**Southeastern Regional Transit Authority Advisory Board Meeting**

Date: Thursday, March 28th, 2019

Location: Fall River Government Center

1 Government Center, First Floor Cafeteria

Fall River, MA 02720

(1) Call to Order

**The Advisory Board Chair called the meeting to order at 5:01PM EST.**

(2) Roll Call

Present:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| City of New Bedford | City of Fall River |
| Town of Somerset |  |

Absent:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Town of Acushnet | Town of Swansea |
| Town of Dartmouth | Town of Westport |
| Town of Fairhaven | Riders Representative |
| Town of Freetown | ADA Representative |
| Town of Mattapoisett |  |

Additional Attendees:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Erik Rousseau, SRTA | Arthur Frank, General Counsel |
| Kristen Sniezek, SRTA |  |
| Shayne Trimbell, SRTA |  |

(3) Approval of Minutes

**The motion was made (Fall River) and seconded (New Bedford) to approve the minutes from the previous February (02/21/2019) Advisory Board Meeting. So Voted.**

(4) Citizen’s Participation

No Citizen’s Participation.

(5) Service Report

Mr. Erik Rousseau (Administrator) presented the current SRTA Performance Dashboard Report, highlighting the unexpected decrease in fixed route ridership for February 2019 as compared to the prior February (2018). Considering the Authority had been experiencing an upward trend for ridership the first half of FY19, this unanticipated decrease will be closely monitored moving forward.

Additionally, Mr. Rousseau made note of the continually increasing demand response (paratransit) ridership.

(6) Civil Rights Update

Title VI: The Title VI Plan have been submitted and received concurrence. The new Plan is effective through 05/31/2019. The New Title VI Plan has been completed and uploaded to TrAMS and is awaiting concurrence.

EEO: The new EEO Plan for South Coast Transit Management was submitted on August 19th, 2017 and is approved through April 30th, 2020.

At this time, there is one pending EEO complaint that was filed through MCAD.

DBE: The SRTA DBE goals for Fiscal Year 2019 through Fiscal Year 2021 were submitted on July 31st, 2018 and are awaiting concurrence. The next semi-annual report is due June 1.

Environmental Justice: This is a requirement that SRTA has to engage the Public whenever there is a major project or route change. SRTA is constantly working to increase Public participation. If any Public input is needed, it will be reported to the Board as part of this report.

(7) Old Business

*Update on Task Force for RTA Performance and Funding:*

As discussed in prior meetings, the Authority was successful in receiving MassDOT discretionary funding with regard to two of the three applications that were previously submitted – thus being the extension of Night Service on the Fall River Route 5 and the New Bedford Route 8.

While no contact has been executed and the funds have yet to be disbursed, the Authority has begun both of these services with intentions of spending out the entirety of the funds.

(8) New Business

*FY20 Draft Budget:*

Provided with the meeting materials, Mr. Rousseau presented the high-level summary of the FY20 draft budget, emphasizing the unknown wage increases of the Operating Company as the current year is a Contract (CBA) negotiations year.

Meanwhile, the increase in Information Technology can be related to the onset of various maintenance contacts related to the recent ITS initiatives – fuel management, maintenance management and transit management.

Additionally, the Authority has asked the Operating Company to provide further justification for the proposed increase in Maintenance funding as well as questioned the Operating Company (Pension Actuary) to provide further analysis on the proposed increase in Pension funding – both Union and Non-Union.

This FY20 draft budget was presented to the SRTA Audit and Finance Committee – a subcommittee of the Advisory Board – on March 21st.

The Town of Somerset questioned the proposed decrease in Management Labor, which Mr. Rousseau noted is attributed to not filling the two positions originally sought by the Operating Company (in FY19) as well as a decrease in nighttime (second shift) Maintenance staff.

(9) Logistics for the Next Advisory Board Meeting

The next SRTA Advisory Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 18th in New Bedford, however, Mr. Rousseau shared the intention of polling the Advisory Board Members to gauge if a particular time would be more suitable and help facility attendance. Upon conclusion of the above-mentioned surveying, the time that is determined to be most convenient will be distributed.

(10) Adjournment

**The motion was made (Fall River) and seconded (New Bedford) to adjourn the meeting at 5:21PM EST.**