Southeastern Regional Transit Authority Advisory Board Meeting

Date: Thursday, April 19th, 2018

Location: Anthony S. Catojo Building, The New Bedford Art Museum

 608 Pleasant Street, Second Floor

 New Bedford, MA 02740

(1) Call to Order

**The Advisory Board Chair called the meeting to order at 5:07PM EST.**

(2) Roll Call

Present:

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| City of New Bedford | City of Fall River |
| Town of Fairhaven |  |

Absent:

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

Additional Attendees:

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

The City of New Bedford recommended to the Board that a memo be sent to the Board Representative of each community (Select Board Chair by default) outlining the importance of attendance at SRTA Advisory Board Meetings.

The Town of Fairhaven recommended to the Board that the aforementioned correspondence include an acknowledgement / denial request, as well as a reminder of the appointment of alternates.

(3) Approval of Minutes

**The motion was made (Fall River) and seconded (Fairhaven) to approve the minutes from the previous March (03/29/2017) Advisory Board Meeting. So Voted.**

(4) Citizen’s Participation

No Citizen’s Participation.

(5) Service Report

Mr. Erik Rousseau (Administrator) informed the Board of the upcoming performance study that will be performed on the New Bedford Route 1 (Fort Rodman), which will focus on the southern portion (South of Cove Road) of the route. While the New Bedford Route 1 is – statistically – one of the more successful SRTA system routes, the study will focus on the latter miles and ultimately be used to evaluate if the resources that are currently dedicated to that latter portion could be repositioned to be more efficient and effective.

In addition to the study, Mr. Rousseau noted the recent solution to the numerous complaints regarding Portland Street: East-facing stop sign as well as a West-facing stop sign at the Brock Ave and Rodney French Boulevard intersection, respectively. By incorporating such traffic control devices, the intersection effectively becomes moderately safer.

(6) Civil Rights Update

Title VI: The new Title VI Plan have been submitted and received concurrence. The new Plan is effective through 05/31/2019.

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 2016 through Fiscal Year 2018 were submitted and have been approved through September 30th, 2018. SRTA achieved their DBE goal of 2.2% for Federal Fiscal Year 2017.

SRTA’s DBE goal for Federal Fiscal Year 2018 will be 4.7% participation. The first reporting period of this federal fiscal year is due on June 1st, 2018.

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.

SRTA will hold an open forum to discuss the New Bedford Route 1 (Fort Rodman) on May 3rd, 2018 from 5:00PM to 7:00PM located at the Howland Green Library in New Bedford.

(7) Old Business

*Update on ADA Certification:*

SRTA continues to work with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and while there are no updates at this point, the Authority will continue to update the Board indefinitely.

*Update on FY19 Budget:*

Mr. Rousseau shared that the House budget is currently proposing an $80 million allocation to be split amongst the 15 Regional Transit Authority’s (RTA) in Massachusetts – which is a slight decrease from the Governor’s budgetary figure of $80.4 million for the RTA’s.

Furthermore, it was mentioned that there is currently an amendment on the floor (proposed by Representative Peak) advocating for the RTA allocation to be raised to $88 million, however, a second amendment on the floor (proposed by MassDOT through the minority chair) would entail new requirements of the RTA’s in order to allow for heightened oversight by the State (MassDOT).

Historically, the RTA’s have maintained their solidarity and longtime setup of being locally controlled by the Communities that they serve (versus the State) in order to better serve those Communities.

The City of New Bedford questioned the timeline that can be expected with regard to the State budgetary process, in which Mr. Rousseau noted that by early May, the RTA’s should have a clearer picture as to what may transpire.

Lastly, the Town of Fairhaven questioned the timeline of the SRTA FY2019 Budget, which is set to be reviewed and subsequently voted to be approved at the next Advisory Board Meeting to be held on May 31st.

(8) New Business

*FY18 Budget Adjustment:*

Mr. Rousseau presented the proposed FY18 Budget Adjustments to the Board, highlighting the increase in Fuel, which can be traced to the market / industry pricing as well as the decrease in overall Operations costs, which can be attributed to the (unexpected) decrease in health insurance, lower staffing levels, and more efficient maintenance tactics.

**The motion was made (Fall River) and seconded (Fairhaven) to approve the proposed FY2018 Budget Adjustments. So Voted.**

9) Logistics for the Next Advisory Board Meeting

The next SRTA Advisory Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 31st at 5:00PM in Fall River; with the objective to reserve the first floor cafeteria.

The City of New Bedford questioned the progress of the fulfillment of the Riders Representative Seat of the SRTA Advisory Board, in which Mr. Rousseau noted is still under the discretion of AFLCIO.

With regard to the Riders Representative Seat, the regulation states that the representative appointed to the Seat should be on a yearly rotating basis by Community, with five or more candidates (from the respective Community) being proposed.

(13) Adjournment

**The motion was made (Fall River) and seconded (Fairhaven) to adjourn the meeting at 5:27PM EST. So Voted.**