

***Access Advisory Committee to the Massachusetts  
Bay Transportation Authority (AACT)***

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***Board of Directors Minutes***

***Wednesday, December 16, 2015***

***Meeting opened at 10:15 AM***

***Reading of the Agenda***

***Introductions***

*Attendees: James White, Hang Lee, Lisa Weber, David Vieira, Beverly  
Ann Rock*

***MPO Staff:***

*Janie Guion*

***Approval of Meeting Minutes***

- A motion to approve the minutes of September 23, 2015 was made by Mary Ann Murray and seconded by Lisa Weber, and the motion was unanimously approved
- A motion to approve the minutes of October 28, 2015 was made by

Lisa Weber and seconded by Mary Ann Murray, and the motion was unanimously approved

## *Chairman's Report*

*Chairman White stated the following:*

- He attended the MBTA's Fiscal and Management Control Board (FMCB) meeting and testified that cutting service to THE RIDE in the Premium Service area would cause undue hardship and would have a negative impact on the many people who depend on THE RIDE for their livelihood.
- He also stated that the cut in Premium Service may be a violation of the Olmstead Act of 1990.
- He would like multiple organizations to form a joint task force to advise the FMCB about the impact of cuts in the Premium Service. The formation of the task force could be announced in a letter to the FMCB.
- He would also like to have the MBTA General Manager bring the stakeholders in to the AACT for a dialogue.
- He his curious how the revenue from advertisement on RIDE vehicles is being directed.

He asked for comments.

**AACT Board** had an open dialogue about the many concerns regarding the cut in Premium Service. It was stated that more needs to be done between the disability community and the MBTA. The Board

members all agreed that a Task Force, including members from the disability community, should be convened by the MBTA.

Chairman White asked Vice Chairman Rick Morin to draft a letter that expresses the need for a task force to study options for THE RIDE to help reduce the cost. Chairman White stated that he would attend the FMCB meeting and read the letter.

*A motion was made to address Secretary Pollack and the FMCB.*

*Rick Morin author a letter from AACT, addressed to the Fiscal Management and Control Board (FMCB), Secretary of Transportation Stephanie Pollack, and MBTA Chief Administrator Brian Shortsleeve. The letter will express opposition to the elimination or reconfiguration of THE RIDE Premium Service and call for the establishment of a Task Force charged with pursuing reasonable cost saving initiatives for THE RIDE. The Task Force will have representation from all disability constituencies, and report directly to the FMCB.*

*Be it further moved that Chairman White will reach out to the Boston Center for Independent Living, Massachusetts Senior Action Council, Disability Policy Consortium, and Bay State Council for the Blind to request they co-sign this letter. Chairman White will testify to the FMCB on Monday, December 21, 2015 by*

*either reading the letter if it is ready or stating the positions taken in the letter.*

*Motion proposed and passed unanimously by the AACT Executive Board.*

## ***Committee Reports***

### ***Rider Oversight Committee Report***

***Ian Perrault*** attended the meeting and distributed his written summary.

No further questions were presented.

### ***Open Discussion***

Chairman White was surprised to learn that advertisements for businesses are being displayed on the outer panel of THE RIDE vehicles. It was also mentioned that perhaps these vehicles are the privately owned property of the contractor. He was curious to learn whether or not the funds went back to support THE RIDE. The AACT Board had a lively discussion about whether advertising revenue could be a viable means to help fund THE RIDE.

### ***Old/New Business***

None was presented.

Meeting ended 12:00 PM

## ***Notables***

The AACT Executive Board will meet from 10:00 AM to noon and the Membership meeting will be conducted from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM on the fourth Wednesday of the month, except when noted.

Notices of AACT meetings are posted on the website of the MBTA at [http://www.mbta.com/about\\_the\\_mbta/public\\_meetings/](http://www.mbta.com/about_the_mbta/public_meetings/). Visit the MPO's calendar page at <http://www.bostonmpo.org/calendar/month> to find AACT agendas, meeting minutes, and past meeting minutes. For more on AACT, see the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the MBTA and AACT, the AACT Bylaws, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations at <http://www.mbta.com/aact> .

Also, find articles about topics discussed at AACT meetings in the MPO's newsletter, *TRANSREPORT*, at <http://www.bostonmpo.org/transreport>. For more information on accessibility at the MBTA, please visit [www.mbta.com/accessibility](http://www.mbta.com/accessibility).

Comments and questions concerning AACT should be directed to Chairman James White by contacting the AACT Coordinator, Ms. Janie Guion, at 857.702.3658 (voice/relay), 617.570.9193 (TTY), [AACT@ctps.org](mailto:AACT@ctps.org) (email), or c/o CTPS, 10 Park Plaza, Suite 2150, Boston, MA 02116 (US mail).

The AACT meeting location is accessible to people with disabilities and is near public transportation. Upon request (preferably two weeks in advance of the meeting), every effort will be made to provide accommodations such as assistive listening devices, materials in accessible formats and in languages other than English, and interpreters in American Sign Language and other languages. Please contact the MPO staff at 857.702.3700 (voice), 617.570.9192 (TTY), 617.570.9193 (fax), or [publicinformation@ctps.org](mailto:publicinformation@ctps.org) (email).

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Members needing service information or wanting to inquire about MBTA services should do so through the MBTA Marketing and Communications Department at 617.222.3200 or 800.392.6100 (voice), 617.222.5146 (TTY), Monday through Friday from 6:30 AM to 8:00 PM, and Saturday and Sunday from 7:30 AM to 6:00 PM, or via the MBTA's website at [www.mbta.com/customer\\_support/feedback/](http://www.mbta.com/customer_support/feedback/).

## **Please sign in at all meetings.**

Announcements are always welcome. Please be prepared to give as many details as possible: date, time, location, contact person, and phone number. A written notice is always appreciated.