



Southeastern Regional Transit Authority (SRTA) Advisory Board Meeting

Date: Thursday, September 28th, 2023
Location: Virtual Meeting via SRTA Microsoft Teams (2:00 PM)
Call in Number: 1-929-523-2910; Access Code: 682 679 573#
Purpose: SRTA Advisory Board Meeting

(1) Call to Order

The Advisory Board Chair called the meeting to order at 2:06 PM EST.

(2) Roll Call

Present:

City of New Bedford (Jennifer Clarke)	Town of Dartmouth (Chris Vitale)
Town of Fairhaven (Leon Correy)	Town of Mattapoisett (Michael Lorenzo)
Town of Westport (Richard Brewer)	ADA Representative (Dan Robillard)

Absent:

City of Fall River	Town of Acushnet
Town of Freetown	Town of Somerset
Town of Swansea	Riders Representative

Additional Attendees:

Erik Rousseau, SRTA	Arthur Frank, General Counsel (SRTA)
Kristen Sniezek, SRTA	John LeBert, SRTA
Shayne Trimbell, SRTA	Martiza Aquino, SRTA
Brendan Marden, SRTA	Corey Hebert, SRTA
Michelle Tavares, SRTA	Lisa Estrella

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(3) Approval of Minutes

Due to the lack of a quorum, the approval of the minutes from the June 22, 2023, Advisory Board meeting will take place at the next Advisory Board meeting.

(4) Citizen's Participation

None.

(5) Civil Rights Update

Title VI:

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

The SR TA'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 June 1st and is under FTA review. The next semi-annual report is due December 1st.

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:

N/A – No scheduled Public Hearings or Meetings.

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(6) Old Business

None.

(7) New Business

FY23 Audit Presentation

Due to the lack of a quorum, the FY23 Audit Presentation along with the acceptance of the audit will take place at the next Advisory Board meeting.

New Bedford Comprehensive Operational Assessment

Mr. Trimbell presented the proposed alignment changes that were a result of the New Bedford Comprehensive Operational Assessment. The independent alignment changes would impact Route 9, Route 205, Route 208, Route 210, and Route 211. The interdependent alignment changes would impact Route 206, Route 203, Route 221, and Route 204. The details of the presentation have been provided to the members of the board.

FY24 Budget Update

Mr. Rousseau presented a brief summary of updates to the FY24 budget. In the final FY24 state budget, the legislature, with the support of the Governor, has significantly increased funding for Regional Transit Authorities. The increase includes additional formula funds for the SRTA to support the annual operating expenses, new discretionary grant opportunities, and funding to pilot fare-free service for up to 6 months. The additional funding can support a Sunday service pilot for SRTA until the end of the year. It is important to note that should the pilot become permanent, there would be a corresponding matching local assessment to support the continuation of service. The SRTA will be working to apply for the 6 month fare-free pilot funding to begin January 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024.

(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 October 26th, 2023 at 2:00 PM.

(9) Adjournment

The Advisory Board Chair called the meeting to adjourn at 3:04 PM EST.

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