

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

ESTUARY TRANSIT DISTRICT
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
VIA ZOOM
FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 2024, AT 1:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Joan Gay, Chair, at 1:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Committee members present: Joan Gay and Christine Marques

Also in attendance:

Staff: Joe Comerford and Christina Denison

Joan Gay provided a brief description of the committee's duties and the annual Legislative Breakfast and stressed its importance in building a close relationship with our State representatives, senators and local officials.

OLD BUSINESS

Recp of the 2024 Legislative Session

A copy of the 2024 CACT Legislative Session Overview was distributed at the meeting.

Joe Comerford provided a summary of bills from past sessions that are still of concern:

- Public Act 22-40 – freezes transit district funding at FY24 levels beginning this year, establishing an annual competitive funding program. Comerford stressed that cost of maintaining existing services should not be competitive, annual process. He hopes that this issue will be addressed and resolved this session.
- Public Act 22-25—prevents the State from procuring diesel-fuel transit buses beginning in January 2024. Comerford noted that this bill had been interpreted that the State could not purchase the buses, but the State could fund the transit districts' purchases. However, an Executive order by the Governor states that the State cannot participate in any purchase of diesel buses after January 1, 2024. Comerford stated that as of right now diesel buses cannot be purchased and stressed that although we support the goal of moving forward towards zero emissions, the current facility cannot support the rapid charging without significant funding for infrastructure improvements.
- PHB5974 AAC Fare-Free Public Bus Transportation– Seeks to make fare-free public bus transportation permanent for residents of the state. He stated that we do not oppose free bus fares, but questioned where the funding would come from. He also indicated

that studies have shown that riders would rather have more service instead of free fares.

Comerford discussed the role of CT Association for Community Transportation (CACT) lobbyists in getting issues addressed.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

NEXT MEETING

To be determined.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Denison
Clerk