



## **Southeastern Regional Transit Authority (SRTA) Advisory Board Meeting**

**Date:** Thursday, April 25, 2024  
**Location:** Virtual Meeting via SRTA Microsoft Teams (2:00 PM)  
Call in Number: 1-929-523-2910; Access Code: 287 264 711#  
**Purpose:** SRTA Advisory Board Meeting

### (1) Call to Order

**The Advisory Board Chair called the meeting to order at 2:02 PM EST.**

### (2) Roll Call

#### **Present:**

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| City of New Bedford (Jennifer Clarke) | City of Fall River (Seth Aitken)       |
| Town of Dartmouth (Chris Vitale)      | Town of Mattapoisett (Michael Lorenzo) |
| Town of Somerset (Jacob Vaught)       | Town of Westport (Richard Brewer)      |
| ADA Representative (Dan Robillard)    |  |

#### **Absent:**

|                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Town of Acushnet      | Town of Fairhaven |
| Town of Freetown      | Town of Swansea   |
| 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  | Michelle Tavares, SRTA               |
| Lisa Estrella         |                                      |

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(3) Approval of Minutes

**Motion:** The motion was made (Town of Dartmouth) and seconded (ADA Representative) to approve the minutes from the previous SRTA Advisory Board Meeting held on March 21, 2024.

**Discussion:** N/A

**Vote:**

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

**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 SRTA's current EEO Plan 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:*

The SRTA will hold public hearings at 3:00 PM on May 1, 2024, at the Fall River Terminal and at 3:00 PM on May 2, 2024, at the New Bedford Public Library 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor. Written comments will be accepted through May 20, 2024. The SRTA is seeking comments on the proposed service changes in Fall River, the Fare Free pilot, and the Sunday Service pilot.

(6) Old Business

*FY25 Draft Budget*

Mr. Rousseau presented the FY25 Draft Budget Notes and Budget Assumptions. Highlights included the increased cost and plan to hire security at each terminal as well as the increase in local assessments. The change in local assessments is inclusive of a 2.5% yearly increase as well as 50% of the cost of the Sunday Service.

Ms. Clarke asked for clarification on the difference between the FY23 Cost of Service by Community versus the FY23 Local Assessment. Mr. Rousseau confirmed the difference is due to the cap on how much local assessments can increase each year. The FY23 local assessment is what will appear on the FY25 Cherry Sheet.

Mr. Rousseau continued by presenting the FY25 Local Assessment which also included the cost of Sunday Service by community. Ms. Clarke asked how the cost of Sunday Service was calculated and Mr. Rousseau responded by presenting the Breakdown of the Sunday Service Cost which was part of the FY25 Local Assessment Calculation document. This document was shared with all Advisory Board members.

Mr. Rousseau also shared that the FY25 federal funding that can be flexed to operations for the SRTA is \$9.6 million. Level funding is being projected for State Contract Assistance. The SRTA is budgeting to \$11.2 million for total federal grants.

(7) New Business

*Fall River Service Adjustments*

Mr. Trimbell presented proposed changes to routes 105, 104, and 108 in Fall River as well as the analysis that impacted the decision to make these changes. The documents that share the detail of each route change have been shared with each member of the Advisory Board.

Mr. Robillard asked if any of the route changes would eliminate service to the Truesdale Clinic. Mr. Trimbell replied that the route changes would not eliminate service to the Truesdale Clinic.

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*Proposed Update to Public Comment Guidelines*

Mr. Rousseau presented the proposed policy that addresses public comment at SRTA Advisory Board Committee Meetings. This policy would be voted to be adopted in the next Advisory Board meeting.

Mr. Robillard asked what changes would be made to the current policy. Attorney Frank described some of the changes that would take place and the reason these changes/updates would be made. The proposed policy document has been shared with each member of the Advisory Board.

Mr. Brewer asked if the proposed policy would impact any selectboard meetings in any of the communities where a SRTA Advisory Board member would be a part of. Ms. Clarke replied that this proposed policy would not impact any city/town meetings, only SRTA Advisory Board meetings.

(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 30, 2024, at 2:00 PM.

(9) Adjournment

**The Advisory Board Chair called the meeting to adjourn at 2:43 PM EST.**

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