Southeastern Regional Transit Authority Advisory Board Meeting

Date: Thursday, January 19th, 2017

Location: Fall River Government Center (Cafeteria)

 1 Government Center

 Fall River, MA 02721

(1) Call to Order

**The meeting was called to order at 5:11PM EST by the Advisory Board Chair.**

(2) Roll Call

Present:

|  |  |
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| Town of Acushnet | City of New Bedford |
| Town of Fairhaven | Town of Swansea |
| ADA Representative |  |

Absent:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Town of Dartmouth | Town of Mattapoisett |
| City of Fall River | Town of Somerset |
| Town of Freetown | Town of Westport |
| Riders Representative |  |

***Note: A quorum was not reached, but an informative meeting was held.***

Additional Attendees:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Erik Rousseau, SRTA | Kristen Sniezek, SRTA |
| John LeBert, SRTA | Tim Hegarty, SCTM |
| Arthur Frank, Legal Counsel | Shayne Trimbell, SRPEDD |

(3) Approval of Minutes

The approval of minutes for both September and October has been postponed.

(4) Citizen’s Participation

No citizen’s participation.

(5) Operator’s Report

Mr. Tim Hegarty (General Manager) noted that a tentative agreement with the Union has been reached with anticipation of having the final contract signed and executed within the coming weeks.

The Ongoing Driver Training has shown to be received well as evidence by the instructor noting attentive and engaged Drivers during the training sessions. As mentioned in previous Advisory Board Meetings, one of the goals of this program would be see improvements (via reductions) in preventable accidents—with an ultimate goal of seeing a reduction in *overall* accidents. In addition to the Ongoing Driver Training, Drivers—as well as Supervisors—have been taking part in Title VI training; of which will be completed the upcoming Sunday, January 22nd.

Annual Driver evaluations are set to commence in short time while two (2) new Drivers are currently in training with one (1) new Driver set to begin the upcoming Monday, January 23rd. Hiring continues to trend at a moderate but steady place as current staffing levels have been deemed appropriate.

Discussion: The City of New Bedford voiced concern of Drivers approaching the New Bedford Terminal at excessive speeds while failing to stop for pedestrians in the cross walk. The City of New Bedford ask that the Drivers be mindful of the congestion that is downtown New Bedford; specifically when entering and exiting the Bus Terminal. Mr. Hegarty notes his acknowledgement and will assign a Road Supervisor to observe.

(6) Civil Rights Update

Title VI: The new Title VI Plan has been submitted and is awaiting approval. To date there have been no Title VI complaints under the new Plan.

EEO: The new EEO Plan for South Coast Transit Management was submitted on August 19th, 2016 and is awaiting approval. To date there have been no EEO complaints.

DBE: The SRTA DBE goals for Fiscal Year 2016 through Fiscal Year 2018 have been submitted and are awaiting approval.

SRTA achieved their DBE goal for Federal Fiscal Year 2016. SRTA’s DBE goal for Federal Fiscal Year 2017 will be 2.2% participation.

(7) Old Business

*Update on Security:*

SRTA has remained in communication with the detail officers in both New Bedford and Fall River with regard to each Terminal, respectively. As a result, a number of minor tweaks have been made in order to better the coverage. The feedback received so far has been positive, thus evidence of improvement.

*Update on ADA Certification:*

SRTA presented a draft of the new ADA application that was created as a result of the of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Triennial Review findings (discussed in prior meetings).

Working with peers across the Commonwealth, the draft 12-page application (formerly 6 pages) was generated to address the FTA concerns of a lax application process, yet formed in a way to also still allow SRTA to operate in terms of keeping the same service area and certifying much in the way the Authority has previously (recently) done. Applicants would be tasked with completing additional questions, however, a section to be completed by a Certified Healthcare Professional would still be present.

Furthermore, an additional focus of FTA was for SRTA to specifically define ADA services—what is and what is not considered ADA service. ADA service is defined by Paratransit service that is operated within ¾ mile of a fixed bus route during any hour of the day that the fixed bus route is operated. Historical practice for the Authority is, once ADA certified, the client would be able to ride anywhere within the 10 communities during SRTA normal operating hours. Ultimately, SRTA has worked to define the ADA service properly in order to comply with FTA; yet broadly enough to continue to service SRTA customers in the way that the Authority historically has.

Due to the increase in length, the Board asks that SRTA connect with surrounding agencies such as, but not limited to, Senior Centers, Councils On Aging, Mass Rehab, Mass Commission of the Blind, and other like Social Service Agencies to bring awareness in the event that Applicants would be able to seek help in completing, if need be. The Board asks that a list of the aforementioned (and more) surrounding agencies be accompanied with the draft applications when provided to potential Applicants.

After brief examination, the Board voiced collective concern over the level of detail required (via questions) and asks that Mr. Arthur Frank (Legal Counsel) review the draft application from a legal standpoint. Mr. Frank acknowledges the concerns of privacy and will later review and forward comments to SRTA.

Due to the aforementioned concerns, the Board mentions the possibility of noting some sections as voluntary; of which SRTA will explore.

The Advisory Board Chair asks that this topic be included under “Old Business” for the next Advisory Board meeting and asks that the members of the Board take time to review the draft and gather input to then forward to and further discuss with SRTA. The Authority asks that the Board be mindful of the goal of presenting a final copy of the new and improved application at the Riders Committee Meeting that is set to take place in March.

The Town of Acushnet requests that a copy of the previous application / process be distributed.

(8) New Business

No new business to report.

(9) Logistics for the Next Advisory Board Meeting

The next SRTA Advisory Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 16th at 5:00PM in New Bedford; with the objective to reserve Room 314 of the New Bedford City Hall.

The City of New Bedford expresses their gratitude to the Authority for the timeliness and provision of 50 SRTA bus passes of which will be used in to incentivize participation with the annual point and time count for homelessness.

Mr. Frank expressed commendation of Mr. Erik Rousseau (Administrator) and his staff at SRTA for the excellent work and accomplishments as highlighted in the Standard Time’s Newspaper article. The Board offers their congratulations and ask that a copy of said article be distributed to the Board.

(10) Adjournment

**The Advisory Board Chair will declare to adjourn the meeting at 5:39PM.**