



RECORD OF MEETING

Greater Waterbury Transit District Board Meeting
September 10, 2025

Commencement of Meeting and Roll Call

At 10 a.m., Chair Karen Harvey called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the roll was called.

Attending: Aleta Looker and Stefanie Theroux, Cheshire; Jan Mizeski, Naugatuck; Betty Bajek, Prospect; Andrea Corcoran, Southbury; Debbie Bournival, Thomaston; Karen Harvey, Mira Levasseur, and Jorge Rosario, Waterbury; Mary Morrone, Wolcott; Maria Vaccarelli, NET; Michael D'Elia, Kennedy Collective; Joanna Rogalski and Patricia Bruder, NVCOG.

A quorum of 8 members from six member towns was declared.

Public Comment

Karen Harvey thanked Betty Bajek for all that she did in chairing the meetings in the past.

Betty Bajek thanked her and noted that this is her last meeting. Mayor Chatfield will be appointing another member from Prospect to replace her.

There were no members of the public that wished to address the board.

Roberts' Rules of Order Discussion

Karen briefed everyone on Roberts' Rules of Order. She asked that when every member speaks, they identify themselves and then speak to the top at hand or the item they'd like to address. She reviewed the proper voting procedure and noted that if a vote is not unanimous, a roll call vote will be taken.

Approval of Minutes of the June 11, 2025 Meeting (*motion*)

Debbie Bournival MOVED to approve the Record of Meeting from June 11, 2025; SECONDED by Aleta Looker. Motion carried unanimously.

GWTD Administrative Items (*Joanna Rogalski*)

Financial Update

Joanna reported that the GWTD funds are currently running, and we've begun analyzing the municipal grant program funding, which pays for the Dial-a-Ride service. There is a funding gap currently between the invoiced services and the grant program. She noted that there has been a funding gap in the past two fiscal years which has been able to be filled by a surplus. However, in FY27, we'll be looking at different ways to fill the gap and still provide the same level of service. She reviewed the expenses in the financial report and offered to answer any questions.

Ridership Update

Joanna reported that Dial-a-Ride service is currently more in demand than in the past. Non-ADA has gone up a little but has not returned to the pre-COVID demand. She explained the formula by which the towns are billed for the fair match service.

Discussion of Proposed By-law revisions (*Joanna Rogalski*)

The bylaws revision began about a year ago, and we set up a working group of Betty Bajek, Aleta Looker, and Karen Harvey. GWTD and NVCOG asked Attorney Rousseau to weigh in on some outstanding questions and he provided

answers and suggestions. A memo was sent out with the agenda that encapsulates the major changes proposed Greater Waterbury Transit District bylaws, including a definition section, and the formula for voting units per transit director. We made those calculations based on current membership, and population. The budget process was also discussed, and Attorney Rousseau recommended that we go with a specific process that is used for adopting a budget by the transit districts. We want to be sure we're operating as per Connecticut General Statutes. We're not asking for adoption of these revisions today. We are presenting it to you to review. There will be one more meeting of the working group before we present this for a vote in December.

Discussion of PA 25-65 sec 12 – Transit District funding (*Joanna Rogalski*)

Joanna explained that Public Act 25-65 is a very large bill. Section 12 of that bill applies to the transit district. I want to raise awareness of this because the funding they're talking about applies to transit districts that can buy vehicles, raise capital for buildings, maintenance, garages and things of that sort. It's unfreezing FFY24 levels and returning funding to a federal law formula. While it doesn't apply to GWTD, it does apply to some other districts in the state.

Debbie Bournival from Thomaston noted that they purchased their own vehicle, but not through the 5310.

Northeast Transportation Update (*Maria Vaccarelli*)

Maria noted that there isn't really any update to provide today but will be happy to answer any questions.

The directors had the opportunity to look at the new vans and they'd like NET to arrange a tour of the vehicles – the electric vehicle and one of the newer 2025 vans.

Open Discussion

Karen Harvey thanked the members for electing her as Chair. She feels there is a need to improve the GWTD website and will be working with NVCOG to update that. She asked that each of the directors visit the website and come to the next meeting with feedback. Karen's feedback is that the print should be larger and bolder. She wants the Connecticut Transit 10-Ride Ticket Book to appear on the GWTD website with a link enabling people to purchase them.

She continued, duplicate items need to be addresses/deleted on the city websites. She asked that each of the directors visit their own town's website to see if there is a link to the GWTD website and contact information for each town's director. Your riders should be able to see that information. Communication in general with our riders needs improvement, and we need to improve the website.

The December meeting will be hybrid with an in-person option available at NVCOG offices. Karen reached out to most of the directors regarding making this meeting and introducing herself as Chair. She wants to improve attendance and improve communication between the riders and the directors. She'd like to see options at (203) 756-5550 so people can leave comments regarding the van. She feels the public has too many hoops to jump through in order to address this board.

The group discussed changing the start time of the GWTD meetings to better accommodate those who work at a senior center. Joanna will put it on December's agenda. Suggestions ranged from 1:30 pm to 6 or 7 pm. Polling the members was suggested. The time of 1:30 pm was discussed at a past meeting.

The next meeting will be held on December 10th.

Adjournment (*motion*)

At approximately 10:41 a.m., Jan Mizeski MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Mira Levasseur. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Bruder
Executive Administrative Clerk