



Southeastern Regional Transit Authority (SRTA) Advisory Board Meeting

Date: Thursday, September 26, 2024
Location: Virtual Meeting via SRTA Microsoft Teams (2:00 PM)
Call in Number: 1-929-523-2910; Access Code: 816 580 730#
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 (H. Bruce Webb)
Town of Westport (Richard Brewer)	ADA Representative (Dan Robillard)

Absent:

Town of Acushnet	Town of Freetown
Town of Mattapoisett	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	

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(3) Approval of Minutes

Motion: The motion was made (City of Fall River) and seconded (Town of Westport) to approve the minutes from the previous SRTA Advisory Board Meeting held on June 20, 2024.

Discussion: N/A

Vote:

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

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

FY25 Fare Free Pilot

Mr. Rousseau shared that the Fare Free Pilot service will continue with the FY25 Budget. The SRTA is awaiting final approval from MA DOT of our application which is expected soon. The SRTA has been assured that the funding will extend through at least June 30, 2025.

(7) New Business

FY24 Ridership Update

Mr. Rousseau shared that ridership without Sunday service was up 35% at the final 6 months of the fiscal year and that Sundays added 77,000 trips over 23 Sundays.

FY24 Audit Update

Mr. Rousseau shared that the FY24 Audit is largely complete. The SRTA is waiting on the New Bedford Contributory Retirement Board to finalize the funding schedule. Once that final step is complete, the audit can be accepted in October.

FY25 State Funding Update

Mr. Rousseau shared that the SRTA submitted an application to fund Microtransit from May 2025 to June 30, 2026, to avoid complications with expiring funds. A&F and MA DOT are working with the legislature to authorize a deficiency budget for the FY24 funding that was awarded and contracted to the RTAs. When the funding is reauthorized, it will only be available through June 30, 2025. The SRTA has requested that MA DOT allow the use of FY24 funding to stand up a new express pilot between Fall River and New Bedford instead of funding SCR Microtransit, which would only cover May and June of 2025. Additionally, the SRTA submitted a second application to extend funding for the intercity express through at least December 2025, but hopefully through June 2026.

Mr. Robillard asked when the intercity express can be expected to begin. Mr. Rousseau replied that the hope is that the SRTA will know by December if the funding will be granted.

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SRTA 50th Anniversary Celebration

Mr. Rousseau announced that the SRTA will have a 50th anniversary celebration at UMass Dartmouth on November 1, 2024, from 10 AM until Noon. A general invitation will be sent out shortly.

(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 October 29, 2024, at 11:00 AM.

(9) Adjournment

The Advisory Board Chair called the meeting to adjourn at 2:13 PM EST.

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