



Thursday, December 4, 2025

ADVISORY BOARD

MERRIMACK VALLEY REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Board Members Attending:

Andover: Monica Gregoire	Georgetown: Frank O'Connor
Groveland: Rebecca Oldham	Haverhill: Josselyn DeLeon
Lawrence: Myra Ortiz	Merrimac: Mitch Kostoulakos
Methuen: Kathleen Colwell	North Andover: Andrew Shapiro
North Reading: Lillian Hartman	Rowley: Bob Snow
Riders' Representative: Ms. Jessica Ramos	
Disabled Riders' Representative: Gerard Boucher (on the phone)	

Ms. Ortiz of Lawrence, acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m.

- Welcome & Introductions:** Ms. Ortiz welcomed the Board members and everyone in attendance and invited them to introduce themselves.
- Approval of Minutes of the Meeting of November 6, 2025:** Ms. Ortiz called for a motion to approve the minutes of the Advisory Board meeting of November 6, 2025. So moved by Ms. Colwell of Methuen, seconded by Mr. Snow of Rowley. Vote to approve: Unanimous with abstentions from Georgetown, Haverhill, Merrimac and North Andover.
- Follow-up from MeVa Retreat:** MeVa's Marketing and Outreach Coordinator, Celesté Cruz gave a brief overview of the ideas and suggestions presented to the Board Members by the retreat's guest speakers. She then reviewed the group discussion that followed the presentation. Discussed were questions: 1) What does it look like when we're doing our best? 2) How can we all work together to advance the mission in 2026? The discussion wrapped up with suggestions of action steps to take going forward. Deputy Administrator, Nio Mendez, stepped in to answer questions by Board members, specifically about the timeline for implementing the next steps referred to above.
- Advisory Board Committees Reports:**
 - Ferry Service Committee:* Their first meeting was held 10/22/25. Mr. Berger related the details of the meeting. The Design/Build fabricator building the vessels is communicating with the three cities that will first offer service, to make sure the vessel they build will work. The MVPC is working with a consultant to form a business plan that will be tied into the projects at the cities and our fabricator Lyman – Morse Boatbuilding. The maiden voyage of the

first of three vessels is anticipated to happen in late summer or early autumn of 2026.

- b. *Fixed Route Service Committee:* The Chair of the committee, Andrew Shapiro of North Andover, presented the details of their meeting of 11/20/25. Most of the discussion centered around service changes taking place in January. All the changes increase service frequency. The #21 Andover Shuttle is restored to Fixed Route service from miniMeVa as well as implementing frequency increases to optimize connections with other MeVa services at the North Andover Mall. The subcommittee recommends that these changes be approved and adopted by the full Board. So moved by Mr. Shapiro of North Andover, seconded by Mr. Kostoulakos of Merrimac. Vote to adopt: Unanimous.
- c. *Paratransit Service Committee:* The Chair of the committee, Bob Snow of Rowley, detailed their meeting of 12/2/25. They studied the software now being used to schedule rides, currently about 600 per day. Mr. Snow needed to use the service when he was unable to drive and expressed that he learned how valuable the service is to those who need it. The committee suggests using the Councils on Aging in each city and town to educate seniors, veterans and disabled persons, what the service offers and how to benefit from it. They also are investigating an App that riders will be able to use to book rides.
- d. *Administrator Performance & Compensation Committee:* The Chair of the committee, Kathleen Colwell of Methuen, presented the details of their meeting of 9/29/25. They talked about the goals they feel are important for the Administrator to work toward. They decided to select two of the goals that they want to see Mr. Berger prioritize. Those are the transition from the current flag system to the implementation of bus stops and continuing to aggressively recruit and retain driver workforce to meet service needs.
- e. *Finance & Audit Committee:* The Chair, Mr. Shapiro of North Andover had no new information to report at this time. The next meeting is in January to review the annual Audit.
- f. *Ad Hoc McGovern Committee:* The committee Chair, Myra Ortiz of Lawrence, had no new information to report at this time.

- 5. **Administrator's Report:** Mr. Berger briefly updated the board members about Administration, Operations, Finance, Planning and Outreach. Please refer to his Administrator's Report dated December 4, 2025, for details.
- 6. **Update from MVPC:** Brendan Linard 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, February 5, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. at MeVa Headquarters in the main conference room.
- 8. **Adjournment:** Ms. Ortiz asked for a motion to adjourn at 10:13 a.m. So moved by Mr. Snow of Rowley; seconded by Ms. Colwell of Methuen; Vote to adjourn: Unanimous.