



Southeastern Regional Transit Authority Advisory Board Meeting

Date: Thursday, January 16th, 2020
Location: Fall River Government Center
1 Government Center, First Floor Cafeteria
Fall River, MA 02720

(1) Call to Order

The Advisory Board Chair called the meeting to order at 11:00AM EST.

(2) Roll Call

Present:

City of New Bedford (Tabitha Harkin)	City of Fall River (John Perry)
Town of Dartmouth (Deborah Melino-Wender)	Town of Swansea (Bernadette Huck)

Absent:

Town of Acushnet	Town of Somerset
Town of Fairhaven	Town of Westport
Town of Freetown	Riders Representative
Town of Mattapoissett	ADA Representative

Additional Attendees:

Erik Rousseau, SRTA	Arthur Frank, General Counsel
Kristen Sniezek, SRTA	
John LeBert, SRTA	

(3) Approval of Minutes

The motion was made (Dartmouth) and seconded (Fall River) to approve the minutes from the previous November (11/21/2019) Advisory Board Meeting. So Voted.

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(4) Citizen's Participation

A resident of Fall River questioned if the Riders Representative position of the SRTA Advisory Board has been filled, in which Mr. Rousseau stated that the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) recently reached out to nominate an individual.

A resident of Fall River questioned when the Advisory Board meeting materials (i.e. Agenda) are posted to the website, in which Mr. Rousseau stated that while the goal is to do so far in advance of the meeting, the Authority is only required to do so at least 48 hours before the date/time of the meeting.

(5) Service Report

Mr. Erik Rousseau (Administrator) highlighted the vast amount of data that is being collected by the recently implemented Transit Management Technologies (TMT) system. This data is currently – and will continuously be – under review and will be used to aid the Authority in making data driven decisions as it relates to service delivery.

Using said data, Mr. Shayne Trimbell (Director of Transit Planning) has been working with the Authority's Operator (SCTM) in order to adjust / fine tune the schedule to better align with the intermediary stop times. Overall, the feedback from the Operator has been positive.

Additionally, Mr. Rousseau shared that a presentation regarding FY19 ridership will be brought to the next Advisory Board meeting.

(6) Civil Rights Update

Title VI: The previous Title VI Plan for the SRTA expired on May 31, 2019, however, the new Title VI Plan was completed and uploaded (on time) to TrAMS and is awaiting concurrence. This new Plan would be in effect until May 31, 2022.

EEO: The new EEO Plan for South Coast Transit Management (SCTM) was submitted on August 19th, 2017 and is approved through April 30th, 2020. The SRTA will be working with SCTM in the coming months to update (as needed) and resubmit.

DBE: The SRTA DBE Goal Methodology for Federal Fiscal Year 2019 through Federal Fiscal Year 2021 was submitted on July 31st, 2018 and is currently awaiting concurrence. The SRTA's most recent Semi-Annual Reporting (December 1) has been approved, with the next Semi-Annual Reporting being due June 1.

The SRTA's DBE (Disadvantage Business Enterprise) Plan does currently have concurrence, however, SRTA will be issuing a revised Plan in the coming months.

Environmental Justice: This is a requirement that the SRTA has to engage the Public whenever there is a major project or route change. The SRTA is constantly working to increase Public participation. If any Public input is needed, it will be reported to the Board as part of this report.

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(7) Old Business

FY20 & FY21 MassDOT MOU Update:

Included with the meetings materials, Mr. Rousseau presented the metrics that are currently being reported to MassDOT with regard to the night service on the New Bedford Route 11 (NB11), New Bedford Route 8 (NB8), and the Fall River Route 5 (FR5). Thus far, the Authority is trending toward achieving the goals that were set forth in both the Application as well as MOU. The Authority will continue to provide status updates on each of the aforementioned projects, as needed.

FY20 Competitive Grant Opportunities Update:

Included with the meeting materials, Mr. Rousseau presented the award letter from MassDOT with regard to the Authority's application for funding of a Fixed Route Sunday Service Pilot.

As outlined in the letter, the SRTA was awarded \$318,181 for a Fixed Route Sunday Service Pilot, however, as outlined in the application, the cost to provide said Sunday Service for one year amounts to \$894,110.40 less \$85,173.40 in expected fares for a net cost of \$808,937.

Given the limited funding, and after thorough review of alternatives, the SRTA is proposing to run the Fixed Route Sunday Service Pilot from August 2020 to November 2020, with the hope of stretching to December 2020 – of which the latter would partially be dependent on the possibility of adding in Local Assessments from the Communities.

This delayed start would allow for August to act as a “burn-in” period to the subsequent busier months of September and October – the true test. Additionally, this would also allow the Operator (SCTM) ample time to hire the additional drivers that would be required.

The motion was made (Dartmouth) and seconded (Fall River) to proceed with the next steps for the presumed 4-month Sunday Service Pilot.

Should this initiative commence, the City of Fall River stressed the importance of outlining the timeline of the Pilot with any sort of informational outreach or advertising / marketing.

(8) New Business

Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) recently enacted the Public Transportation Agency Plan (PTASP) Final Rule, which requires Transit Agencies to implement an approved Agency Safety Plan by July 20th, 2020. These Plans will be designed to be comprehensive (all inclusive) as it relates to industry safety means.

Given the reporting tier that the SRTA falls into, MassDOT is required to support these efforts. In doing so, MassDOT has procured a contractor / consultant (Cambridge Systematics) that will be assisting with the development of said Plan.

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The SRTA has submitted the initial data request and is awaiting feedback and next steps.

(9) Logistics for the Next Advisory Board Meeting

The next SRTA Advisory Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for 10:30AM on February 27th in New Bedford, with the intention of reserving the Ashley Room or Room 314 at the New Bedford City Hall.

The subsequent SRTA Advisory Board meeting would be tentatively scheduled for March 26th in Fall River – and would include the SRTA FY21 budget presentation.

(10) Adjournment

The motion was made (Fall River) and seconded (Dartmouth) to adjourn the meeting at 11:09AM EST.

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