**Southeastern Regional Transit Authority Advisory Board Meeting**

Date: Thursday, August 16th, 2018

Location: Anthony S. Catojo Building, 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 | Town of Fairhaven (Late Arrival) |

Absent:

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

Additional Attendees:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Erik Rousseau, SRTA | Arthur Frank, General Counsel |
| John LeBert, SRTA |  |
| Shayne Trimbell, SRTA |  |

(3) Approval of Minutes

The approval of the minutes related to the previous May (05/31/2018) Advisory Board Meeting has been postponed.

(4) Citizen’s Participation

No Citizen’s Participation.

(5) Service Report

Mr. Erik Rousseau (Administrator) presented the Performance Dashboard and highlighted the recent, yet steady, increases in Demand Response ridership while pointing out that Fixed Route ridership has, for the most part, remained steady. When compared to the peer agencies (Massachusetts RTA’s), the SRTA has fared well as most of which have seen larger drop-offs in ridership.

Additionally, Mr. Rousseau emphasized the relevance of the aforementioned data to the soon to be created Regional Task Force (referenced later).

The City of New Bedford questioned the Demand Response ridership as it pertains to the other RTA’s, in which Mr. Rousseau noted that, in general, Demand Response ridership / service is growing universally – although not at the same rate as SRTA.

(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 2019 through Fiscal Year 2021 were submitted on July 31st, 2018. The previous SRTA DBE goals remain in effect until 09/30/2018.

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.

The City of New Bedford questioned the beginning date of the pending EEO (MCAD) complaint, which was stated to have originated in September 2017.

(7) Old Business

*Update on ADA Certification:*

Mr. Rousseau presented the updated and revised ADA Certification application, making note of the reduction in length (2 pages) when compared to the previous version. Mr. Rousseau shared that even with the reduction in the number of pages; the updated and revised application is far more detailed than the ADA Certification application that is currently in place and meets the criteria that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is seeking.

The City of New Bedford questioned if the presented application has been reviewed for legal purposes, in which SRTA General Counsel Arthur Frank confirmed that a successful examination has been completed.

The City of New Bedford asked that clarification regarding the acceptance of originals, copies, or faxed copies, be added to the application and that the once more updated application be revisited at a more well attended Advisory Board meeting.

*Update on Fall River (Swansea Mall) Route 14:*

Mr. Shayne Trimbell (Director of Transit Planning) shared that the public hearing for the potential route changes to the Fall River Route 14 (Swansea Mall) was held on May 29th. The final meeting report is currently pending; however, attendance was unusually high with comments generally centered on opposition to the change as well as service to Clifton Heights Rehabilitation facility.

Upon receipt of the final meeting report, the participant comments will be weighed against the technical analysis of the proposed route change before a final decision is made.

*Update on FY19 Budget:*

As mentioned, the approved FY19 budget has come with additional requirements passed down from the Commonwealth (MassDOT) – including, but not limited to, the aforementioned Regional Task Force. The additional requirements of the RTA’s are largely focused on performance, data, and analytics – in which SRTA currently incorporates into normal operations and planning.

With the FY19 budget, MassDOT has made an additional $4 million available to all of the RTA’s with the intent of having each RTA propose potential project(s) that could utilize said funding. SRTA’s current objective will be to propose three projects; adding later night service to the New Bedford Route 8, adding later night service to the Fall River Route 5, and establishing a connection to Providence with the help of RIPTA.

Mr. Rousseau noted, however, that in order to secure funding the additional funding for a potential project, an MOU would be signed – which would dictate / outline the performance standards that must be adhered to and monitored.

The Town of Fairhaven questioned the makeup of the Regional Task Force, which will be comprised of the following: three RTA Administrators appointed by the Governor, three RTA Administrators appointed by MARTA, one member from the House majority, one member from the House minority seat, one technical analyst appointed by the Governor, one Riders representative, one ADA representative, and will be chaired by the MassDOT Rail and Transit Administrator (Astrid Glynn).

(8) New Business

The City of New Bedford shared that the New Bedford Route 1 (South End) has been noted on the New Bedford City Council Agenda.

9) Logistics for the Next Advisory Board Meeting

The next SRTA Advisory Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 27th at 5:00PM in Fall River; with the objective to reserve the first floor cafeteria.

(13) Adjournment

**The Advisory Board Chair called the meeting to adjournment at 5:31PM EST.**