



MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Transportation Subcommittee

Thursday, November 6, 2025 at 8:30 am

Zoom

REVISED ON 10/29/25

REVISED on 11/5/25 (zoom passcode)

Present: Chair - Marsha Shufrin, Kathryn Shertzer, Skipper Manter, Kelly Scott**
Transportation: Transportation Director - Troy Vanderhoop*, Assistant Transportation Director - Chyenne Ward, Transportation Office Assistant - Jenn Shattuck
MVRHS: Principal - Sean Mulvey, Finance Director - Suzanne Cioffi
Supt's Office: Superintendent - Richie Smith, School Business Administrator - Mark Friedman
Recorder: Rebecca Claussen

*indicates late arrival

**Indicates early departure

Please note: All business will consist of a discussion and possible vote to take action.

(Recorder's Note: Discussions are summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity)

I. Call to Order

Chair Marsha Shufrin called this meeting to order at 8:33 am.

Vote Required

II. Approval of Minutes October 23, 2025

Skipper Manter made a motion to approve the minutes of October 23, 2025, seconded by Kelly Scott. Roll Call: Manter - Aye, Scott - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Shufrin - Aye.

Motion Passes: 4-0-0

III. Transportation Dept - Update

Richie Smith spoke on behalf of the transportation department, of which the only update at this time is negotiations, see item **IV** below.

IV. Transportation Negotiations - Update

There will be a continuation of the negotiations on Monday, November 10, 2025 at 11:46 am at the high school should any other of the subcommittee members wish to attend, in addition to Skipper who will be there.

V. Transportation Dept FY27 Budget

Mark Friedman discussed the first draft budget sent out and a copy of the fleet plan. There are more unknowns in the first draft as the salary structure and rates are still in negotiations. Mark started with the Line Items document where he used basic assumptions as placeholders. There was some restructuring last year with the Assistant Transportation Director and the addition of an ASP position. Salaries are input at the 6% increase as a placeholder, longevities will likely have to be adjusted, the drivers training pay line has been brought down as we have not been using it as much as we have budgeted for. Mark has also increased the towing line budget from \$10,000 to \$15,000 as the electric buses are expensive to get towed to Rhode Island and last year the towing expense was just over \$16,000, there is not an exact science to measure the towing needs but it would be prudent to increase. There appears to be a miscalculation in the Chappaquiddick runs and it is possible it is being booked into the driver line which Mark will look into. There are additional

Special Education runs right now, and there is an expectation that those will increase. Mark will need to speak with Hope about the expectations for next year given Individualized Education Plans (IEP's). Mark indicated that it is likely there will be a significant increase in the Non-reimbursable On-island Transportation Costs area of On-island activities driver salaries given the way it has been structured in terms of payroll as negotiated run rates on the activities runs its been a run rate that has been lower than the to and from school rate but as these negotiations are trying to move to something easier to understand and moving an individual to a particular hourly rate, which will mean that line will increase. There is a new line item with all of the schools trying to offer robust summer programs, this is based on what the Principals asked for last year for full transportation to and from the school. The non-reimbursable transportation has not gotten a deep dive yet but this line generally stays about the same given how off island transportation is paid, which is hourly, there will likely be a minor increase. The last section is the Steamship Authority which has decreased by about \$3000. The overall total is about a 7.3% increase at this time, but there are still negotiations and some minor margins of error on some of these items. Kathryn asked Mark about the summer busing and how Oak Bluffs used that, which allowed for an effective program at the Oak Bluffs school last year but how was that paid for last year, of which Mark said we did not provide all that was wanted but it is being absorbed in the FY26 transportation budget, but next year we need to be more explicit about the need, considering we were not able to fulfill all of the schools requests last year. Kathryn asked for clarification on the on island activities driver salaries and what they were, to which Mark and Suzanne replied that these are music/orchestra trips, field trips, and after school athletics trips. Suzanne said the late runs for the schools are covered in the salary lines. Marsha asked what the thought process was for the pay rate differential between schools run and activity runs to which Richie said this is based on old negotiations and is difficult to answer, which is part of the reason why the negotiations are still in progress for transportation and the district is looking to make that update. Mark did say that some of these were from a subcontractor rate years ago, and it had been inherited by an outside company so the district needed to match those rates given how quick we changed to in-house, from years ago. Kelly asked about the 7% and understands there is a need, but does this mean we need to be looking at 7% every year or is this a blip year due to negotiations to which Mark responded that the assumptions on the salary side are consistent with the five other units but is otherwise not sure, but hopeful there won't be another 7% next year. The Up Island Regional District and the High School to and from school rates are almost fully reimbursable, as last year was almost 90% back, but there is no offset for Tisbury, Oak Bluffs and Edgartown to and from school transportation as they are not regionalized. Marsha asked for clarification on regionalizing the entire school system would that mean that almost 90% of our transportation be reimbursed, to which Mark said no, only to and from schools and Special Education trips. Mark moved onto the reimbursements section as there are chapter 71 reimbursements and YMCA and Boys and Girls club reimbursements. The last few years the reimbursements have not met quite what was expected, of which some of the driver shortage and having some runs doubled up those do need to be paid for, if it was consolidated runs there would be some monetary savings but those runs would take longer and be more full which is not ideal but given the driver shortage, this would save the district money. Mark wondered if we should be budgeting for more drivers or longer runs. The last few years the Boys & Girls Club and the YMCA runs have been budgeted as their own runs which they no longer are, and are instead being added on to the after school runs so those reimbursements should go down a little bit. The Charter School was overbilled the prior year so those numbers look strange but do make sense to get them back on track. Marsha asked about the summer runs and if any portion be appropriated to Special Education runs which Mark said these are for the non-sped portions but he will dive further in to be sure. Mark said this is not the final recommendation and he does have some assumptions to work on further. Mark then moved onto the Fleet Plan, Mark showed by groupings of on island Vans, Buses, off island vehicles (4 buses and a multifunction student activities van), 3 Prius, a John Deer Tractor and some pick up trucks, etc, The goal is to try and keep the fleet with an average age of under 10 years old. The FY27 budget suggestion is to continue the lease of 6 of our buses, and there is a hope to try to replace one Special Education van on island, one regular bus and one of the 3 Priuses already has 141,000 miles on it.

The Prius is a good car but the Toyota Rav has better functionality and the cost differential is only about \$2000 so there is a recommendation to replace a Prius with one of those. Mark will also check on the mileage on the 2009 Prius as he doesn't think it is accurate. This gives a request of about \$486,000 for next year to continue the lease payments for the six buses, plus the three replacement vehicles (the Special Education van, the bus and the Prius or Rav4). Just yesterday the state announced they were allocating and awarding the rural aid grants for the High School and the Up Island Regional School District, and we may be able to use some of those to fund some of these vehicles. The rest of the fleet planning is a puzzle to look at needs, age and mileage while also managing those bottom line numbers and so that we aren't spiking in any year. Mark has a question about replacing one of the three remaining diesels buses as lease or purchase, he has currently budgeted for purchase. The district could go for a five year lease and lower the FY27 budget by about 75% but that would commit us out 4 more years in the vehicle procurement line so it starts to eat up future lines the more we lease. Mark is recommending purchasing the bus as that would not hit the general fund should we use the rural aid grant, and on buses we can claim depreciation which will have some chapter 71 reimbursement, and the final reason is that leases require a lot of extra paperwork and are a bit of a nightmare to administer. Kathryn asked about Prius off island given its had over 35,000 miles put on it annually to which Mark said that yes, it is an anomaly but we are required to provide off island SPED transportation and this vehicle is used to transport kids back and forth to their programs, and not all parents have the means to transport themselves and need this vehicle option, which is where most of this mileage comes from. Kathryn did ask about the bus purchase versus lease and agreed that she would support the lease, Marsha asked about leasing mileage and if we go over are we adding extra mileage we need to pay for to which Mark said that we generally lease to own so that has not been a problem. Marsha also asked about the exact mileage on the 2009 Prius which Mark said it is in the works to get the accurate mileage. Mark will speak to transportation for clarification on the Prius's and their needs and mileage and which needs to be replaced. Suzanne asked about the two vans replaced last year and where those were, to which Mark indicated their line items. As of now those vans are still being built, almost a year later. The current plan is to surplus those two vehicles when the new ones are ready. Skipper Manter asked about electrifying the fleet and where we're at on that. Per Mark, at this time we are maxed out with the electricity that we can currently use in that bus lot. In addition those buses cost more than \$400,000 a piece and there is minimal financial support for schools to do more electrification on their fleets. Kathryn said she thought there was already a plan to bring more electricity out to that lot, but given the building project this was another item that was thought to be brought into that. Mark said they increased what they could on that transformer to get it to work for the two buses there but it cannot take more. The current hesitation is still the building project, is it staying there? Mark will speak with the architects about that plan. Skipper recalled the island voting to be fully green in 2040 and there was a lot of support for an all electric fleet so the first step is to check the electrical on the bus site as we should be moving towards that as we replace buses. Mark will work to get this more final for the next meeting given the remaining items he needs to look into.

VI. Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair

No unanticipated topics today.

VII. Public Comment

No public comment today.

VIII. Executive Session: To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel;

Did not enter into the executive session today.

IX. Adjournment

Vote Required

*Skipper Manter made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kathryn Shertzer. Roll call: Manter - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Shufirin - Aye.
Motion Passes: 3-0-0*

Minutes submitted by Rebecca Claussen

Date of Approval of Minutes: December 4, 2025

Appendix A: Documents on File

- 1. 11.6.25 Transportation Sub-committee Agenda**
- 2. DRAFT Transportation Subcommittee 102325**
- 3. FY27 Transportation V#1 FLEET PLAN - 11-06-2025**
- 4. FY27 Transportation V1 LINE-ITEMS - 11-06-2025**

Appendix B: Zoom A.I. Next Steps

- 1. Sean and team: Continue negotiations regarding hourly rates and other contract terms on Monday at 11:46 AM in the library conference room, with presentation of updated proposal likely by Thursday.**
- 2. mfriedman: Dig further into VTA maintenance, SPED transportation, and other reimbursable/non-reimbursable transportation line items to refine budget assumptions, especially regarding summer program costs and SPED-related summer runs.**
- 3. mfriedman: Adjust elementary school reimbursement requests upward to cover their share of increased summer program transportation costs for FY27.**
- 4. mfriedman: Lower reimbursement rates billed to Boys and Girls Club and YMCA to reflect actual incremental costs of consolidated after-school runs.**
- 5. mfriedman: Follow up with Troy and staff to confirm exact mileage on the 2009 Prius and assess whether it or the 2021 Prius should be replaced, and consider rotating vehicle usage to balance mileage.**
- 6. mfriedman: Coordinate with the high school regarding possible use of Rural School Aid Grant funds to purchase new bus and RAV4, and update fleet plan and budget request accordingly.**
- 7. mfriedman: Follow up with Troy to confirm status and planned replacement of the two new SPED vans purchased with last year's rural aid money, and clarify if/when old vans will be surplus.**
- 8. mfriedman: Review and, if needed, update the categorization of CHAPI runs in the budget to ensure correct line item allocation.**
- 9. mfriedman: Prepare next draft of the transportation budget with further refinements, including any questions or requests from subcommittee members, in time for the next meeting and upcoming budget subcommittee review.**
- 10. All subcommittee chairs (e.g., Catherine for Athletics): Present approved subcommittee budgets to the high school budget subcommittee at the next scheduled meeting (November 13th, 5:30 PM).**
- 11. mfriedman: Run numbers and be prepared to discuss electrification of fleet options, including potential costs and infrastructure needs, for future budget planning.**
- 12. mfriedman: Ensure architects and building project team are aware of electrification needs for the bus lot as part of the building project planning.**