



Greater Waterbury Transit District Board Meeting
and Public Hearing on the Proposed FY26 Budget
Minutes – June 11, 2025

Public Hearing on GWTD FY26 Budget Proposal

At 10 a.m., Chair Betty Bajek called the public hearing to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the roll was called.

Attending: Aleta Looker and Stefanie Theroux, Cheshire; Betty Bajek, Prospect; Debbie Bournival, Thomaston; Karen Harvey and Jorge Rosario, Waterbury; Mary Morrone, Wolcott; Maria Vaccarelli, NET; Trish Bauer, Patricia Bruder, Joanna Rogalski, NVCOG.

A quorum of five member towns was declared.

Presentation of Budget Proposal – Fiscal Year 2026 (Joanna Rogalski)

Joanna Rogalski reviewed the proposed State FY26 budget proposal for the Greater Waterbury Transit District (GWTD). The Municipal Grant Program (MGP) funding remains unchanged from last year, and that will be true for the next few years. The established funding through the MGP pays for the Dial-a-Ride service. Municipal Dues remain unchanged from last year.

The non-ADA match portion of this is for the service either on weekends or outside the .75-mile area for ADA paratransit. That is the fare matching that the municipalities agreed to for the non-ADA rides. The numbers are estimated by doubling the July through December ridership numbers for the non-ADA matches for the coming FY26. The number that changes the most is the non-ADA match.

Looking at the expenses side of the budget, anything that we receive through the non-ADA match, that fare match goes right into expenses. Anything that we receive from the MGP for Dial-a-Ride goes toward paying the bills. GWTD doesn't keep any of that; Northeast Transportation's management fees are paid for them to conduct the Dial-a-Ride service. Municipal Dues fund the office staff pay, printing brochures and flyers, the audits, etc. - anything to do with back-office operations.

The Chair opened the floor for public comment. There being no comments, the public hearing was closed at 10:08 am.

Regular Meeting (*Immediately following public hearing*)

At 10:09 a.m., Chair Betty Bajek called the regular GWTD meeting to order.

Attending: Aleta Looker and Stefanie Theroux, Cheshire; Betty Bajek, Prospect; Debbie Bournival, Thomaston; Karen Harvey and Jorge Rosario, Waterbury; Mary Morrone, Wolcott; Maria Vaccarelli, NET; Trish Bauer, Patricia Bruder, Joanna Rogalski, NVCOG.

Public Comment

None.

Approval of Minutes of the March 12, 2025 Meeting

Karen Harvey MOVED to approve the March 12, 2025 Record of Meeting; SECONDED by Aleta Looker. Motion carried unanimously.

GWTD FY26 Budget Adoption (Betty Bajek)

No budget revisions were proposed.

Debbie Bournival MOVED to adopt the Greater Waterbury Transit District budget as presented; SECONDED by Jorge Rosario. Motion carried unanimously.

Election of Officers (Betty Bajek) (motion)

a. Election of Chair

Joanna explained that whoever the officers are, they get a lot of help from the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments. We serve as the administrative staff for Greater Waterbury Transit District.

This year we have elections for the two-year terms of Chair and the Treasurer. Vice-Chair and Secretary positions will be elected next year.

The Chair shall preside at all meetings except in their absence when the vice-chair shall preside. When authorized, the Chair shall sign contracts for the District. The Chair facilitates the GWTD quarterly meetings and may be asked to represent the GWTD at transit-related events. The Chair signs the service agreements with Northeast Transportation.

Betty Bajek called for nominations from the floor.

Karen Harvey nominated Betty Bajek. Betty declined the nomination and explained that she has served her term and is hoping Mayor Chatfield will appoint Susan, who oversees the Prospect Senior Center.

Jorge Rosario self-nominated.

Karen Harvey self-nominated. Debbie Bournival seconded Karen Harvey's nomination.

Aleta Looker moved to close nominations.

The candidates were asked to tell the Board about themselves. After Karen Harvey explained her experience, Jorge Rosario withdrew his nomination and offered his support to her.

a. Election of Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be responsible for the care and custody of funds and securities in the absence of a transit director. The Treasurer signs checks issued through the GWTD.

Debbie Bournival self-nominated.

There were no other nominations.

The candidates were elected with no objections and declared by acclamation.

Betty Bajek declared Karen Harvey elected Chair and Karen Bournival elected Treasurer by acclamation, with their two-year terms commencing July 1, 2025.

GWTD Administrative Items (Joanna Rogalski)

a. Financial Update

Joanna displayed the financial report 7/1/24-6/4/25. The district is in good position and in the black.

b. Ridership Update

The members discussed the increase in Dial-a-Ride ridership and decrease in the non-ADA ridership.

Maria Vaccarelli from Northeast Transportation talked about overlapping with other districts such as Greater New Haven (GNH) Transit. Riders must be ADA. GWTD goes to Meriden/Wallingford, Greater New Haven, and the Valley, and their districts return the riders to Waterbury. There are some transfer points involved.

She noted that there is now an electric vehicle being tested and utilized right now. The group discussed how quiet the electric vehicle is, and that it's smaller.

Discussion of Ridership Reports and Northeast Transportation Update

Joanna provided the members with a tutorial on reading the nine monthly ridership reports they receive from Northeast Transportation. Maria Vaccarelli offered insight into each of the reports as well. She offered to meet with any member personally to look over things and help understand the reports.

Open Discussion

Betty Bajek reported that Woodbury is interested in joining the GWTD. They are a self-described "transit desert." NVCOG staff is communicating with them. Woodbury's legislative body needs to vote to join, then it comes to this Board for approval. Joanna noted that there have already been

discussions with Northeast Transportation about the ability to provide 8 hours of coverage on Wednesdays without reducing any other service.

Karen Harvey commended Northeast Transportation for providing an advanced call for scheduled riders advising them about 10 minutes before the ride is scheduled. She feels this is a very helpful practice that reduces the amount of time a driver has to wait.

Joanna thanked Betty Bajek for her service as Chair, and welcomed Karen Harvey who will Chair the next meeting on September 10th.

Adjournment

At approximately 11:00 a.m., Debbie Bournival MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Aleta Looker. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Bruder
Executive Administrative Clerk
NVCOG