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Taunton
Wareham
Westport

Date: May 11, 2016

To: Erik Rousseau - SRTA Administrator

From: Shayne M. Trimbell, AICP - SRPEDD Director of Transit Planning

Re: Equity Analysis for New Bedford to Fall River Intercity Route Service Change

In accordance with Section 13.4 of the Southeastern Regional Transit Authority (SRTA) Title VI Program dated March 16, 2016, a service equity analysis shall be conducted for all major service changes. Major service changes are defined as a 25% or greater change in route miles or revenue miles. The service change equity analysis evaluates the potential for a disparate impact on minority populations and a disproportionate burden on low income populations. The proposed changes to New Bedford Routes 9 – Intercity Route (NB9) exceed 25% of the total route revenue mileage and warrant a service change equity analysis.

For the purpose of this analysis, data from the 2010 Census and the 2005-2009 American Community Survey was used to determine the minority and low income populations for the census tracts affected by the changes. The affected populations were compared against the total populations for the SRTA region to determine if the changes will result in a disparate impact on the minority population and a disproportionate burden on the low income population. Section 13.5 Disparate Impact Policy of the Title VI Program defines “a threshold of 20% which means that a disparate impact occurs when the fare or service change affects a minority population 20% more than a non-minority”. Section 13.6 Disproportionate Burden Policy of the Title VI Program defines “a threshold of 20% which means that a disproportionate burden occurs when fare or service changes affects low-income population 20% more than non-low income”.

Proposed Changes

The SRTA Advisory Board took action at the April 27, 2016 to make permanent an increase in service that began as a trial period on August 17, 2015. The temporary service change increased weekday service between the hours of 9 AM and 6 PM from sixty minute frequency to thirty minute frequency. Prior to the change, the NB9 operated 508.5 revenue miles per weekday; after the change, the NB9 operates 813.6 revenue miles per weekday, a 58% increase in revenue miles. The change affects fifteen census tracts: 6408, 6411.01, 6412, 6413, 6414, 6415, 6461.01, 6510.01, 6510.02, 6516, 6517, 6531.01, 6531.02, 6532.04, and 9855. Figure 1: Intercity Route with Census Tracts shows all census tracts served by the NB9. Table 1: Intercity Route Demographics shows the populations by Census Tract.

Determination of Disparate Impact and Disproportionate Burden

Tracts 6516 and 6517 in New Bedford exceed the 20% threshold for affected minority populations; Tracts 6412 and 6413 in Fall River and Tract 6518 in New Bedford exceed the 20% threshold for affected low-income populations. The analysis indicates that there is a disparate impact for the minority population living in Tracts 6516 and 6517 in New Bedford. The impact is mitigated by the fact that the service change increased service frequencies to these Census Tracts resulting in a positive impact to the minority population. The analysis indicates that there is a disproportionate burden for the low-income population living in Tracts 6412 and 6413 in Fall River and Tract 6518 in New Bedford. The burden is mitigated by the fact that the service change increased service frequencies to these tracts resulting in a positive impact to the low-income population.

Tract (2010 Census)	Population (2010 Census)	Minority (2010 Census)	Percent Minority	Tract (2005- 2009 ACS)	Population (2005-2009 ACS)	Below Poverty Level (2005- 2009 ACS)	Percent Low Income
6408	3,813	744	20%	6408	3,772	822	22%
6411.01	1,712	416	24%	6409	6,627	1,661	25%
6412	2,803	516	18%	6411	461	133	29%
6413	5,326	1,249	23%	6412	3,098	1,451	47%
6414	2,586	527	20%	6413	5,589	1,978	35%
6415	2,401	208	9%	6414	2,896	731	25%
6461.01	7,356	189	3%	6415	2,316	414	18%
6510.01	2,865	482	17%	6461.01	7,380	207	3%
6510.02	3,833	979	26%	6510.01	3,094	727	23%
6516	3,862	1,369	35%	6510.02	3,701	696	19%
6517	1,983	937	47%	6516	4,053	904	22%
6518	1,745	566	32%	6517	2,136	557	26%
6531.01	6,664	533	8%	6518	1,489	752	51%
6531.02	5,381	576	11%	6531.01	6,857	310	5%
6532.04	3,214	261	8%	6531.02	5,167	108	2%
9855	5,506	672	12%	6532.01	8,929	581	7%
				6532.02	4,052	113	3%
SRTA Total	308,614	41,305	13%		308,019	42,660	14%

Table 1: Intercity Route Demographics

Data Source: 2010 Census, 2005-2009 American Community Survey



Intercity Route with Census 2010 Tracts

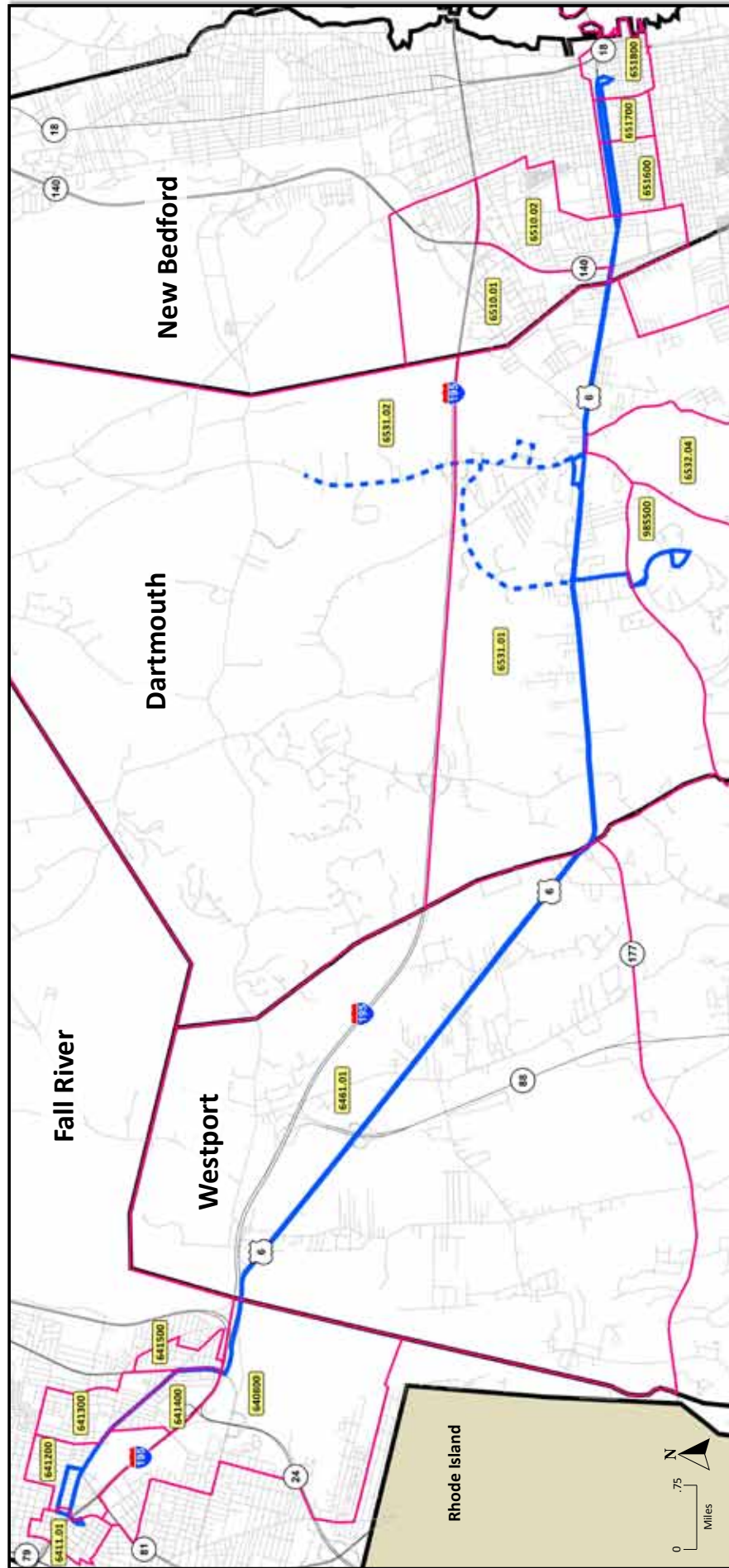


Figure 1: Intercity Route with Census Tracts