



Southeastern Regional Transit Authority (SRTA) Advisory Board Meeting

Date: Tuesday, October 29, 2024
Location: Virtual Meeting via SRTA Microsoft Teams 11:00 AM
Call in Number: 1-929-523-2910; Access Code: 890 713 757#
Purpose: SRTA Advisory Board Meeting

(1) Call to Order

The Advisory Board Chair called the meeting to order at 11:01 AM 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 Westport (Richard Brewer)	ADA Representative (Dan Robillard)

Absent:

Town of Acushnet	Town of Fairhaven
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	Corey Hebert, SRTA
Brendan Marden, SRTA	Maritza Aquino, SRTA
Michelle Tavares, SRTA	Daniel Brogan, SRPEDD

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(3) Approval of Minutes

Motion: The motion was made (ADA Representative) and seconded (Town of Westport) to approve the minutes from the previous SRTA Advisory Board Meeting held on September 26, 2024.

Discussion: N/A

Vote:

For: 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 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 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 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

FY24 Audit

Mrs. Sniezek presented the SRTA's independent auditors' report which showed that the auditors issued a clean opinion on the financial statements. There was about a \$1.7 million increase in net position for fiscal year 2024. The FY24 operating plan was presented which showed about \$600,000 of federal funding not used in FY24 which can be used in FY25. This was due to expenses being lower than anticipated in FY24. The auditors also issued a clean opinion for the SRTA's use of and accounting for federal funds.

Mr. Brewer asked what percentage the SRTA covers for medical costs for its retirees. Mrs. Sniezek responded that SRTA covers 75% of medical costs and 100% of dental costs.

Ms. Clarke asked if the SRTA's position is comparable to other regional transit authorities in Massachusetts. Mrs. Sniezek responded that it depends on the funding that is available. The SRTA has applied for and received competitive grants which has had a positive impact on the SRTA's net position. Mr. Rousseau also responded that the 40 hybrid buses that the SRTA is receiving to replace a large portion of its fleet, that is past useful life, is an example of how the competitive grants are impacting the SRTA.

Motion: The motion was made (ADA Representative) and seconded (Town of Dartmouth) to accept the fiscal year 2024 audit as presented.

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

SRTA 50th Anniversary Celebration

Mr. Rousseau reminded the advisory board that the SRTA 50th Anniversary Celebration will take place at University of Massachusetts Dartmouth on Friday, November 1, 2024, at 10:00 AM.

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(7) New Business

None.

(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 to be determined.

(9) Adjournment

The Advisory Board Chair called the meeting to adjourn at 11:16 AM EST.

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