



Southeastern Regional Transit Authority (SRTA) Advisory Board Meeting

Date: Thursday, March 20, 2025

Location: Virtual Meeting via SRTA Microsoft Teams 2:00 PM

Call in Number: 1-929-523-2910; Access Code: 838 260 141#

Purpose: SRTA Advisory Board Meeting

(1) Call to Order

The Advisory Board Chair called the meeting to order at 2:01 PM EST.

(2) Roll Call

Present:

City of New Bedford (Jennifer Clarke)

City of Fall River (Ann O'Neil Souza)

Town of Dartmouth (Chris Vitale)

Town of Fairhaven (H. Bruce Webb)

Town of Mattapoisett (Michael Lorenzo)

Town of Swansea (Laurie Pimental)

Town of Westport (Richard Brewer)

ADA Representative (Dan Robillard)

Absent:

Town of Acushnet

Town of Freetown

Town of Somerset

Riders Representative

Additional Attendees:

Erik Rousseau, SRTA

Arthur Frank, General Counsel (SRTA)

Kristen Sniezek, SRTA

John LeBert, SRTA

Shayne Trimbell, SRTA

Corey Hebert, SRTA

Brendan Marden, SRTA

Martiza Aquino, SRTA

Daniel Brogan, SRPEDD

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(3) Approval of Minutes

Motion: The motion was made (Town of Dartmouth) and seconded (City of Fall River) to approve the minutes from the previous SRTA Advisory Board Meeting held on February 27, 2025.

Discussion: N/A

Vote:

For: Town of Dartmouth, City of Fall River, Town of Mattapoisett, City of New Bedford, Town of Westport

Status: Motion Passes

(4) Citizen's Participation

None.

(5) Civil Rights Update

Title VI:

The SRTA's current Title VI Plan has been submitted and is under FTA review and awaiting concurrence.

Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO):

The current EEO Policy Statement for the SRTA has been submitted and is under FTA review and awaiting concurrence.

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE):

The SRTA's current DBE Program Plan has been submitted and is under FTA review and awaiting concurrence.

The SRTA's current DBE Goal Plan has been submitted and is under FTA review and awaiting concurrence.

The most recent semi-annual report was submitted on December 1st and is under FTA review. The next semi-annual report is due June 1st.

Environmental Justice:

Environmental justice is a requirement that the SRTA must engage the public whenever there is a major project or route change.

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The SRTA is constantly working to increase public participation, and if any public input is needed, it will be conveyed to the Board as part of this report.

Public Hearings / Meetings:

None.

(6) Old Business

None.

(7) New Business

FY26 Draft Budget

Mr. Rousseau presented the fiscal year 2026 Operating Draft Budget. A highlight is that the Commonwealth's House budget level funds the regional transit authorities. This funding includes the "Try Transit" fare free pilot service, the Intercity Express service, Micro Connect service and all the service currently provided by the SRTA.

Mr. Rousseau also presented the budget summary which compares the FY26 Operations Plan versus the FY25 Year End projection. Ms. Clarke asked how long the term will be for the labor contract that will be entering into negotiation soon. Mr. Rousseau replied that historically the contract term is three years.

Ms. Pimental asked if the new labor contract will be expected to be executed by the start of the next fiscal year. Mr. Rousseau confirmed that the current contract will expire on June 30, 2025, but that negotiations typically go beyond July 1st. In this event, the operations would continue via a memorandum of understanding until the contract is executed.

Ms. Clarke asked how the appropriations for each community would be affected by the draft budget presented. Mr. Rousseau replied that the local assessment would just increase by 2.50% from last year's amount since no new service is being added.

(8) Logistics for the Next Advisory Board Meeting

As indicated on the agenda, the next Advisory Board Meeting for the Southeastern Regional Transit Authority is on May 22, 2025, at 2:00 PM.

(9) Adjournment

The Advisory Board Chair called the meeting to adjourn at 2:18 PM EST.

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