



CAPE ANN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
Administrator - Felicia Webb

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# Memorandum

**To:** Joseph Domelowicz, Hamilton Town Manager

**From:** Felicia S. Webb

**Date:** November 4, 2019

**Re:** CATA Summary for the Town of Hamilton

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## CATA

The Cape Ann Transportation Authority (CATA) is a political subdivision of the Commonwealth, created pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 161b of the Massachusetts General Laws of the Acts of 1973. CATA was formed in 1974, starting with Gloucester and followed by Rockport, Ipswich, and Essex. The Authority is given the general responsibility to develop, finance, and contract for the operation of mass transportation facilities and services within its territory. Each member community is represented by their chief executive office, or designee, who serves on CATA's Advisory Board. The day-to-day affairs are managed by the Administrator, who is appointed by the Advisory Board.

CATA is funded through a combination of state, local, federal, and own-source revenues. The current transit budget is about \$3M. In addition to the traditional public transit offered by CATA, CATA also contracts with the Human Service Transportation office to provide MassHealth transportation services, including DMA, DayHab/DDS, and EIP. CATA's HST brokerage operation is about \$16M, CATA books and manages the trip reservations and contracts with multiple private companies to provide the transportation services.

## Hamilton

Over the summer, CATA was invited to a conversation with Joe Domelowicz, Hamilton Town Manager, and Brad Hill, MA State Representative, about transportation options in Hamilton. The current non-emergency medical transportation service was discussed, along with a

program CATA and the town of Ipswich launched a few years ago and the possibility of applying it to Hamilton.

The Ipswich Medical Bus is a joint effort by CATA and the Ipswich Senior Center to provide out-of-town medical transportation for seniors in Ipswich. The idea came about because the Ipswich COA was overwhelmed with requests for volunteer rides to medical appointments. The COA and CATA created a schedule based on the funds remaining in the MBTA assessment. Seniors call the Ipswich COA to book their appointment and the COA coordinates the trips with CATA. This allows the COA to continue to monitor transportation requests and needs and allowed for a smoother transition between volunteers and the CATA bus, since the seniors were familiar with the staff at the COA. Currently, Ipswich residents can use the CATA bus for medical appointments in Beverly, Peabody, Danvers, Wenham, and Gloucester. The Ipswich medical bus service is 100% funded through the MBTA/RTA cherry sheet transfer.

CATA will work with Hamilton to determine the best way to address the transportation needs of the senior population, whether with customers booking directly through the Senior Center like the Ipswich model or directly with CATA's dispatch office, like other communities. CATA would propose to fund any service provided using the cherry sheet assessments since there would be no increase in cost to the town. For FY20, Hamilton's MBTA assessment is \$185,258.

#### **MBTA and RTA Cherry Sheet Assessments**

When the MBTA was forward funded, a number of communities were required to pay a new MBTA assessment on the cherry sheets. The legislature recognized that some of the newly assessed communities were also members of an RTA or could become members of an RTA, and allowed RTA assessments for service to be deducted from the MBTA assessment (MGL Chapter 161A Section 9). A community could opt for RTA service in their local community funded through the MBTA cherry sheet assessment.

The funds associated with the MBTA assessment can only be programmed for either RTA transit service or the MBTA. If the community does not use these funds to provide local service through an RTA, they are still deducted from the cherry sheet and go to the MBTA. Joining an RTA and funding service through the cherry sheet assessment does not result in an increased assessment, the appropriate funds are moved from the MBTA to the RTA line item. The RTA local assessments increase 2.5% per year, as allowed by law.

This Cherry Sheet Transfer is the method that Ipswich has used to fund service expansion, including the Ipswich/Essex Explorer several years ago as well as the new medical bus service in 2016.



MA Department of Revenue  
 Division of Local Services  
 Final Municipal Cherry Sheet Estimates  
 Data current as of 07/31/2019

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Receipt Estimates Assessments & Charges

C.S. 1-ER Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Revenue FY2020  
 NOTICE TO ASSESSORS OF ESTIMATED RECEIPTS  
 General Laws, Chapter 58, Section 25A

Hamilton

**A. EDUCATION**

**Distributions and Reimbursements**

Chapter 70	0
School Transportation	0
Charter Tuition Reimbursement	0
Smart Growth School Reimbursement	0
<b>Offset Items - Reserve for Direct Expenditure:</b>	
School Choice Receiving Tuition	0
<b>Sub-Total, All Education Items:</b>	<b>0</b>

**B. GENERAL GOVERNMENT:**

**Distributions and Reimbursements**

Unrestricted General Government Aid	713,432
Local Share of Racing Taxes	0
Regional Public Libraries	0
Urban Revitalization	0
Veterans Benefits	14,912
Exemp: VBS and Elderly	29,227
State Owned Land	143,730
<b>Offset Items - Reserve for Direct Expenditure:</b>	
Public Libraries	12,564
<b>Sub-Total, All General Government:</b>	<b>913,865</b>

**C. TOTAL ESTIMATED RECEIPTS:**

**913,865**

Questions About Local Aid Please Email The Municipal Databank at : [databank@dor.state.ma.us](mailto:databank@dor.state.ma.us)



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**NOTICE TO ASSESSORS OF ESTIMATED CHARGES**

General Laws, Chapter 59, Section 21

Hamilton

**A. COUNTY ASSESSMENTS:**

County Tax	0
Suffolk County Retirement	0
Essex County Reg Comm Center	0
<b>Sub-Total, County Assessments:</b>	<b>0</b>

**B. STATE ASSESSMENTS AND CHARGES:**

Retired Employees Health Insurance	0
Retired Teachers Health Insurance	0
Mosquito Control Projects	51,138
Air Pollution Districts	2,939
Metropolitan Area Planning Council	4,380
Old Colony Planning Council	0
RMV Non-Renewal Surcharge	4,040
<b>Sub-Total, State Assessments:</b>	<b>62,497</b>

**C. TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITIES:**

MBTA	185,258
Boston Metro. Transit District	0
Regional Transit	0
<b>Sub-Total, Transportation Assessments:</b>	<b>185,258</b>

**D. ANNUAL CHARGES AGAINST RECEIPTS:**

Multi-Year Repayment Program	0
Special Education	0
STRAP Repayments	0
<b>Sub-Total, Annual Charges Against Receipts:</b>	<b>0</b>

**E. TUITION ASSESSMENTS:**

School Choice Sending Tuition	0
Charter School Sending Tuition	0
<b>Sub-Total, Tuition Assessments:</b>	<b>0</b>

**F. TOTAL ESTIMATED CHARGES:**

**247,755**

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