



**Southeastern Regional Transit Authority Advisory Board Meeting**

Date: Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
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 10:30AM EST.**

(2) Roll Call

Present:

City of New Bedford	City of Fall River
Town of Dartmouth	Town of Swansea (10:40AM)

Absent:

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

Additional Attendees:

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

(3) Approval of Minutes

**The motion was made (Fall River) and seconded (New Bedford) to approve the minutes from the previous May (05/23/2019) Advisory Board Meeting. Abstain (Dartmouth) So Voted.**

(4) Citizen's Participation

No Citizen's Participation.

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## (5) Service Report

Mr. Erik Rousseau (Administrator) presented the current SRTA Performance Dashboard Report and Ridership Summary Report, highlighting the overall steadiness of Fixed Route ridership in addition to the sustained increase of Demand Response ridership.

Additionally, Mr. Rousseau made note of the continued outreach efforts by both the SRTA Customer Service Manager / ADA Coordinator (Maritza Aquino) as well as the Operator (SouthCoast Transit Management, Inc.) in maintaining the Demand Response growth.

## (6) Civil Rights Update

DBE: SRTA will be issuing a revised DBE (Disadvantage Business Enterprise) Plan in the coming months in order to comply with Transit Vehicle Manufacturer reporting guidelines.

## (7) Old Business

No Old Business.

## (8) New Business

*FY19 Audit:*

**The motion was made (Fall River) and seconded (Dartmouth) to accept the Fiscal Year 2019 Audit as recommended by the SRTA Audit and Finance Committee. So Voted.**

*FY20 & FY21 MassDOT MOU:*

Provided with the meeting materials, Mr. Rousseau presented the Bi-Lateral Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreement that the SRTA has entered into with MassDOT, as required by the Legislature.

The duration of this Agreement (MOU) is set for two (2) fiscal years and, as outlined in said document, SRTA has effectively worked with MassDOT to establish the performance standards as well as to develop the baseline metrics and (future) target metrics.

The City of Fall River questioned the consequences the Authority would face should the target metrics not be met, in which Mr. Rousseau informed the Board that while not entirely ironed out, the current manner is for an agreed upon Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) to be implemented.

As part of this MOU, the SRTA will be working with the Southeastern Regional Planning & Economic Development District (SRPEDD) to conduct a Fare Study as well as develop an updated Fare Policy, both of which will be presented to the Board upon completion.

Additionally, also as part of this MOU, MassDOT is planning to onboard a Consultant in order to cultivate an updated Comprehensive Regional Transit Plan (RTP) for the Regional Transit Authorities.

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*FY20 Competitive Grant Opportunities:*

SRTA recently submitted an application for a Workforce Development Grant for an express service between New Bedford and Fall River. This express service utilize the highway in order to trim travel time down to roughly 60 minutes – as opposed to the current (traditional) fixed route travel time of 90 minutes.

Additionally, SRTA has also recently submitted an application for competitive funding that would be used to fund a pilot service for Fixed Route service on Sunday.

The Town of Swansea questioned whether similar funding opportunities are available to the Cities and Towns, in which Mr. Rousseau pointed out that the Community Transit Grant Program (CTGP) is inclusive of Municipalities and said application/award process typically takes place around the March timeframe.

*Other Business (Peer to Peer Agencies):*

The Town of Swansea questioned if the Authority has looked into alternative payment methods for Demand Response fares such as those offered with Human Services Transportation (HST). Currently, SRTA is not a State broker for HST; however, the Greater Attleboro Taunton Regional Authority (GATRA) is the State broker for the South Coast area.

(9) Logistics for the Next Advisory Board Meeting

The next SRTA Advisory Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for 10:30AM on October 17<sup>th</sup> in New Bedford, with the intention of reserving Room 314 at the New Bedford City Hall.

(10) Adjournment

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

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