** Southeastern Regional Transit Authority
Consumer Advisory Committee Meeting
Fixed Route**

 **DATE: Tuesday, June 7, 2016
TIME: 9:30 AM
PLACE: New Bedford Free Public Library, 3rd Floor Meeting Room, 613 Pleasant Street, New Bedford, Ma 02740**

*Public Hearing for SRTA Intercity Route Service Increase*

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Reading and Acceptance of Minutes: March 17, 2016**
3. **SRTA News/Updates**
4. **Consumer Comments**
5. **Old Business**
6. **Adjourned**
7. **Next Meeting**

**Minutes of the meeting held on March 17, 2016 at 9:00AM at the Fall River Terminal, 118 4th Street, Fall River, MA**

**Present:**Sigute Meilus, BRU/SRTA Board Melvin Keith, SRTA

Meaghan DaPote, SCTM Marty Burke, SCTM

Mary Ellen DeFrias, SRTA Ray Arruda, SCTM

Shayne Trimbell, SRPEDD Stephanie Lenhardt, SRPEDD

**Call to Order:**

Ms. DeFrias called the meeting to order at 9:10AM.

**SRTA News/Updates:**

* **New Buses:**

Ms. DeFrias reported that SRTA has received three new 40ft buses, and four 35ft buses.

Ms. DeFrias stated that they are expecting more buses come late September to early October of 2016 followed by the next fiscal year round of buses around November of 2017.

* **Comprehensive Service Assessment (CSA):**

Ms. DeFrias stated that SRTA spent roughly a year working on the Comprehensive Service Assessment which was delivered on time and gives the Regional Transit Authority a 3-5 year outlook plan.

Ms. DeFrias reported the executive summary of the Comprehensive Service Assessment handout to meeting members.

Mr. Burke explained the SRTA route changes that are currently active and inactive.

Discussion ensued between Mr. Trimbell, Mr. Burke, and Ms. DeFrias about bus routes with decreased and increased ridership.

* **Capital Project Update:**

Ms. DeFrias provided an update of the New Bedford Terminal generator.

Mr. Burke stated that they are waiting to hear back from an engineer to know if it is repairable or needs to be replaced entirely. Mr. Burke stated that their main concern right now is safety.

Ms. DeFrias reported an update on the New Bedford Sprinkler System Maintenance Facility.

Ms. DeFrias reported an update on the Fence Project at the Maintenance Facility.

Ms. DeFrias stated that the New Bedford ITS terminal project is out to bid and is quoted at around 5 million dollars, and will be spread out over a five year Capital Improvement Plan.

* **Consumer Comments:**

Ms. Meilus stated that she would like to see a stronger attendance for consumers at these meetings.

Ms. Meilus reported that riders are happy with the change to the #6 bus.

Ms. Meilus reported that consumers are unhappy with the access to the New Bedford bathroom and not being allowed to utilize it after certain hours.

Ms. DeFrias explained to Ms. Meilus why there are locks on the bathroom doors instead of censors at the New Bedford terminal, as it reduced fights at the service window and minimizes potential overdose risks.

Ms. Meilus inquired about big stores like Amazon not paying for bus services.

Mr. Trimbell stated that big stores such as Amazon and Market Basket have no legal requirement for private property owners to pay for public services.

Ms. Meilus inquired about the possibility of Sunday bus service.

Mr. Burke replied to Ms. Meilus that due to monetary and budget constraints, Sunday bus service would cost the Transit Authority about 50% of their budget for a service that has a lot of want but little need.

**Old Business:**

Ms. Meilus stated she feels it is very important to have a stronger attendance of riders at these meetings, not just with consumer input but from local agencies and COA’s as well.

Ms. DeFrias agreed and stated that numerous agencies have expressed issues with being down a staff member for an extended period of time for the duration of the meeting followed by the travel it takes to get to and from there.

**Adjourned:**

Ms. DeFrias adjourned the meeting at 10:12AM.

**Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 7, 2016 at 9:30AM at the New Bedford Free Public Library.