

**Finance Committee Meeting**  
**Thursday, June 16, 2022**  
**GMT | 101 Queen City Park Road | Burlington, VT 05401**

**Present at GMT:**

None (Training being held in GMT Board Room)

**Present via ZOOM:**

Commissioner Paul Bohne  
Commissioner Amy Brewer  
Commissioner Catherine Dimitruk  
Commissioner Austin Davis  
Jon Moore, General Manager

Debbie Coppola, Senior Accountant  
Nick Foss, Director of Finance &  
Grants  
Matt Kimball, Grants and Capital  
Projects Manager  
Stephen Falbel, Steadman Hill Consulting

**Absent:**

Commissioner Chapin Spencer

**Meeting Called to Order:**

Commissioner Bohne called the meeting to order at 8:15AM.

**Adjustment to the Agenda:**

None.

**Public Comment:**

None.

**Approval of the Minutes from May:**

***Commissioner Dimitruk moved to approve the May Minutes; Commissioner Davis seconded; all others were in favor and the motion was passed.***

**Director of Finance Report- Updates and Opportunity for Questions on the Report**

Mr. Foss discussed his recent GFOA training in Austin, TX.

Mr. Foss stated he needed to exit the meeting as he was not feeling well.

Mr. Foss left the meeting at 8:25AM.

Mr. Moore provided a note about bargaining agreement increases hitting in April.

**ADA & Fixed Route Assessment Presentation & Discussion**

Mr. Falbel presented an overview of the ADA & Fixed Route Assessment analysis that was performed.

**Highlights included:**

- Overview of different fixed route service level scenarios and impact on local assessment increases
  - Study based on two service scenarios
    - Flat service level = 4% increase
    - Restored service level = 11% increase

- Overview of assessment changes that are authorized by the GMT Charter
- Further analysis of assessment impacts to individual towns based on service level assumptions.
- Presented a table which provides an overview on assessment changes by town for FY23 and FY24 assessments for the flat service level scenario
- Presented a table which provides the same overview for the restored service scenario.
- Overview of ADA assessment analysis, which evaluated four different ways to calculate ADA assessment amounts.
  - Overview of four assessment calculation methods:
    - 5-year average share of total costs by town
    - 5-year average ratio of ADA cost to fixed route assessment
    - 50% access fee based on average share; 50% trip fee based on origin-destination town
    - 50% access fee based on fixed route ratio; 50% trip fee based on o-d towns
  - The fourth ADA assessment option is recommended by the Study. Mr. Falbel provided a deeper look at the assessment calculation by town following this method.
  - Touched other considerations for ADA assessment change. Believes change in ADA assessment method would require a Charter change.
- Provided overview of combined assessment amounts based on different service level scenarios and calculation methods.
- Final note that assessment change would not be needed if Legislature creates a new funding mechanism for public transit, such as \$3 per month utility fee.

Commissioner Dimitruk noted that municipalities' ability to pay was not included in the Study and asked if grand list data information could be used to evaluate each municipalities' ability to fund assessment increases. Mr. Falbel agreed that this could be a valuable exercise but beyond the scope of this analysis.

The committee discussed the state legislature's receptiveness to the transit financing study. Mr. Falbel highlighted the need for a champion within the Legislature to garner support for the study recommendations.

The committee discussed potential opposition to the \$3/month utility fee, particularly from rural communities that do not receive as much public transit service.

**Other Business:**

None.

**Adjourn:**

***Commissioner Davis moved to adjourn; Commissioner Brewer seconded; all others were in favor.***

Meeting Adjourned at 9:10AM.

**Next Meeting:**

Thursday, July 14, 2022, at 8:15AM.