Southeastern Regional Transit Authority Advisory Board Meeting

Date: Thursday, May 31st, 2018

Location: Fall River Government Center (First Floor Cafeteria)

 1 Government Center

 Fall River, MA 02721

(1) Call to Order

**The Advisory Board Chair called the meeting to order at 5:00PM EST.**

(2) Roll Call

Present:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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:

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

(3) Approval of Minutes

**The motion was made (Fall River) and seconded (Fairhaven) to approve the minutes from the previous April (04/19/2018) Advisory Board Meeting. So Voted.**

(4) Citizen’s Participation

No Citizen’s Participation.

(5) Service Report

Mr. Erik Rousseau (Administrator) presented the SRTA Performance Dashboard Report to the Board – of which provides various Operational metrics for both modes of transportation (Fixed Route and Demand Response) on a month to month comparison.

As mentioned in prior meetings and shown on the Performance Dashboard Report, Fixed Route ridership (as a whole) continues to experience a slight decrease in ridership, however, this decrease has been lesser than that of the other Massachusetts Regional Transit Authority’s (RTA).

The City of New Bedford questioned the average decline in ridership of those Massachusetts’s RTA, which the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has shared that Region 1 – which includes Massachusetts – has experienced an overall 9% decrease in ridership this fiscal year (FY18).

In addition to the above, SRTA Demand Response, on the other hand, continues to increase at sizable rate – in both ridership and efficiency.

(6) Civil Rights Update

Title VI: The new Title VI Plan have been submitted and received approval. 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. If any Public input is needed, it will be reported to the Board as part of this report.

(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’s approach will be to move forward with the changes that have been made – of which will be brought to the Board at the next Advisory Board Meeting.

*FY19 Draft Budget:*

Mr. Rousseau presented the FY19 draft budget to the Board underlining only minor changes from the prior draft with emphasis on the addition of 4 part-time drivers (25 hours from 20 hours), the addition of 2 full-time drivers (original ask was 4), the decrease in overtime from 6% to 5.5%, and the increase in fuel. Taking into consideration the aforementioned increases and decreases, the bottom line budget figure has ultimately remained the same.

The City of Fall River questioned the effect of the additional driver’s on the previously mentioned growing Demand Response Service, of which the part-time drivers will be tasked to fill in on as-needed basis with regard to Demand Response.

**The motion was made (Fall River) and seconded (Fairhaven) to approve the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget of $18,967,075. So Voted.**

(8) New Business

*Update on Ongoing Service Change Evaluations:*

Mr. Shayne Trimbell (Director of Transit Planning) presented to the Board a number of recent and ongoing service-based evaluations centered on service changes that are currently under consideration, service changes that are currently in the planning process and potential service expansions of the future.

Highlights of the presentation include realigning the Fall River Route 14 to avoid highway travel, realigning the Fall River Route 2 to better serve Commonwealth Landing, additional night service on the New Bedford Route 8, Fall River Route 2, and the New Bedford Route 11, realigning the New Bedford Route 1 and New Bedford Route 5 (both servicing the South End of New Bedford) to increase efficiency, and the conceptual New Bedford South End Shuttle.

9) Logistics for the Next Advisory Board Meeting

The next SRTA Advisory Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 28th at 5:00PM in New Bedford; with the objective to reserve the Department of Planning, Housing and Community Development conference room – located diagonally across from City Hall, on the second floor of the Art Museum.

(13) Adjournment

**The motion was made (Fall River) and seconded (Fairhaven) to adjust the meeting at 5:42PM EST. So Voted.**