



Southeastern Regional Transit Authority (SRTA) Advisory Board Meeting

Date: Thursday, May 27th, 2021
Location: Virtual Meeting via SRTA Cisco WebEx (10:30AM)
Call in Number: 1-408-418-9388; Access Code: 132 260 9444; Password: 996 87 279
Purpose: FY21 SRTA Advisory Board

(1) Call to Order

The Advisory Board Chair called the meeting to order at 10:31AM EST.

(2) Roll Call

Present:

City of New Bedford (Jennifer Clarke)	City of Fall River (Mayor Paul Coogan)
Town of Fairhaven (Paul Foley)	City of Fall River (John Perry)
Town of Dartmouth (Cody Haddad)	Riders Representative (Dan Robillard)

Absent:

Town of Acushnet	Town of Mattapoisett
Town of Freetown	Town of Westport
Town of Somerset	ADA Representative
Town of Swansea	

Additional Attendees:

Erik Rousseau, SRTA	Arthur Frank, General Counsel (SRTA)
Kristen Sniezek, SRTA	Lilia Cabral-Bernard, SRPEDD
John LeBert, SRTA	
Shayne Trimbell, SRTA	
Nancy Rezendes, SRTA	
Maritza Aquino, SRTA	

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(3) Approval of Minutes

Motion: The motion was made (Riders Representative) and seconded (Town of Dartmouth) to approve the minutes, as amended, from the previous April (04/29/2021) SRTA Advisory Board Meeting.

Discussion: N/A

Vote:

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

Status: Motion Passes

(4) Citizen's Participation

No Citizen's Participation.

(5) Civil Rights Update

Title VI:

The SRTA's 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 DBE goals for FFY19-FFY21 has been submitted and is under FTA review and awaiting concurrence.

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

The next semi-annual report is due June 1, 2021.

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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The Authority intends to schedule a public hearing regarding the service adjustments for the New Bedford Route 5 (NB5), New Bedford Route 6 (NB6), and Fall River Route 6 (FR6). This meeting is currently targeted for late June, however, more information will be forthcoming.

(6) Old Business

Fare Discussion:

In review of the data since the April 1 reinstatement, Mr. Erik Rousseau (Administrator) shared that the Authority's previous projections – regarding both ridership and fare collection – were in line with the experiences to date. Because of this accuracy, the Authority is well-positioned for further projections.

As requested by the City of New Bedford, the Authority will explore the possibility of creating a flier or posting outlining the present fare changes – and future fare plans – that could be distributed to local agencies such as the Continuum of Care (CoC) for the city of New Bedford, city of Fall River, Bristol County, and Greater Attleboro area. As a follow-up, Mr. Rousseau requested that a detailed list of interested parties be shared to ensure that the Authority's efforts are targeted appropriately.

COVID-19 Response (<http://www.srtabus.com/covid19>):

As requested at the previous meeting – and included with the meeting materials – Mr. Rousseau presented the *Pre-Pandemic and Pandemic Ridership* comparison document, as prepared by Mr. Shayne Trimbell (Director – Transit Planning).

In response to the Rider Representative inquiry regarding the variance between May 2020 (71,975) and May 2019 (244,445), Mr. Rousseau shared that the ridership figures shown are accurate and – under normal operating conditions or outside of a pandemic – May is often a high ridership month.

The City of Fall River questioned the varying level of differences between March (2021 to 2020) and April (2021 to 2020), of which can be attributed to the Authority maintaining full operations for the first half of March 2020 – leading up until the shutdown.

FY22 Budget:

As stated by Mr. Rousseau, the SRTA Audit and Finance Committee convened on May 13 to review and discuss the proposed FY22 Budget. At this time, it was asked that the Authority provide additional information regarding the 10% reduction in budget assumptions for medical insurance.

As requested, the reduction can be attributed to a number of factors including the change in insurance brokers, the positive experience ratings (historical exposure), as well as the change in assumption tactics for number of employees under each plan type – Single, Family, Opt-Out, etc. The latter of which was modified to reflect

As requested by the Rider Representative – and generated from Consumer Advisory Board discussions – the Authority will examine the possibility of beginning earlier Demand Response service on Sunday.

Note: Current Demand Response operating hours on Sunday are 9:00AM to 6:00PM (EST).

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Motion: The motion was made (Riders Representative) and seconded (Town of Dartmouth) to adopt the SRTA Fiscal Year 2022 budget as presented in the amount of \$22,423,744, which is inclusive of an additional \$28,750 in Local Assessment to the City of Fall River designated for the Fall River Route 5 (FR5) night service.

Discussion:

The City of New Bedford questioned the calculation method for the Budget number (\$22,423,744), of which Mr. Rousseau shared is: Total Operating Revenue (\$2,201,536) plus Anticipated Federal, State, and Local Aide (\$20,222,208).

The Riders Representative questioned the timing of the increase in Local Assessment to the City of Fall River for the Fall River Route 5 (FR5), of which can be attributed to the end of the pilot program funding.

Vote:

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

Status: Motion Passes

(7) New Business

Comprehensive Regional Transit Plan 2021 (www.srtabus.com/csa/):

Found on the SRTA's website, Mr. Rousseau shared with the Board the recent completion and publishment of the SRTA's *Comprehensive Regional Transit Plan (CRTP) 2021*. The CRTP was produced with the assistance of the selected MassDOT contractor, AECOM. Derived from this plan, the SRTA's goals and next steps include the procuring and onboarding of additional planning assistance (i.e. consultant) to support efforts such as a bus stop analysis / plan for the Authority's approximately 1,200 bus stop locations. Additionally, and as questioned by the Town of Fairhaven, the Authority's short-term goals are to continue to examine and improve upon On-Time Performance (OTP) for Fixed Route services.

Note: The Advisory Board Chair encouraged all Board members to review the CRTP, which can be downloaded from the Authority's website (www.srtabus.com/csa/).

In response to the Town of Fairhaven's question of reference to the South Coast Rail (SCR) in the CRTP, Mr. Rousseau advised that the Plan is largely focused on the SRTA / SRTA services.

Inquired by the City of New Bedford, the Authority recently embarked on a formal RFQ solicitation process for an planning consultant / firm – of which was largely based around the intent to further examine and utilized the vast amount of data from recent transit technologies (Intelligent Transportation Systems, ITS). As a follow up, the Authority will share the scope of services that was included with the solicitation document.

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(8) Logistics for the Next Advisory Board Meeting

The next Advisory Board Meeting for the Southeastern Regional Transit Authority will be held on Monday, June 14th at 2:00PM. Consistent with past meetings, this meeting will be held remotely – and the focus will be on FY21 Budget updates.

(9) Adjournment

The Advisory Board Chair called the meeting to adjournment at 11:07AM EST.

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