



Southeastern Regional Transit Authority (SRTA) Advisory Board Meeting

Date: Thursday, September 29th, 2022

Location: Virtual Meeting via SRTA Cisco WebEx (2:00 PM)

Call in Number: 1-408-418-9388; Access Code: 2632 629 2889; Password 37577654

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 T. Aitken)

Town of Fairhaven (Leon Correy)

Town of Westport (Richard Brewer)

Town of Dartmouth (Cody Haddad)

Town of Somerset (Jacob Vaught)

Riders Representative (Dan Robillard)

Absent:

Town of Acushnet

Town of Freetown

Town of Mattapoisett

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

Maritza Aquino, SRTA

Michelle Tavares, SRTA

Lisa Leonard (Town of Acushnet)

Jen Chaves, SRPEDD

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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 June 23rd, 2022.

Discussion: N/A

Vote:

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

Status: Motion Passes

(4) Citizen's Participation

No Citizen's Participation.

(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 June 1st and is under FTA review. The next semi-annual report is due December 1st, 2022.

The SRTA's current DBE Program Plan received FTA concurrence in September 2017.

Environmental Justice:

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

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A public hearing regarding the SRTA bus stop study will be held on Tuesday, October 4th, 2022, at the Fall River Terminal. Public outreach will also take place in regard to the Fall River service assessment on October 18th, 2022.

(6) Old Business

No Old Business.

(7) New Business

FY22 Audit Discussion

Mr. Rousseau (SRTA) presented the results of the fiscal year 2022 audit conducted by Hague, Sahady & Co. A clean opinion has been issued from Hague, Sahady & Co. for the FY22 financial statements and the single audit. SRTA's net position increased by \$1,091,810.00 on the GAAP basis of accounting and SRTA spent 1.80% less than expected from a budgetary perspective. Mr. Rousseau shared some of the financial highlights from page 7 of the audit presentation as well. The Federal CARES Act funding was used for operating assistance in FY22, and remaining funds will be used in future fiscal years as part of the pandemic recovery. Capital assistance decreased due to the timing of capital improvement. Mr. Rousseau also shared some additional budgetary highlights from page 66 of the audit presentation.

Mr. Brewer (Town of Westport) asked for clarification on what comprises the Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB). Mr. Rousseau asked Mrs. Sniezek (SRTA) to provide this clarification. Mrs. Sniezek explained that the OPEB is made up of accommodations for medical insurance, dental insurance, and life insurance plans.

Motion: The motion was made (Town of Westport) and seconded (Riders Representative) to accept the FY22 Audit.

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

Discussion: N/A

Status: Motion Passes

Discussion of NB Route 2 Whaler's Cove Deviation

Mr. Trimbell gave a presentation on the Whaler's Cove Deviation that is part of the bus route 2. Bus route 2 is considered one of the busiest routes in the entire system and some statistics were shared to substantiate that claim. Statistics were also shared showing how under utilized the Whaler's Cove Deviation is. The Whaler's Cove Deviation has an operational impact and causes delays on both the route 1 and route 2. The SRTA would like to propose eliminating the Whaler's Cove Deviation for these reasons. Mr. Vaught (Town of Somerset) asked if there would be any additional inbound/ outbound trips gained or any cost savings

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from eliminating this deviation. Mr. Trimbell explained that additional time for layovers would be gained, but any cost savings would be minimal. Mr. Brewer asked if there would be public outreach. Mr. Trimbell explained that due to the minor nature of eliminating the deviation, a formal public outreach would not be needed to comply with Title VI. Notices would be posted on the busses and in the terminals. Ms. Clarke (City of New Bedford) had contacted the Mayor of New Bedford's office in regard to the elimination of the Whaler's Cove Deviation and proposed that the Board defer this vote to the next Advisory Board meeting.

Mr. Rousseau also added that a "Shopper's Special" service has been offered to those that would be impacted by the elimination of the deviation. This service would bring riders to Market Basket or Walmart and the service has had mixed results.

Ms. Clarke asked if there any other stops along the Whaler's Cove Deviation or if it was just one stop. Mr. Trimbell confirmed it was just one bus stop.

Motion: The motion was made (Town of Somerset) and seconded (Town of Westport) to table the vote to eliminate the Whaler's Cove Deviation, but due to a loss of a quorum right before the motion, the subsequent vote to table was voided and the mater remained open as no action was taken.

(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, October 27th, 2022, at 2:00 PM.

(9) Adjournment

The Advisory Board Chair called the meeting to adjourn at 2:33 PM EST.