lead the board in the process. He noted that the panelists selected have diverse experience working with and being on boards such as this advisory board, and include both people who have an inside and outside perspective: Sarah Anderson, Chief Growth Officer at Cambridge Systematics, Christian MilNeil, Editor at MassStreetssblog; Yvonne Castañeda, Director of Community-Based Initiatives at Boston College School of Social Work; and Amie Shei, President and CEO at the Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts.

Small Group Discussions: Following the panel's presentation, Ms. Ortiz led a group discussion, centered around two overarching prompts: (1) Share a story answering the question: What does it look like when we're doing our best?, and (2) How can we most effectively work together to further advance MeVa's mission in 2026? Following a

fruitful discussion, Mr. Berger committed that, as it has done following the 3 previous board retreats, MeVa staff will follow-up on recommendations coming out of the board's discussion with action items at the December board meeting

4. **Other Business:** Elizabeth Maldari from MVPC asked to update board members on the status of MVPC's efforts regarding the business plan for MeVa's future ferryboat service and planned engagement activities, and coordination with all communities on the planned ferry route.
5. **Confirm Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held on December 4th, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. at the MeVa Headquarters.
6. **Adjournment:** Ms. Ortiz asked for a motion to adjourn. So moved by Mr. Coogan of Boxford; seconded by Mr. Snow of Rowley; Vote to adjourn: Unanimous.