

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

ESTUARY TRANSIT DISTRICT
TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
ETD OFFICES, 91 N. Main Street, Middletown, CT with Remote Options
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2024, at 9:00
AM

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Timothy C. Griswold, Chair at 9:00 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL

A quorum was established with the following committee members present: Courtney DiMenna, Student Support Manager, Vista Life Innovations (via ZOOM); Heather Granja, ACES Early Head Start Program Coordinator; Timothy C. Griswold; Committee Chair and Board Secretary (via ZOOM); Holly Marrero, East Hampton Senior Center Director (via ZOOM, partial meeting Items III-VI); Laurie McElwee, South Central Connecticut Regional Mobility Manager at the Kennedy Collective; and Artha Slade, Middletown Resident and ETD rider (via ZOOM)

Staff: Christina Denison, Executive Assistant; and Brendan Geraghty, Transportation Planner

ETD Board: Leslie Strauss, Board Chair

Absent: Tim Kellogg, Head of Public Services, E.E. Scranton Memorial Library, Madison, and ETD rider; and Beverly Lawrence, ETD Board Member

Brendan Geraghty and Tim Griswold thanked Artha Slade for delivering over 500 new bus schedules to various locations in Middletown.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Geraghty reported:

1. Bus Shelter Project – The district is one of the first in the State to be approved for bus shelters. 5 Middletown locations, including FedEx, Sagamore Hills, Stoney Crest, Newfield Towers and High and William Streets (Wesleyan campus) have been identified. Sites were selected on several metrics, including ridership. To improve the ridership experience and to make stops more accessible and safer for riders and buses, shelters will have amenities, which may include trash cans, solar lighting and electronic signage. All shelters will include ADA accessible concrete landing pad, and many will receive up to 70 ft. of new or replacement sidewalk. The design will be the same as those shelters already in place on the

shoreline. The District is working with CTDOT and the City of Middletown to install the shelters by the first of the year. Geraghty asked committee members for suggestions for possible shelters.

2. Tap and Ride Pilot – The District is part of a 6-month pilot program through the State. Fare validators which will allow for fare capping on the fixed bus routes are being installed. A RVT rollout is expected soon. CTDOT will look at the data collected and determine what works and what needs improvement. Different rates for seniors and disabled and transfers are some of the issues to be looked at. If all goes well, a statewide rollout is expected soon.
3. New Service Review – Ridership in the Madison and Guilford XTRA Mile zone has grown quickly, averaging 30-40 riders per day. East Hampton’s ridership is low and Geraghty is working with the Senior Center, Social Services and the Housing Authority to get the word out. Future plans are to expand the East Hampton zone to include all of East Hampton, not just the Belltown area. With the start of the school year, Xtra Mile started again in Middletown on August 30. Ridership has been strong, averaging upwards of 30 riders per day. Ridership has also been strong on the extended weeknight and weekend fixed routes, evidencing the need for service during those times.

Geraghty also reported that the district has received 2 electric buses which are currently in Hartford for testing. Also, four of the nine gas buses ordered have been delivered. He noted that recent legislation prohibits the further purchase of gas/diesel buses.

Geraghty was available to respond to any questions/comments from committee members.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes of June 11, 2024

Slade made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of June 11, 2024. Heather Granja seconded. Motion carried.

V. Next Meeting— The next meeting will be December 10, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Slade made a motion; seconded by Granga and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 9:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Denison
Clerk