

## Regional Transportation Advisory Committee Minutes

Thursday, January 8, 2026 10:00 AM

Town of Great Barrington is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: RTAC: Regional Transportation Advisory Committee

Time: Jun 12, 2025 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83262145249>

To join via telephone, dial 1-929-205-6099 Webinar ID: 832 6214 5249

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and Governor Healey's March 29, 2023 Revised Order extending remote participation by all members in any meeting of a public body, this meeting of the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public and/or parties with a right and/or requirement to attend this meeting can be found on the town's website, at [www.townofgb.org](http://www.townofgb.org). For this meeting, members of the public who wish to listen to the meeting may do so in the following manner: See instructions at the top of the agenda. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. All votes are roll call.

Present: Deb Philips, Prudence Spaulding, Melanie Vicneire, Lin Saberski, Joan Peters, Kathie Loring, Seann (rider rep), Annalynn Lacombe,

Staff: Daniel Rose-Levine, Tate Coleman

Call to Order at 10:04am

1. Approval of previous month's minutes- unanimous
2. Announcements: reminder to fill out OML form and complete all necessary trainings
3. Program Reports, Ridership Data and discussion: It's been helpful that the report is being sent out the week prior to our meeting. Tate Coleman reviewed much of the report and overall things are positive. December ridership is up 27.76% even with fewer service hours.

Promotions helped return people to using the service and brought in new riders. January ridership is still trending even with regular fares returning. Operations managers have made a big difference in procedural issues lending to a more consistent experience for the riders, better able to handle last-minute callouts etc. Part-time driver slots have all been filled. Only open positions are for on-call as needed basis to cover sickness, vacations etc.

New Years Eve service--- no specific numbers on this, but it was utilized until approx. 11:30pm—was mostly workforce use, not social.

Pittsfield numbers have increased significantly—expansion to other groups just started this week, so the increase is still primarily from medical and disabled usage. Transfers from other towns will probably have a connection at the SCC office and might have to wait 5-10 minutes, but it is all explained to the rider when they call to book. If possible, van will travel to Monterey to pick up (when time allows).

Any increase in shared rides? Managers haven't pulled exact numbers, but yes, there does seem to be a slight increase, and this will be a bigger piece of new software (helping us to coordinate the timing of shared rides).

VIM is going well so far—4-5 trips at this point. The best part is that it's funded by the community transit grant program (they are paying us for these rides). Lower cost ride and we get to put funds back into community transit. More on-demand rides would also help accommodate these trip requests.

VA medical rides with Soldier On—we will put out marketing to make people aware of this other option.

Hillsdale pilot study was briefly reviewed again- the survey concluded that seniors especially want to be able to travel to Great Barrington. There is also a decent workforce population that could be served.

a. Budget report: SCC is still looking for new office space, as rent was increased 50%. For FY 27—generally want to have remain level-funded, although there may be a slight cost of living adjustment. Individual towns should be receiving their assessments in Late January/early February.

b. Grants update: still no updates on applications that have been submitted—should have award notices by. Review of 501c3 status—will help us receive donations.

\$75K rural and travel grant application for implementation and legal assistance—would help to open up new funding opportunities that would allow us to more easily source and fund new land, expand service area among other things.

i.

Volunteer driver program

ii.

iii.

Pittsfield medical rides : up 88% (see above)

Other: Donahue Institute Study—looking at economic impact on Quabog Connector community (1:11 return on investment), T4MA has secured funding for same institute to do a study here. Within the year we should have good data on how our program impacts our area.

d. Software – Review of new satellite communications system (also discussed last month). This is pay as you go, so helps reduce cost in the long run. No radio antenna needed. Working on figuring out best software program for our usage. Backend software issues that have delayed the dashboard. Towns need to receive individual reports each month, especially with budget season upon us.

4. Report from towns

5. Input from Rider representative

6. Input from Citizens at large

7. Old business

a) Should we pursue Dining to Donate?

b) What systems are we putting in place to get information about senior riders and riders with disabilities to the COAs?

c) Recruitment of rider representative

8. New business—cards/pamphlets will be printed that show transportation options especially needed for senior center population

a. Guidelines for service utilization for people with disabilities – what capacity does this service have and when is para-transit and/or Cabulance needed?

b. How to better coordinate micro transit with local COA and other transportation services

9. Citizen speak

10. Media time

11. Adjourn at 11:02 am

Pursuant to MGL. 7c. 30A sec. 20 (f), after notifying the chair of the public body, any person may make a video or audio recording of an open session of a meeting of a public body or may transmit the meeting through any medium. At the beginning of the meeting, the chair shall inform other attendees of any such recordings. Any member of the public wishing to speak at the meeting must receive permission of the chair. The listings of agenda items are those reasonably anticipated by the chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.