

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT
ESTUARY TRANSIT DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

ESTUARY TRANSIT DISTRICT
SPECIAL FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
ETD OFFICES, 91 N. Main Street, Middletown, CT with Remote Option
TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2024, AT 2:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Joan Gay, Chair, at 2:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL

A quorum was established with the following committee members present: Joan Gay, John Hall, Jim Irish, and Christine Marques

Also in attendance: Staff: Joe Comerford and Christina Denison

Board Members: Leslie Strauss, ETD Board Chair and Charles Norz, ETD Board Member, Old Saybrook

CT DOT: Graham Curtis, Bus Capital Programs, Asst. Administrator

Upon a recommendation from Leslie Strauss, Joe Comerford and Joan Gay will meet remotely one week prior to regularly scheduled meetings for updates.

FACILITIES PLAN WITH DOT

A copy of the Facilities Progress Plan was included in the meeting packet.

Graham Curtis reported:

Architecture & Engineering

Facilities Master Plan –

- Compensatory flood storage needs to be completed.
- CTDOT has permission from the City of Middletown to access the easement area of the North Main Street property.
- A topographical survey of the property has been completed.
- An environmental study is being conducted; some environmental issues are suspected.
- Design will begin once the compensatory fill and the environmental study are complete. DOT will engage a consultant.
- Electrification of buses –
 - Paving and fencing have been completed.
 - Buses will be delivered in September/October once the charging stations are ready; plugs for the portable chargers need to be installed. Buses will be predominantly branded with the electric bus logo but will be co-branded with RVT's logo.

Comerford noted that Arcadis, electrical consultant, reported that electrification of the building would not be easy. He reported that per State mandate, transit districts are no longer allowed to purchase diesel buses. ETD will receive 4 diesel buses in 2027 and another 3 in 2028. The 2 charging stations that are being installed are temporary and slow charging; they will work for the pilot program but not as we receive more electric buses.

Right of Way Acquisition

Middletown Maintenance Facility –

- The Master Plan for the new maintenance facility has been completed.
- The equity analysis has been complete; very few comments were received from neighbors.

Shoreline Facility –

- Public meetings regarding the Westbrook property were held with opposition from some residents due to cost and traffic.
- The developer would like to move forward with the development plan and is working with DEEP regarding the septic issues. This process could take years which places the District’s plan for a shoreline facility at a standstill.
- Strauss and Gay expressed their frustration, stating “we move 1 step forward and 20 steps back” and questioned when the District should start looking at other sites.
- Comerford will forward a copy of the District’s “long list” of properties which were looked at when plans for a shoreline facility were first discussed to Curtis and DOT will begin an informal search.

Middletown Terminal Renovation –

- CTDOT will schedule a meeting with stakeholders for September

Bus Shelter Program—

- CTDOT and City of Middletown staff have looked at the potential sites. Abutters will be contacted; feedback is needed.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:57 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 8, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Denison
Clerk