



Southeastern Regional Transit Authority (SRTA) Advisory Board Meeting

Date: Thursday, May 30, 2024
Location: Virtual Meeting via SRTA Microsoft Teams (2:00 PM)
Call in Number: 1-929-523-2910; Access Code: 906 286 54#
Purpose: SRTA Advisory Board Meeting

(1) Call to Order

The Advisory Board Chair called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM EST.

(2) Roll Call

Present:

City of New Bedford (Jennifer Clarke)	City of Fall River (Seth Aitken)
Town of Dartmouth (Chris Vitale)	Town of Fairhaven (Andrew Romano)
Town of Mattapoisett (Katie Desrosiers)	Town of Westport (Richard Brewer)
ADA Representative (Dan Robillard)	

Absent:

Town of Acushnet	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	Lisa Estrela, SRPEDD
Jennifer Chaves, SRPEDD	

Serving the Communities of

Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Fall River, Freetown, Mattapoisett, New Bedford, Somerset, Swansea, Westport

700 Pleasant St., Suite 530, New Bedford, MA 02740
srtabus.com, (P) 508-999-5211 (F) 508-993-9196

(3) Approval of Minutes

Motion: The motion was made (City of Fall River) and seconded (ADA Representative) to approve the minutes from the previous SRTA Advisory Board Meeting held on April 25, 2024.

Discussion: N/A

Vote:

For: Town of Dartmouth, City of Fall River, City of New Bedford, Town of Westport, ADA Representative

Status: Motion Passes

(4) Citizen's Participation

Corinn Williams, the Executive Director of the Community Economic Development Center (CEDC) and a resident of New Bedford, expressed the importance of continuing the Fare Free and Sunday Service pilots. Ms. Williams also shared that there has been a large amount of positive feedback from the community.

Sebastiana Raymundo, a rider of the fixed route bus system, expressed how important public transportation is to the community and how important the Fare Free pilot is to her family. The Fare Free pilot has allowed her whole family to travel to church and learn their way around the city of New Bedford. She further explained that students who live outside the range of the school bus would have access to transportation to school and families could take their children to different parks in the city.

(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 SRTA's current EEO Plan 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.

Serving the Communities of

Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Fall River, Freetown, Mattapoisett, New Bedford, Somerset, Swansea, Westport

700 Pleasant St., Suite 530, New Bedford, MA 02740
srtabus.com, (P) 508-999-5211 (F) 508-993-9196

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

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.

Public Hearings / Meetings:

None.

(6) Old Business

Fall River Service Adjustments

Mr. Trimbell presented the proposed changes to Fall River routes 104, 105, and 108. The proposed changes to route 104 and route 108 were not well received by the public nor by the SRTA operations team. Therefore, the proposed changes to route 104 and route 108 will not be recommended to the board. The proposed changes to route 105 included an elimination of service to the Tiverton casino, no change to service to the Seabra Market, and an alignment of the outbound trip to Hartwell Street from Fourth Street.

Motion: The motion was made (ADA Representative) and seconded (Town of Westport) to adopt the changes to Fall River Route 105.

Discussion: N/A

Vote:

For: Town of Dartmouth, Town of Fairhaven, City of Fall River, Town of Mattapoisett, City of New Bedford, Town of Westport, ADA Representative

Status: Motion Passes

Serving the Communities of

Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Fall River, Freetown, Mattapoisett, New Bedford, Somerset, Swansea, Westport

700 Pleasant St., Suite 530, New Bedford, MA 02740
srtabus.com, (P) 508-999-5211 (F) 508-993-9196

Proposed Update to Public Comment Guidelines

Motion: The motion was made (ADA Representative) and seconded (Town of Dartmouth) to adopt the Public Comment Guidelines.

Discussion: N/A

Vote:

For: Town of Dartmouth, Town of Fairhaven, City of Fall River, Town of Mattapoisett, City of New Bedford, Town of Westport, ADA Representative

Status: Motion Passes

FY25 Draft Budget

Mr. Rousseau presented the fiscal year 2025 budget summary. This included some updates such as the SRTA being awarded a grant from MADOT to operate micro-transit service and the plan to move post-employment benefits into a managed trust, which has lower fees and high compliance. The draft budget also includes the continuation of Sunday Service beyond the pilot. Sunday Service has been well received by the riders as demonstrated by the ridership data. The audit and finance committee has recommended to the board to adopt the budget in the amount of \$30,398,234.00.

Ms. Clarke asked for clarification that Fare Free service would not be included in this budget. Mr. Rousseau confirmed that Fare Free service is not included in this budget.

Motion: The motion was made (ADA Representative) and seconded (Town of Dartmouth) to endorse and adopt the fiscal year 2025 budget in the amount of \$30,398,234.00.

Discussion: N/A

Vote:

For: Town of Dartmouth, Town of Fairhaven, City of Fall River, Town of Mattapoisett, City of New Bedford, Town of Westport, ADA Representative

Status: Motion Passes

Serving the Communities of

Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Fall River, Freetown, Mattapoisett, New Bedford, Somerset, Swansea, Westport

700 Pleasant St., Suite 530, New Bedford, MA 02740
srtabus.com, (P) 508-999-5211 (F) 508-993-9196

(7) New Business

PTASP Annual Update

Mr. Rousseau explained that the annual updated targets for the SRTA's safety plan will be available and presented at the Advisory Board meeting on June 20, 2024.

(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 June 20, 2024, at 2:00 PM.

(9) Adjournment

The Advisory Board Chair called the meeting to adjourn at 2:34 PM EST.

DRAFT

Serving the Communities of

Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Fall River, Freetown, Mattapoisett, New Bedford, Somerset, Swansea, Westport

700 Pleasant St., Suite 530, New Bedford, MA 02740
srtabus.com, (P) 508-999-5211 (F) 508-993-9196