

Non-Emergency Human Service Transportation Task Force

Meeting Minutes
October 27, 2022
11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Date of meeting: Thursday, October 27, 2022

Start time: 11:05 am

End time: 12:30 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Members participating remotely		Vote I*
1	Elizabeth Denniston (chair) – Executive Office of Health and Human Services	X
2	Tom Cahir – Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority (RTA)	-
3	Sean Cristofori – Center of Hope Foundation	X
4	Mary Ellen DeFrias – Greater Attleboro-Taunton RTA (GATRA)	X
5	Mindy Domb – Massachusetts House of Representatives	A
6	Bruno Fisher – Montachusett RTA (MART)	X
7	Millie Hernandez – Individual with lived experience	X
8	Chris Hoeh – Disability Law Center	X
9	Joe Krajewski – Community Connections	X
10	Catherine Mick – Commonwealth Medicine	-
11	Susan Moran – Massachusetts Senate	-
12	Mathew Muratore – Massachusetts House of Representatives	X
13	Patrick O'Connor – Massachusetts Senate	-
14	Jessica Podesva – Boston Center for Independent Living (BCIL)	X
15	Stephen Salwak – South Shore Community Action Council	X
16	Leo Sarkissian – The Arc of Massachusetts	X
17	Meredith Slesinger – MassDOT	X
18	Sharna Small Borsellino – Human Services Transportation (HST)	X

* (X) Voted in favor; (O) Opposed; (A) Abstained from vote; (-) Absent from meeting or during vote

Proceedings

Undersecretary Denniston called the meeting of the Non-Emergency Human Service Transportation Task Force to order at 11:05 am. She welcomed members and noted that all votes taken during the meeting would be conducted via roll call.

Vote to approve minutes from the 9/22/2022 meeting: Undersecretary Denniston requested a motion to approve the minutes from the Task Force's previous meeting on September 22, 2022. Representative Muratore introduced the motion, which was seconded by Director Salwak and approved by roll-call vote (see detailed record of votes above).

Undersecretary Denniston facilitated a discussion of the Task Force's draft report, noting that letters were received from the Association of Development Disabilities Providers (ADDP), The Arc of Massachusetts, and the Administrators from MART and GATRA. She invited representatives from these organizations to elaborate on the key points of their letters. Mr. Krajewski summarized the letter submitted by ADDP, touching upon the challenges transportation vendors are experiencing related to recruitment and retainment of drivers; the complexity of enforcing existing drug testing requirements in the era of state-level legalization of cannabis use; the increasing costs of maintaining aging fleets of vehicles; and wheelchair securement and GPS tracking.

In response to Task Force members' comments, Representative Domb proposed that members' suggestions for improving HST services, which may fall outside the scope of the Task Force's charge could be included in the Task Force's report as topics warranting further discussion.

Undersecretary Denniston thanked members for their additional feedback on the draft recommendations. She noted that an additional Task Force meeting would be scheduled for early November and reiterated her earlier request that members submit written comments on the draft recommendations well in advance of the final meeting to ensure sufficient time for them to be incorporated into the report, which is due to the Legislature on December 1, 2022.

Vote to adjourn:

Undersecretary Denniston requested a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was approved by a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.