

Auto Body Labor Rate Advisory Board
Meeting held on November, 24 2025 at 2 p.m.

MINUTES

Members Present

Michael Powers, Co-Chair
Stacey Gotham, Co-Chair
Mark Merante
Rick Starbard
Brian Bernard
Matthew Ciaschini
Christopher Stark
Peter Smith
Samantha Tracy
Paul Burke
Sean Kane
JC Burton
John Kwoka
David Brown

Call to Order:

Co-Chair Powers called a meeting of the Auto Body Labor Rate Advisory Board, hereby known as the Board, to order with a roll-call vote. All Board members responded present.

Introduction and Approval of Minutes:

Co-Chair Powers began the meeting by giving an introduction. He thanked and named all people who submitted recommendations to the Board. Board Member Burke motioned to approve both the September 15 and October 29 minutes, with a correction to add Board Member Burton's name to the October 29 minutes. Board Member Stark seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously, with the Co-Chairs not voting, they only vote to make or break a tie in a vote.

Insurer Survey Discussion & Vocational Schools Trends Data:

Co-Chair Gotham discussed calculations based on the insurer survey data. She stated that the weighted average, based on market share, was a \$49 body rate. The Board then discussed vocational schools trends data. Board Member Starbard said he received a link from the Department of Education, but it doesn't get too specific about how certain programs are doing. He emphasized that collision repair programs are not a top choice among students choosing a path at a vocational school.

Other Outstanding Items:

Co-Chair Gotham discussed the survey data from Rhode Island. She said the weighted average for body rate average was \$54 in Rhode Island. Co-Chair Gotham discussed inflation data, and said that trending data over a long period, like 20 years, is problematic according to actuarial standards.

Co-Chair Gotham asked if there is a statewide minimum auto body labor rate in any jurisdiction. Board Member Stark stated that there is not. Co-Chair Gotham inquired about the potential impact that a reduction in automobile crashes is having on shops. Board Member Starbard said he doesn't think there is any impact. Board Member Stark said there is an oversupply of auto body shops in Massachusetts. Board Member Kwoka asked if the frequency of crashes is offset by the dollar value of repairs. Board Member Ciaschini said he does not think crash frequency is relevant to the Board's task.

Board Member Stark left the meeting at 3:23 p.m. and returned at 3:25 p.m.

Co-Chair Gotham left the meeting at 3:34 p.m. and returned at 3:36 p.m.

Board Member Burke left the meeting at 3:35 and returned at 3:36 p.m.

Board Member Recommendations:

The following Board members each spoke and summarized their submitted recommendations:

Sean Kane

Brian Bernard

Matthew Ciaschini

Rick Starbard

Paul Burke

Christopher Stark

John Kwoka

Co-Chair Powers said that the report is being drafted. He said the report will not give a single recommendation but will attach all Board members recommendations.

Next Board Meeting:

December 15, 2025 at 1 p.m.

Motion to Adjourn:

Board Member Burton motioned to adjourn, and Board Member Stark seconded this motion. The motion passed by unanimous roll-call vote, with the Co-Chairs not voting, and the meeting was adjourned.