



Southeastern Regional Transit Authority (SRTA) Advisory Board Meeting

Date: Thursday, March 23rd, 2023
Location: Virtual Meeting via SRTA Microsoft Teams (2:00 PM)
Call in Number: 1-929-523-2910; Access Code: 853 463 217#
Purpose: SRTA Advisory Board Meeting

(1) Call to Order

The Advisory Board Chair called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM EST.

(2) Roll Call

Present:

City of New Bedford (Jennifer Clarke)	City of Fall River (Ann O'neil-Souza)
Town of Dartmouth (Shawn MacInnis)	Town of Fairhaven (Leon Correy)
Town of Mattapoisett (Michael Lorenzo)	Town of Westport (Richard Brewer)
Riders Representative (Dan Robillard)	

Absent:

Town of Acushnet	Town of Freetown
Town of Somerset	Town of Swansea
ADA Representative	

Additional Attendees:

Erik Rousseau, SRTA	Arthur Frank, General Counsel (SRTA)
Kristen Sniezek, SRTA	John LeBert, SRTA
Shayne Trimbell, SRTA	Corey Hebert, SRTA
Michelle Tavares, SRTA	Andrea Duarte
Paul Foley, Town of Fairhaven	

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(3) Approval of Minutes

Motion: The motion was made (Riders Representative) and seconded (Town of Westport) to approve the minutes from the previous SRTA Advisory Board Meeting held on February 16th, 2023.

Discussion: N/A

Vote:

For: City of Fall River, City of New Bedford, Town of Westport, Riders Representative

Status: Motion Passes

(4) Citizen's Participation

One citizen from Quincy, MA was in attendance. They called in to get more detail on the elimination of the DATTCO bus service. Mr. Rousseau explained that the decision to eliminate this service was not up to the SRTA. Currently the SRTA does not have the resources to replace the service that DATTCO is eliminating.

(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 EEO Plan for South Coast Transit Management (SCTM) has been submitted and is under FTA review and awaiting concurrence.

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE):

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.

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

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Environmental Justice:

Environmental justice is a requirement that the SR TA must engage the public whenever there is a major project or route change. The SR TA 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:

SR TA will be hosting public engagement at the New Bedford Terminal Thursday, March 30, 2023, for the New Bedford Bus Service Evaluation project.

(6) Old Business

None.

(7) New Business

Appoint ADA Representative

Mr. Rousseau made a recommendation to the board to appoint Mr. Robillard as the ADA representative.

Motion: The motion was made (Town of Westport) and seconded (City of Fall River) to appoint Dan Robillard as the ADA Representative.

Discussion: N/A

Vote:

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

Status: Motion Passes

FY24 Draft Budget Discussion

Mr. Rousseau presented the highlights of the fiscal year 2024 draft budget. State Contract Assistance is budgeted according to the House 1 budget draft laid out by the Governor of Massachusetts and includes a nearly 9.0% increase in formula funding for the state transit authorities. Local Assessments also increased by 2.5%. The SR TA will utilize the remaining \$1.99 million of allocated CARES Funds in the upcoming year, in addition to Section 5307 Operating Assistance. Mr. Rousseau further presented some budget assumptions such as the decrease in medical insurance costs for the operator, increase in pension expense, increase in operating revenue, and decrease in fuel expense. The Pro-Forma Budgets for future fiscal years was also presented and Mr. Rousseau explained that at current funding levels, it will be difficult to maintain the SR TA's current level of service.

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(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 Thursday, April 27th, 2023, at 2:00 PM.

(9) Adjournment

The Advisory Board Chair called the meeting to adjourn at 2:24 PM EST.

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